



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 19, 2017

Jason Bowsza
Connecticut Department of Agriculture
450 Columbus Blvd
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **PETITION NO. 1313** – DWW Solar II, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 26.4 megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on approximately 289 acres comprised of 5 separate and abutting privately-owned parcels located generally west of Hopmeadow Street (US 202/CT 10), north and south of Hoskins Road, and north and east of County Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's North Simsbury Substation west of Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Bowsza:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than October 3, 2017. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 15 copies to this office, as well as a copy via electronic mail. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Copies of your responses shall be provided to all parties and intervenors listed on the service list, which can be found on the Council's pending matters website.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Yours very truly,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

c: Parties and Intervenors

MB/RM/laf





STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

Petition No. 1313

Interrogatories to CT Department of Agriculture

Set One

September 19, 2017

1. Referencing the Council's Hearing Program, Administrative Notice Item no. 90, "GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, *Grow Connecticut Farms: Developing, Diversifying, and Promoting Agriculture*, December 2012", on page 5, recommendations to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAg) include: "Create an agriculture-friendly energy policy that includes agricultural net metering for power production and transmission, and qualification of agricultural anaerobic digestion project for zero emissions renewable energy credits (ZRECs)." Please describe efforts DOAg has made toward implementation of these recommendations.
2. Does Connecticut have a viable farm energy policy? Please describe.
3. Would on-farm energy production reduce costs and supplement farm income? What types of on-farm energy production are supported by DOAg?
4. Please describe the provisions of Connecticut's Agricultural Virtual Net Metering Program. How many farms have expressed an interest in this program?
5. What role could well managed agricultural lands play in climate change mitigation?
6. Do farms or farm activities contribute to greenhouse gas emissions? Are farms exempt from emissions reductions targets and other air regulations? What programs assist farmers with greenhouse gas emission reductions?
7. Did DOAg have a role in developing Public Act 17-218? Is so, why was the Public Act limited to prime farmland?
8. In Connecticut, does crop farming occur on soils that are not designated prime farmland or farmland of statewide significance? If so, describe measures that are used to ensure a sufficient crop yield.
9. Can agricultural fields that are managed as grassland for 20-25 years be restored for crop production? If so, describe the methods a farmer can use to restore the fields for crop use.
10. Referring to DOAg's comments of August 30, 2017- point #2 on page 2, does the use of agricultural herbicides and pesticides provide better soil health for agricultural production and social, economic and ecosystem benefits?
11. Are the prime agricultural lands on the subject properties, "pristine" in the sense have they been farmed organically without the utilization of herbicides and/or pesticides?
12. Could exposed agricultural soils during spring planting lead to stormwater runoff and sedimentation to adjacent streams and wetlands during heavy rain events? Is fertilizer runoff a detriment to water quality of nearby streams and wetlands?

13. Referring to DOAg's comments of August 30, 2017 on page 2, is DOAg aware of any cluster developments in the surrounding area that provides a mix of residential, conserved land, farmland and renewable energy?
14. Please list the measures that DOAg has undertaken to date to protect farming interests from development in the Connecticut River Valley microclimate region. Indicate the farm crop acreage preserved through DOAg's programs in the Towns of Simsbury and Granby.
15. Referencing DOAg Pre-filed Testimony of Kipen Kolesinskas, Questions 27, 28, 29. Does the acreage of farmland soils provided include areas that are occupied by woodland, existing farm roads, and buildings? If so, revise the figures in these responses to only include areas that contain existing agricultural fields.
16. Why does the NCRS soil mapping for the surrounding area depict prime agricultural lands within forested and developed residential areas?
17. Describe the steps necessary to convert a forested area with prime agricultural soils to a crop field.
18. Referencing DOAg Pre-filed Testimony of Kipen Kolesinskas, Question 33. Provide data that indicates the use of machinery and vehicles causes soil compaction. Is there a correlation between vehicle/machinery weight and depth of compaction?
19. Referencing DOAg Pre-filed Testimony of Kipen Kolesinskas, Question 35. The response states over 40 acres of prime and important farmland soils would be directly disturbed by the project. Please provide the acreage of direct disturbance to the existing agricultural fields.
20. How does development of land for solar facilities damage soil resources? How is soil productivity compromised? What are the long-term impacts? Please provide directly related studies demonstrating such impacts.