



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

March 12, 2018

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie A. Bachman *MAB*
Executive Director

RE: **PETITION NO. 1339** – Wallingford Renewable Energy LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 19.99 MW AC ground-mounted solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located on approximately 158 acres of 3 contiguous parcels consisting of the former Wallingford Landfill and 2 parcels owned by the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority west of Pent Road and associated electrical interconnection to Wallingford Electric Division's Wallingford Substation in Wallingford, Connecticut.

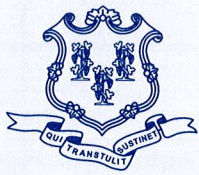
The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of correspondence from Representative Mary M. Mushinsky, dated March 9, 2018, concerning the above-referenced petition.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 16-50j-40, a copy of the petition is to be submitted to each member of the legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility is to be located for review.

A copy of the correspondence from Representative Mary M. Mushinsky is being attached and will become part of the record of this matter in the form of a limited appearance.

MAB/MP/lm

c: Council Members



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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 12, 2018

Mary M. Mushinsky, Representative
State Rep. 85th District
Legislative Office Building, Room 4038
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov

RE: **PETITION NO. 1339** – Wallingford Renewable Energy LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 19.99 MW AC ground-mounted solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located on approximately 158 acres of 3 contiguous parcels consisting of the former Wallingford Landfill and 2 parcels owned by the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority west of Pent Road and associated electrical interconnection to Wallingford Electric Division's Wallingford Substation in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Dear Representative Mushinsky:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated March 9, 2018 concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 16-50j-40, a copy of each petition is to be submitted to each member of the legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility is to be located for review. Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors, to the petition and members of the public who attend the field review and submit written statements to the Council.

This petition will be placed on a future Council Meeting agenda for discussion and decision. Your comments shall become part of the official record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this matter on our website at www.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

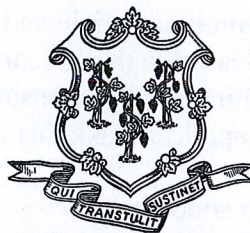
Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/lm

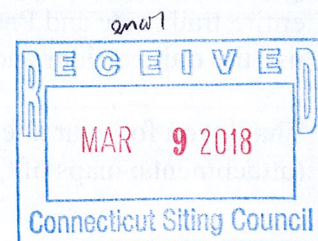
c: Parties and Intervenors
Council Members



Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591



REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4038
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269-8378
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
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E-mail: Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Comments of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) Before the CT Siting Council Regarding Petition
#1339 for a Declaratory Ruling by Wallingford Renewable Energy LLC Requesting the
Council's Approval and Construction of a 19.99 MW AC Ground Mounted PV System**

March 9, 2018

I am in general support of this solar project in Wallingford, which re-uses our old landfill and adds clean energy generation to the grid, but I recently learned the project footprint extends beyond the landfill. I ask the Siting Council to consider two specific siting problems and see if they can be resolved before you issue a Declaratory Ruling.

First, because the project needs 100 acres to produce 20 MW of power, the applicant proposes covering not only the old landfill (north parcel) with solar panels, but also destroying adjacent, high quality deciduous forest and a portion of the palustrine forested-flood plain forest on the MIRA property (south parcel) to add more solar panels. Second, the project may interfere with Phase IV of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail, a local pedestrian and bicycle greenway. These are undesirable impacts that I hope the Siting Council will address before you allow this project to go forward.

There are no obvious problems with solar on the former landfill (north parcel). However, solar installation on the MIRA property (south parcel), while avoiding wetlands, will clear 20 acres of river corridor forest to squeeze in more units. Figure 26 in the application shows removal of high quality deciduous forest in three sections and destruction of a portion of the very limited palustrine forested-floodplain forest, a critical habitat that is rare in Connecticut. Must we destroy high quality deciduous forest and disappearing critical habitat just to enlarge this project? Can't we reduce the size of the project by 20 acres, or add solar units on nearby degraded industrial land instead of destroying critical habitat?

The second problem is that the applicant does not mention the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Phase IV which is planned to pass through this area on its way to North Haven. The trail already extends 2.25 miles along the Quinnipiac River because phases I-III are built. The trail committee

works with the town engineer and the committee anticipated we would be able to use a portion of government-owned land for Phase IV. Please see the attachments which depict maps of the entire trail route and Phase IV. Can the Siting Council consider the needs of the public who will use the trail corridor and request that the applicant take this into consideration?

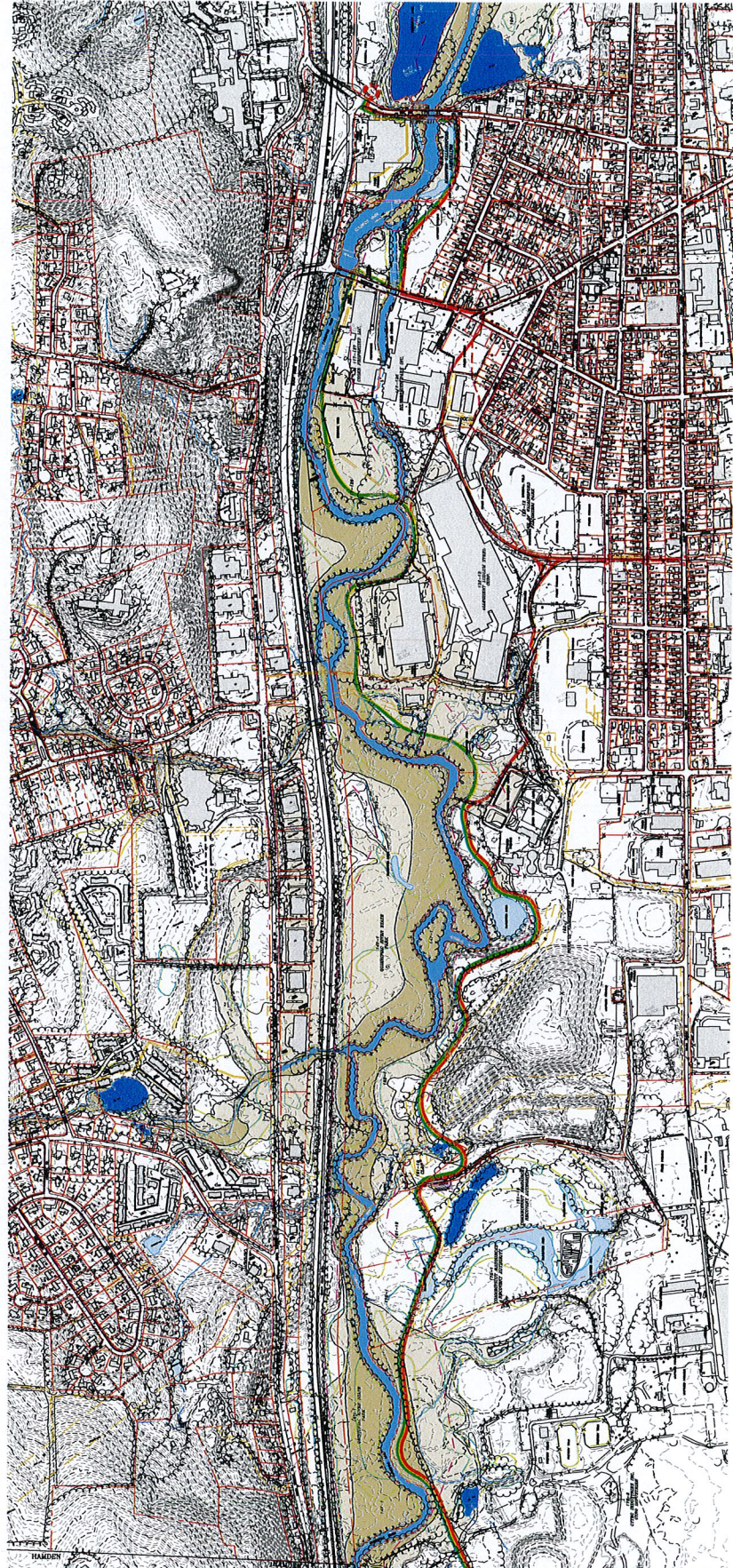
Thank you for your attention to these two concerns.

(attachments: maps of Quinnipiac River Linear Trail and Phase IV)



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- BOUNDARY LINE
- EXISTING TRAILING
- QUINNIPAC RIVER
- LAKE / POND
- INDUSTRIAL AREA
- PRIMA INDUSTRIAL PLANTLAND
- PRIMA HIGHWAY
- CT STATE WETLAND DELINEATION
- FEDERAL WETLAND DELINEATION
- STREAM CHANNEL ENCROACHMENT LINE
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPTION 1
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPTION 2
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPTION 3
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPTION 4
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPTION 5
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPTION 6
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QUINNIPAC RIVER LINEAR TRAIL - PHASE IV Community Lake Park (Hall Ave) to the North Haven Trail (Toelles Road) - Wallingford, Connecticut

TRAIL ROUTING MASTER PLAN



DATE: 05/13/2013
PROJECT # 1103953 DWG: CT1103953M1

Mathews, Lisa A

From: Rep. Mushinsky, Mary <Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 3:40 PM
To: Bachman, Melanie
Cc: CSC-DL Siting Council
Subject: Mushinsky comments on petition #1339
Attachments: Mushinsky comments to Siting Council re petition 1339.doc; QRLT Vision map.pdf; QRLT Phase4 Concept.pdf

Melanie-Please accept my comments to the Siting Council regarding petition #1339, the proposed solar installation in Wallingford.

The attachments depict the route of the linear trail, which may pose a conflict.

Thank you.

Mary Mushinsky

State Rep. 85th District

Co-chair, Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Advisory Committee

Wallingford