

In The Matter Of:

Petition of Nutmeg Solar, LLC for a declaratory ruling

Public Hearing

January 10, 2019

BCT Reporting LLC

55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A

Plainville, CT 06062

860.302.1876

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Petition No. 1352

Petition of Nutmeg Solar, LLC for a declaratory
ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance,
and operation of a 19.6 megawatt solar
photovoltaic electric generating facility
generally south of Bailey Road and east of Broad
Brook Road and associated electrical
interconnection to Eversource Energy's Scitico
Substation at 20 Bailey Road in
Enfield, Connecticut.

Public Hearing held at the Enfield Town Hall,
Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield,
Connecticut, on Thursday, January 10, 2019,
beginning at 2:58 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR.,
Acting Chairman

A p p e a r a n c e s :

Council Members:

ROBERT HANNON,

Designee for Commissioner Robert Klee

Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection

LARRY P. LEVESQUE, ESQ.,

Designee for Chairman Katie Dykes

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

ROBERT SILVESTRI

DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

MICHAEL HARDER

EDWARD EDELSON

Council Staff:

MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.

Executive Director and

Staff Attorney

MICHAEL PERRONE

Siting Analyst

A p p e a r a n c e s : (Cont'd.)

For the Petitioner:

LOCKE LORD LLP

20 Church Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06103

BY: DAVID W. BOGAN, ESQ.

KATHRYN E. BOUCHER, ESQ.

For the Town of Enfield:

MARIA S. ELSDEN, ESQ.

Acting Town Attorney

Town of Enfield

820 Enfield Street

Enfield, Connecticut 06082

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen,
2 I'd like to call this meeting to order this
3 Thursday, January the 10th, 2019, at approximately
4 3 p.m. My name is James J. Murphy, Jr., commonly
5 called "Jerry." I'm acting chairman of the
6 Connecticut Siting Council.

7 Other members of the Council here today
8 are Robert Hannon, designee for Commissioner
9 Robert Klee of the Department of Energy and
10 Environmental Protection; Larry Levesque, designee
11 for Chairman Katie Dykes of the Public Utilities
12 Regulatory Authority. Other members are Robert
13 Silvestri, Dr. Michael W. Klemens, Michael Harder,
14 and Edward Edelson.

15 Members of the staff are Melanie
16 Bachman, our executive director and staff
17 attorney; and Michael Perrone, the siting analyst
18 for this particular petition.

19 This hearing is held pursuant to Title
20 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes and of the
21 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon a
22 petition from Nutmeg Solar LLC for a declaratory
23 ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance,
24 and operation of a 19.6 megawatt solar
25 photovoltaic electric generating facility

1 generally south of Bailey Road and east of Broad
2 Brook Road and associated electrical
3 interconnection to Eversource Energy's Scitico
4 Substation and 20 Bailey Road in Enfield,
5 Connecticut. This petition was received by the
6 Council on October 19, 2018.

7 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
8 communications with members of the Council or a
9 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
10 this petition are prohibited by law.

11 The parties to this proceeding are as
12 follows: The petitioner, Nutmeg Solar, LLC, is
13 represented by David W. Bogan, Esquire, and
14 Kathryn Boucher, Esquire, both of Locke Lord LLP.
15 The party to this matter is the Town of Enfield
16 represented by Maria S. Elsdon, Esquire,
17 representing the Town of Enfield.

18 We'll proceed in accordance with the
19 prepared agenda. Copies are available here, which
20 means they are probably over there on the table
21 someplace. Also available are copies of the
22 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
23 Procedures.

24 At the end of this afternoon's
25 evidentiary session, we will recess and resume at

1 6:30 p.m. for the public comment session. The
2 6:30 p.m. public comment session will be reserved
3 for the public and for the public to make brief
4 oral statements into the record.

5 I wish to note that the petitioner and
6 the party, including their representatives and
7 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the
8 public comment session.

9 I also want to note for those who are
10 here and for the benefit of friend and neighbors
11 who are unable to join us for the public comment
12 session that you or they may send written
13 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
14 date hereof, and such written statements will be
15 given the same weight as if spoken at this
16 hearing.

17 A verbatim transcript will be made of
18 the hearing and deposited with the Town Clerk's
19 Office in Enfield and Somers for the convenience
20 of the public.

21 Is there any public official here who
22 wishes to make a comment before I proceed further?

23 (No response.)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, administrative
25 notices. I wish to call to your attention those

1 items shown on the hearing program marked Roman
2 Numeral I-D, Items 1 through 103. Does the
3 petitioner or the party's representative have any
4 objection to the items on this list being
5 administratively noticed by the Council?

6 MR. BOGAN: Good afternoon, Mr.
7 Chairman. David Bogan, along with Kate Boucher,
8 on behalf of the applicant, Nutmeg Solar, LLC. We
9 have no objection.

10 MS. ELSDEN: Good afternoon. Maria
11 Elsden for the Town of Enfield. We also have no
12 objection.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

14 Accordingly, the Council will
15 administratively notice these existing documents,
16 statements, and comments.

17 I believe, Mr. Bogan or Attorney
18 Boucher, whoever is going to handle it, we are
19 ready for your panel. And once you introduce your
20 panel, we will proceed.

21 MR. BOGAN: Happy to do so, sir. Thank
22 you. If I may first have them introduce
23 themselves for purposes of swearing, and then
24 we'll identify and verify the exhibits.

25 So we'll start on the far end with

1 Ms. Angus. If you could just state your name and
2 business affiliation?

3 BRIONY ANGUS: Briony Angus with Tighe
4 & Bond.

5 NEIL WATLINGTON: Neil Watlington,
6 NextEra Energy.

7 CHARLES ASHEIM: Charles Asheim,
8 NextEra Energy.

9 KEVIN RYAN: Kevin Ryan with FB
10 Environmental.

11 JONATHAN GRAVEL: Jonathan Gravel with
12 NextEra Energy.

13 KATELIN NICKERSON: Katelin Nickerson
14 with Tetra Tech.

15 MATTHEW SINGER: Matthew Singer with
16 NextEra Energy.

17 BRIAN HUNTLEY: Brian Huntley with
18 Tighe & Bond.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: If you have them rise,
20 we'll have Attorney Bachman swear them in.

21

22

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24

25

1 B R I O N Y A N G U S ,
2 N E I L W A T L I N G T O N ,
3 C H A R L E S A S H E I M ,
4 K E V I N R Y A N ,
5 J O N A T H A N G R A V E L ,
6 K A T E L I N N I C K E R S O N ,
7 M A T T H E W S I N G E R ,
8 B R I A N H U N T L E Y ,

9 called as witnesses, being first duly sworn
10 by Ms. Bachman, were examined and testified
11 on their oaths as follows:

12 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 MR. BOGAN: I believe that the panel
15 has the list of exhibits for identification.

16 Let me start with you, Mr. Singer. Did
17 you oversee or cause to be prepared the petition
18 that is the subject of this matter in Docket No.
19 1352 identified on the list as Exhibit 1?

20 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

21 MR. BOGAN: And Mr. Huntley, did you
22 also assist in the preparation of that petition?

23 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Yes, I did.

24 MR. BOGAN: Ms. Nickerson?

25 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes.

1 MR. BOGAN: And do any of you have any
2 changes or corrections to make to any of the
3 information that's contained in the petition?
4 Mr. Huntley?

5 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I do have one
6 addition, which is that yesterday the notice of
7 permit authorization was issued for the general
8 permit registration for the discharge of
9 stormwater and dewatering for construction
10 activities associated with this project from DEEP.

11 MR. BOGAN: Thank you. And do you have
12 any other changes or corrections?

13 THE WITNESS (Huntley): No, I do not.

14 MR. BOGAN: Mr. Singer?

15 THE WITNESS (Singer): No changes.

16 MR. BOGAN: Ms. Nickerson?

17 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): No.

18 MR. BOGAN: And moving on to the items
19 that are denoted as Exhibits 2 through 9 for
20 purposes of identification, which are
21 interrogatories -- or responses to certain
22 interrogatories, as well as certain revisions
23 either to the petition or interrogatory responses,
24 starting again with you, Mr. Singer, did you
25 prepare or cause to be prepared that information?

1 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

2 MR. BOGAN: Mr. Huntley, did you also
3 assist in the preparation of those materials?

4 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Yes, I did.

5 MR. BOGAN: And Ms. Nickerson?

6 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes.

7 MR. BOGAN: And do you have any changes
8 or corrections to make to any of the information
9 denoted as Exhibits 2 through 9 for
10 identification? Mr. Singer?

11 THE WITNESS (Singer): No.

12 MR. BOGAN: Mr. Huntley?

13 THE WITNESS (Huntley): No, I do not.

14 MR. BOGAN: Ms. Nickerson?

15 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): No.

16 MR. BOGAN: And with that, do each of
17 you adopt the contents of exhibits, at least in
18 relevant part, Exhibits 1 through 9 as your
19 testimony in this proceeding? Mr. Singer?

20 THE WITNESS (Singer): I do.

21 MR. BOGAN: Mr. Huntley?

22 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Yes, I do.

23 MR. BOGAN: Ms. Nickerson?

24 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes.

25 MR. BOGAN: The panel is available, Mr.

1 Chairman. And I'd move the exhibits as full
2 exhibits at this point.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Does the town have any
4 objection to these exhibits?

5 MS. ELSDEN: No objection.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: No objections from the
7 town, they will therefore be admitted.

8 (Petitioner's Exhibits II-B-1 through
9 II-B-9: Received in evidence - described in
10 index.)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll therefore begin
12 with cross-examining of the petitioner, and we'll
13 start with staff with Mr. Michael Perrone.

14 MR. PERRONE: Thank you.

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 MR. PERRONE: Did the petitioner put up
17 a sign for the public at the site?

18 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

19 MR. PERRONE: What were the dimensions
20 of the sign?

21 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The sign
22 measures 4 feet by 6 feet.

23 MR. PERRONE: And where was it located?

24 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The sign is
25 located in the field adjacent to Broad Brook Road.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Can we just hold on for
2 a minute? Will you find a more convenient place
3 for the Town of Enfield? Maybe up there?

4 (Pause.)

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry for the
6 interruption, Attorney Bogan. Proceed.

7 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The sign is
8 located on the east side of Broad Brook Road
9 approximately north of barns 4 and 5, which are
10 shown on the petition materials.

11 MR. PERRONE: When was the sign put in
12 place?

13 THE WITNESS (Angus): The sign was
14 installed on December 21, 2018.

15 MR. PERRONE: And what information was
16 contained on the sign?

17 THE WITNESS (Angus): The sign depicts
18 the petition number, the date of the public
19 hearing, the name of the project, and the contact
20 information for the Siting Council, both telephone
21 number and email.

22 MR. PERRONE: And it also mentions the
23 type of facility?

24 THE WITNESS (Angus): Yes.

25 MR. PERRONE: Generally, what kind of

1 feedback did the petitioner receive from the Town
2 of Enfield regarding the proposed project?

3 THE WITNESS (Singer): Generally, the
4 feedback we've received has been positive
5 regarding the economic benefits for the community.
6 There were also feedback received from project
7 abutters and residents in town, as well as other
8 stakeholders, regarding the visual impact of the
9 project.

10 Pursuant to that feedback, we have
11 revised the site design to move from a previous
12 iteration that was on the west side of Broad Brook
13 Road, we've removed that array to just be on the
14 east side of Broad Brook Road, and in addition
15 have added approximately 1,570 feet of vegetative
16 screening.

17 MR. PERRONE: Did you receive any
18 feedback from the Town of Somers?

19 THE WITNESS (Singer): While we
20 communicated with them, we did not receive any
21 substantive feedback.

22 MR. PERRONE: Going back to the site
23 layout, I understand there's some relocated
24 tobacco barns in the northern part of the site.
25 We have the length and width dimensions on the

1 drawing, but what are the approximate heights of
2 the relocated barns?

3 THE WITNESS (Singer): Just a moment
4 while I confer.

5 MR. PERRONE: Sure.

6 (Pause.)

7 THE WITNESS (Huntley): While I don't
8 have the exact measurements of the barns, I would
9 say they are approximately 12 to 14 feet with the
10 peak being lower than 20 feet high.

11 MR. PERRONE: For both?

12 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I'm sorry.
13 Yes, all of the barns are very similar in
14 construction.

15 MR. PERRONE: Turning to the FAA topic,
16 I know there was some discussion about the glare
17 analyses. On page 22 of the petition it notes,
18 "Per previous correspondence with an FAA
19 obstruction evaluation specialist, it was
20 confirmed that if not explicitly stated, as is the
21 case here, a glint/glare analysis is not
22 required."

23 And my question is, does that mean that
24 the FAA looks at the need for a glare analysis
25 before it issues a no hazard determination?

1 THE WITNESS (Angus): I don't believe
2 the FAA considers glint and glare as part of that
3 notice of construction or the determination of
4 hazard. That's more of an obstruction to air
5 space. But based on our review of applicable
6 regulations, we are not aware of any regulatory
7 requirement for a glint or glare study on a
8 project that is not located on or as part of a
9 federally-obligated airport. So we don't believe
10 there's a requirement for a glint and glare study.

11 MR. PERRONE: And just turning back to
12 that reference from the obstruction evaluation
13 specialist, when did you receive correspondence
14 from that FAA specialist?

15 THE WITNESS (Angus): That I'm going to
16 have to look.

17 MR. PERRONE: Okay.

18 (Pause.)

19 THE WITNESS (Angus): So thank you. We
20 received our determinations of no hazard in May of
21 2018.

22 MR. PERRONE: But I was referring to
23 even prior to the no hazard. Page 22 seems to
24 suggest that the obstruction specialist informed
25 you that unless they tell you otherwise you don't

1 need a glint/glare analysis. I was just wondering
2 if there was like a document to that effect or
3 not.

4 THE WITNESS (Angus): No, I would call
5 that reference based on previous project
6 discussion relative to this project and others.

7 MR. PERRONE: Okay. I understand the
8 project was selected in two RFPs, the small-scale
9 2 to 20, and the tri-state. Is that correct?

10 THE WITNESS (Singer): That is correct.

11 MR. PERRONE: When you clear two
12 different RFPs, how does it work with the PPAs, is
13 there still one set of power purchase agreements?

14 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes. The
15 project site was selected in both RFPs, however,
16 they were separate bids. And upon selection, the
17 determination was made to go forward with the
18 small-scale RFP and pursue the contract with
19 Eversource Energy and United Illuminating pursuant
20 to that RFP and not through the tri-state RFP. So
21 the two offtakers for the power purchase
22 agreements are the Connecticut electric
23 distribution companies, Eversource Energy and
24 United Illuminating.

25 MR. PERRONE: Has the petitioner

1 considered adding model pollinator habitat to the
2 proposed project?

3 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): So, while
4 pollinator species were considered during the
5 planning phase for the vegetative buffer and other
6 site stabilization, site stabilization and
7 vegetative buffers is a priority of the project,
8 so pollinator-friendly species are included there
9 but not specifically creating pollinator habitat.

10 MR. PERRONE: And what species of --
11 what pollinator-friendly species were considered?

12 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): So the last
13 page of the site plan layout has a list of
14 species, and that includes highbush blueberry and
15 viburnum, and then the flowering species in the
16 perennial flowers is coneflower, beebalm and I
17 think rudbeckia is included.

18 MR. PERRONE: And the response to
19 Council Interrogatory 91, which got into the
20 percent developed area of the critical terrestrial
21 habitat, we also look at Figure 11. There is a
22 selective trimming area and also a plantings area.
23 Do those two areas affect that 84 percent number
24 at all?

25 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): No. The 84

1 percent basically includes the project footprint,
2 and the plantings and the vegetative selective
3 clearing is calculated in sort of what's being
4 maintained.

5 MR. PERRONE: As far as installation of
6 the posts, I understand you'd most likely be
7 looking at pile driving?

8 THE WITNESS (Singer): That's correct.

9 MR. PERRONE: Could you tell us more
10 about the pile driving process, what's involved?

11 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The pile
12 driving process is essentially a hydraulic machine
13 that uses a vibratory hammer operation that will
14 take each one of these posts and will drive it
15 down into the ground to the prescribed depth based
16 on the calculations that were done by the engineer
17 associated with the foundation design.

18 MR. PERRONE: Next I'd like to get into
19 the cost topic. I understand the final project
20 cost estimates weren't available according to the
21 response to Number 79. But would the petitioner
22 have an estimate of any upfront costs thus far,
23 like environmental studies and reports, land
24 acquisition, engineering?

25 MR. BOGAN: If I may, Mr. Perrone, I

1 recall the interrogatory, and I frankly was
2 scratching my head because I couldn't understand
3 the relevance to the issue that's before the
4 Council. So I suppose I would object to the
5 question unless I have some better understanding
6 of its relevance.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Basically, it's the same
8 consideration even with towers or what have you,
9 it's a consideration as to the cost to ratepayers,
10 and whatever costs are involved, our consideration
11 that goes into taking that into account. And so
12 asking questions relative to costs known and
13 anticipated is a routine part of what we do and
14 ask and take into account.

15 MR. BOGAN: I appreciate that, but as
16 Mr. Singer indicated, the project was selected as
17 part of the small-scale RFP, and the purchase
18 power agreement was approved by PURA.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: The fact that they
20 approved it doesn't necessarily mean that we will
21 approve it. And so it's been my experience, and
22 I've been on the Council for a few years, that we
23 take a look at everything and then we make our
24 determination as the Connecticut Siting Council
25 whether this thing goes or doesn't go. And we

1 understand that a number of these things are
2 really not known for sure, but we're kind of
3 looking for the ballpark.

4 THE WITNESS (Singer): Certainly. And
5 given the competitive business nature of that
6 information, we'd be willing to provide a
7 preliminary estimate under a protective order, if
8 the Council would be amenable to that.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't see why not. I
10 mean, it happens in other cases where there's a
11 protective order. If you think it's important
12 enough for you to ask for a protective order, that
13 would be fine.

14 MR. BOGAN: Yes. I mean, clearly that
15 information is highly sensitive confidential
16 business information that the company typically
17 does not disclose in any circumstance. To the
18 extent that Mr. Singer believes that we can
19 disclose it, we'd be willing to provide it as a
20 Late-File subject to a protective order that we
21 will follow along with it.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. You work it out
23 with Mr. Perrone as to when you will provide this.

24 MR. BOGAN: Sure. And do we want to
25 just label it as Late-File 1?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

2 MS. BACHMAN: You would have to file a
3 motion for a protective order. So we would have
4 to take that up either at the continuation hearing
5 on January 24th or at our meeting. We have a
6 meeting next week. We can add --

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Next Thursday.

8 MS. BACHMAN: But we understand that's
9 a short period of time.

10 MR. BOGAN: We can get the motion.
11 That's what Ms. Boucher is for.

12 MS. BOUCHER: We're happy to file it
13 expediently.

14 MR. BOGAN: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. If you have
16 it, we can put it on the agenda for a week from
17 today.

18 MS. BOUCHER: Very good.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perrone.

20 MR. PERRONE: That's all I have. Thank
21 you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll continue the
23 questioning with members of the Council. We'll
24 start with Mr. Harder.

25 MR. HARDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I just have a couple of questions. The first is
2 on pesticide usage. The petition mentioned that
3 pesticides, the expectation is that pesticides
4 wouldn't be used much, I guess, but there was an
5 indication that they would be employed as needed.
6 I'm not sure if that's the exact language. But my
7 question is, can someone explain the circumstances
8 where they might be needed, and is there any
9 reason why the applicant couldn't commit to just
10 not using them at all? The impression I get is
11 that you're not expecting to use them a lot, so
12 since there will be some regular maintenance,
13 mowing and trimming, keeping shading to a minimum,
14 and that kind of thing, why couldn't that be the
15 method instead of the application of pesticides?

16 THE WITNESS (Singer): As you
17 mentioned, in the petition we speak about the
18 targeted use of pesticides in cases where the
19 targeted application would be to control woody
20 vegetation in conjunction with mowing and other
21 vegetation maintenance. We are not proposing any
22 broadcast aerial spraying or regular usage. It
23 would be on an as-needed basis, and that's
24 informed by our experience, "our" being NextEra
25 Energy Resources, and operating a number of solar

1 projects of similar size across the country.

2 MR. HARDER: So the same result, I
3 guess, couldn't be achieved through just removal,
4 trimming, cutting or whatever, you feel it's
5 really necessary to use pesticides?

6 THE WITNESS (Singer): To the best of
7 my knowledge, it is necessary to maintain that
8 option for the operations and maintenance team
9 until they are out there and see how field
10 conditions are and how the vegetation takes hold.
11 At Nutmeg Solar we wouldn't be able to make a
12 definitive statement about the need.

13 MR. HARDER: Thank you. A couple of
14 other questions more related, I guess, to
15 stormwater. The first is in Exhibit H, the
16 inspection of the stormwater controls, a
17 discussion of the inspection process on page 4 in
18 Exhibit H. It talks about the infiltration basins
19 will be inspected after any storm event in excess
20 of 0.5 inches within a 24-hour period, and then
21 the next sentence says after every major storm
22 during the first three months the basins will be
23 inspected.

24 I guess I'm wondering what's the
25 definition of a major storm? Is that intended to

1 be the same as a half an inch during that period?

2 How are those two statements, how do they differ?

3 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Those are
4 essentially the same statement. The indication is
5 that in the first three months any storm that's
6 greater than a half inch of intensity, we would
7 consider to be a storm worthy of an inspection.

8 MR. HARDER: But the first sentence
9 says before, during, after three months, any time
10 a storm is in excess of half an inch you'll do the
11 inspection, right, not just in the first three
12 months, isn't that what it says?

13 THE WITNESS (Angus): I'm going to
14 attribute this to poor sentence construction, and
15 we could have -- there are three times during
16 which inspections -- or it should be read more
17 that during construction and for the first three
18 months and then semi-annually inspections will be
19 completed after a major storm defined as half an
20 inch.

21 MR. HARDER: Okay. Thank you. The
22 other question on stormwater. I'm concerned, I
23 guess, you mentioned a couple of different places,
24 but in the response to Council Interrogatory 59
25 there's a discussion of the spillways and berms.

1 It says in the second paragraph there, A severe
2 storm event that exceeds the 100-year storm would
3 overtop the berms through the emergency spillways.
4 The water would flow as directed as it does under
5 existing conditions. And later, during severe
6 storm events, the site would be expected to
7 discharge stormwater in a manner largely the same
8 as it does under current conditions.

9 I guess I don't really see how that
10 would be the case if what you're doing is
11 concentrating the stormwater with the berms and
12 directing it to concentrated locations as opposed
13 to letting it flow to some extent sheet flow
14 across the surface of the ground. How is it the
15 same after as it is before without getting into a
16 quantitative discussion?

17 (Pause.)

18 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The intention
19 of the project -- and I apologize for taking a
20 moment to read through the answer thoroughly. The
21 intention of the project from a stormwater
22 methodology is that we are converting, you know,
23 in a large number of areas either a forested area
24 that's current or fields, agricultural fields that
25 have been handled in a number of manners to what

1 we are calling a meadow condition, which is where
2 we're planting the meadow seed mix we were
3 discussing and managing it to be a meadow
4 condition. Meadow is a definition within the
5 stormwater calculations in the stormwater analysis
6 provided.

7 So the intention is that from a grading
8 point of view the project will not involve
9 large-scale grading or change in topography. So
10 the majority of the site conditions and the
11 stormwater runoff conditions in the stormwater
12 areas, as they are right now, we'll maintain in
13 place. Where we do have some long-term controls
14 that will remain throughout the life of the
15 project, in those areas they are intended to
16 provide some amount of detention because there is
17 a change in time of concentration associated with
18 the conversion of the project. Therefore, these
19 areas there is detention that's provided, and in
20 those areas that's where it's described that those
21 minor basins that we're proposing, which are based
22 on construction of berms, they are installed with
23 an overflow, emergency overflow from those basins
24 which in the 100-year storm event would be
25 overtopped, or in storms larger than the 100-year

1 storm event.

2 So the majority of the site will
3 function similar to what it does now in these
4 minute areas at the corners, and you can see them
5 in the long-term plans that we've provided there
6 is some slight change to provide additional
7 mitigation because of time concentration changes
8 for the project.

9 MR. HARDER: Thank you. The last
10 question I had was I guess it requires a bit of a
11 crystal ball. You have a decommissioning plan, as
12 you're required to. I'm just wondering, given
13 the -- and this is a question, I guess, that I've
14 wondered about in other situations. I haven't
15 asked it. Given the state of technology and what
16 you anticipate to be changes in technology, you
17 know, you have a decommissioning plan, and all of
18 those plans indicate that the systems, these kinds
19 of systems could be removed and the site returned
20 to some other use. And it always makes me wonder,
21 okay, we're approving all these solar electric
22 systems which are potentially 20 or 30 years down
23 the road going to be removed, no longer producing
24 power, and we're all thinking that we're creating
25 this wonderful situation with a lot of renewable

1 energy, which a lot of which is going to be
2 removed, and so, okay, what happens then? Do you
3 have any sense that in this situation, at least,
4 and in others, that the system might not be
5 removed, would not be approved because of advances
6 in technology where you can put in different
7 panels and generate additional power or more power
8 and not worry about the decrease in the generation
9 of power over the 20 or 30 years to a point where,
10 you know, it's no longer feasible or desirable to
11 maintain the system, if that makes sense?

12 THE WITNESS (Singer): As the project
13 is currently contemplated, we anticipate a 30-year
14 life for the facility. In regards to advancing
15 technology, really there's a few other areas that
16 would need to be in place for Nutmeg Solar to
17 consider an extension of that life which we don't
18 currently contemplate because of the
19 decommissioning plan in place, and that would
20 involve new landowner lease agreements and
21 repermitting of the project. So at this time it's
22 not anticipated that we would continue operations
23 past 30 years. I don't know if that fully answers
24 your question.

25 MR. HARDER: Well, I guess, I don't

1 know, maybe the way I interpreted your answer,
2 those reasons are more to do with, I guess, soft
3 issues, if that's the right term, you know,
4 non-technical issues. I mean, obviously you'd
5 have to renegotiate certain agreements, and that
6 kind of thing. But I'm wondering about in terms
7 of the generation of power, you know, given
8 advances in technology, I mean, panels aren't what
9 they used to be, today aren't what they used to be
10 ten years ago in terms of the capability of
11 generating power. You know, do you see in your
12 crystal ball that advancement might continue to
13 the point where, you know, it makes it reasonable
14 to expect that, if not you, somebody would be able
15 to utilize that system and continue to generate
16 power beyond 30 years, or is that just you just
17 have to wait and see?

18 THE WITNESS (Singer): With the
19 condition that I am looking into the crystal ball,
20 as you say, we do anticipate solar photovoltaic
21 module technology to continue to improve with
22 better efficiencies, and that at the end of the 30
23 years that's what we anticipate the end of the
24 life of the current panels that we're proposing to
25 install, but it's certainly feasible that someone

1 would be able to install new equipment should the
2 situation be appropriate.

3 MR. HARDER: Okay. Thank you. That's
4 all the questions I have, Mr. Chairman.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We'll
6 continue the questioning with Mr. Silvestri.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman. I'm actually still confused by the
9 response you gave to Mr. Harder regarding
10 Interrogatory 59. This is the one with the
11 100-year storm and the overflow of the berms. If
12 the berms do overflow, where does the water go?

13 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The berms are
14 installed on the site in areas where there's
15 currently low spots, existing channels or
16 existing, you know, swales, if you will, for lack
17 of a better term. That's where these are
18 proposed. So, if these basins do overtop in
19 events that are larger than a 100-year statistical
20 storm event, the stormwater will flow down the
21 slope off the site in the same manner that it
22 currently does. The intention of our design is
23 that we're mitigating the flows for the 100-year
24 storm or up through the 100-year storm to be sure
25 that we're not increasing off-site flooding,

1 off-site stormwater flow impacts. And for events
2 larger than that, our goal is to not have any
3 flooding associated with the project. So the
4 stormwater will flow just as it does currently on
5 the project site.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: So any potential
7 impacts from that you're saying would be
8 essentially the same as they are now?

9 THE WITNESS (Huntley): That's correct.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. And just to
11 verify, you folks have a maintenance plan to
12 periodically refortify the berms and check dams,
13 if needed?

14 THE WITNESS (Huntley): That's correct.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. I just wanted to
16 verify.

17 If I could change gears and draw your
18 attention to Interrogatory 14. This had the
19 change in DC megawatts where it went from 32.14 to
20 29.008. Did that change have any effect on the AC
21 aspect of the project?

22 THE WITNESS (Singer): No, it did not.
23 The 32.14 megawatt DC originally provided was a
24 miscalculation, and so the 29 megawatts DC is what
25 we originally planned in the petition and was

1 corrected for that reason.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. Because
3 normally you'll take the wattage of the panels,
4 multiply them by the number of panels, and that's
5 how you're going to come up with DC?

6 THE WITNESS (Singer): Correct.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: If I can keep you on
8 the panel aspect of it, the specification sheet
9 for the panels talks about STC and NOCT, NOCT
10 being the normal operating cell temperature.
11 Could you tell me how the NOCT differs from the
12 PTC test, PTC being photovoltaics for utility
13 scale applications test conditions?

14 THE WITNESS (Singer): Which page of
15 the spec sheet?

16 MR. SILVESTRI: This is the very back
17 page that I have. It looks like this
18 (indicating).

19 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Can you repeat
20 the question?

21 MR. SILVESTRI: My question was, on the
22 very bottom you have STC and NOCT. And I'm
23 curious how the NOCT test differs from what they
24 call PTC. Again, PTC being photovoltaics for
25 utility scale applications test conditions. It's

1 a mouthful.

2 THE WITNESS (Asheim): I'm not familiar
3 with PTC. I believe STC and NOCT are just
4 measures of how much solar output you're getting
5 from the sun, and that in turn is a test to see
6 how much, based on that 1,000 megawatts per meter
7 squared, that you would be getting, or 800 watts
8 per meter squared, how much power each module
9 would be outputting.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: PTC was actually
11 developed in the mid 1990s, and I was curious if
12 it was of use to you folks at this time.

13 THE WITNESS (Asheim): I'm only
14 familiar with STC and NOCT.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Let me move on
16 then. Would you agree that electrical power or
17 watts equals voltage times current?

18 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

19 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Yes.

20 MR. SILVESTRI: Now, because of the
21 physics of solar panels, as they heat up the
22 voltage they produce goes down. Do you also agree
23 with that?

24 THE WITNESS (Watlington): I believe
25 so, yes.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. So the panels
2 heat up, the voltage goes down, and the power goes
3 down. Also agree?

4 THE WITNESS (Asheim): I believe so.

5 MR. SILVESTRI: Would it then be
6 correct to say that the 400 watt panels, because
7 of physics, will function at some lower number,
8 perhaps the NOCT rating of 302 watts that's on
9 that sheet, or maybe something in between 302 and
10 400 watts?

11 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Correct, the
12 panel output will vary depending on things like
13 the ambient air temperature and solar irradiance.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: And heating up of the
15 panels?

16 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Correct.

17 MR. SILVESTRI: So based on what I'm
18 looking at, if you have a clean capacity, say, of
19 19.6 megawatts AC or 29 megawatts DC, the actual
20 production numbers are going to be lower than
21 that?

22 THE WITNESS (Asheim): It depends. The
23 DC output is what you were first describing, and
24 as long as the DC output exceeds the AC nameplate,
25 the AC will achieve the AC nameplate.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Let me rephrase it
2 another way. Was the NOCT factored into the
3 estimated average annual energy production that
4 you have of 37,000 megawatt hours?

5 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes, it was. In
6 our modeling of the energy production, the solar
7 irradiance for this exact location was used and
8 taken over an 18-year time horizon looking at the
9 irradiance that this site would be receiving as
10 opposed to a standard testing condition.

11 MR. SILVESTRI: But you would
12 incorporate or you have incorporated that drop in
13 power, if you will, because of the heat?

14 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Yes.

15 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

16 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you.
17 Staying with that capacity part for a minute, if
18 you look at the AC rating and the DC ratings, you
19 have 19.6 for AC and 29 now for DC, the AC
20 capacity rating is about 67 percent of the DC
21 rating if you do some really quick math. In my
22 experience with a lot of the other solar projects
23 that I've seen, I see the rating for AC capacity
24 is going higher between 70 and 80 percent of the
25 DC rating. Is the 67 percent indicative of any

1 type of electricity losses in your project?

2 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Could you
3 clarify what you mean by "losses"?

4 MR. SILVESTRI: Well, I'm not sure. If
5 you're going from DC to AC, all right, there's got
6 to be some type of transformation to be able to
7 get that, what you're going to get through your
8 inverters?

9 THE WITNESS (Asheim): Correct.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: And the ones I've seen
11 seem to have a closer spread between the DC and
12 the AC compared to your project. So that's what
13 I'm looking at, is there some other type of loss
14 that you're accounting for in that project?

15 THE WITNESS (Singer): If I may add,
16 it's actually been a trend that we've seen going
17 in the other direction due to module pricing for
18 the solar industry at large that you're seeing
19 higher amounts of DC relative to AC. So if you
20 look at from the flip of the 67 percent, the DC to
21 AC ratio is on average we're seeing an increase
22 across the industry. And by doing so for the same
23 amount of inverters you have available, you're
24 able to produce more energy during the shoulder
25 hours which in the afternoon coincide with peak

1 demand.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: So what you're seeing
3 is more related to the panels or to the inverters?

4 THE WITNESS (Singer): I guess it's the
5 panel pricing dropping relative to the inverters.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you.

7 THE WITNESS (Asheim): It's somewhat of
8 an optimization. Every developer may perform
9 somewhat differently, and it also depends, as Matt
10 was saying, on equipment costs, solar resource
11 availability in the area, and what you're getting
12 paid under the PPA, and all of those things factor
13 into the optimization which may affect that 66
14 percent you were describing.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: In your opinion, is it
16 better or worse to have a higher percentage?

17 THE WITNESS (Singer): It's a
18 case-by-case based on all of the variables that
19 Mr. Asheim just mentioned. In this particular
20 case, we determined through our energy modeling
21 and design that this is the optimum balance for
22 us.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. You mentioned
24 price or cost. Tariffs seem to be coming into
25 play of late. I was looking at some figures from

1 the third quarter 2018. The number of solar
2 installations have dropped across the United
3 States. They're kind of blaming that on tariffs.
4 Are tariffs going to affect this project?

5 THE WITNESS (Singer): We do not
6 anticipate they will.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Let me get away from
8 the panels and the AC/DC part of it for a couple
9 of minutes. If I could turn your attention to
10 Interrogatory Number 44. And the response under
11 Section b in the second paragraph there,
12 approximately the third line down, it has "First
13 responders will not have the ability to shut down
14 the entire facility."

15 My question is, if there is an issue
16 that requires the first responders to come on
17 site, how will they know that an area is indeed
18 de-energized prior to entering if they can't shut
19 down the whole facility?

20 THE WITNESS (Singer): I believe the
21 answer to that is twofold: First, we as standard
22 practice for NextEra Energy will have
23 communication with first responders when they are
24 onsite or trying to access the site; and second,
25 as a second measure to assure the situation you're

1 describing doesn't happen, at the end of each of
2 the combiner boxes is a disconnect switch so they
3 can know the exact area that they're going into,
4 they could activate that disconnect switch to
5 ensure that it's not operational.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: And that training
7 you'll provide?

8 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

9 MR. SILVESTRI: Mr. Perrone had asked
10 the question about piles before. And if I could
11 reference your response to Interrogatory 66. In
12 that you have the hours of operation Monday
13 through Friday would be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday
14 (as needed) 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regarding the
15 pile aspect of it, I've been associated in my past
16 with lots of sheet pile bulkheads being installed,
17 and the noise from that I found to be extremely
18 annoying. And I know the noise you're going to
19 have is not quite the same, but my question, are
20 you amenable to adjusting the times for putting in
21 those piles to avoid such installation during
22 periods like the early morning hours, you know,
23 getting kids in the neighborhood off to school,
24 dinner times, and the like?

25 THE WITNESS (Singer): That's something

1 we're willing to take under consideration.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. And like I said,
3 I'd hate to have dinner and all of a sudden have
4 all the vibrations or at least hearing the piles,
5 so thank you for that.

6 If I can now have you turn to
7 Interrogatory Number 92 and your response to that.
8 In the beginning you have the embankment (berm)
9 and emergency spillway, and under that you have a
10 number of bullets. I'd like to reference the
11 fourth bullet that says "unauthorized planting"
12 and ask you the question what does that mean?

13 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I believe that
14 that refers to essentially any woody vegetation
15 that may have grown or that may come up that
16 wouldn't be, you know, reasonable to have in a
17 berm area or associated with a spillway.

18 MR. SILVESTRI: Then it might be
19 mislabeled as "unauthorized planting." Planting
20 to me is something that you're physically doing
21 and putting something in the ground as opposed to
22 windblown seeds, or something like that that are
23 growing. So would I be correct to say that that's
24 kind of a little misnomer there and should more
25 reflect the windblown type of thing and maybe

1 weeds that are growing?

2 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I would agree
3 with that, yes.

4 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. I want to
5 now look at the phase 1B study that I believe was
6 performed by -- actually, phase 1B was Heritage.
7 I'll get to that in a minute. Under the phase 1
8 we had 419 of 433 planned shovel tests were
9 performed. And it says the 14 planned but
10 unexcavated fell within zones characterized by
11 steep slopes. And these apparently were all on
12 the southern end of the eastern array area.

13 Now, the problem I had is I can't find
14 a decent overlay to see where their shovel tests
15 were in relation to where the panels are going to
16 go in. So the question I have for you, are the
17 panels and racks proposed for the areas where soil
18 test pits were planned not excavated?

19 THE WITNESS (Singer): We'd like to
20 take a look at that and possibly be able to get
21 back to you later as a Late-File or later on today
22 depending on how quickly we're able to look at our
23 information.

24 MR. SILVESTRI: Like I said, my
25 problem, I couldn't find an overlay, and hence the

1 question to you. And I'll have a follow-up based
2 on what you come back with.

3 THE WITNESS (Singer): Just to make
4 sure we understand the concern, can you elaborate
5 a bit more on the information that you'd like to
6 see?

7 MR. SILVESTRI: I'll give you the
8 overriding question that I have.

9 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: Is that if you can't
11 take shovel tests because the areas are
12 quote/unquote too steep, does that preclude
13 putting panels up? I mean, if you can't take the
14 samples, it's too steep, does that mean you can't
15 put the solar panels up there or racks because
16 it's too steep? That's really what I'm driving
17 at.

18 THE WITNESS (Gravel): I think the
19 intention of that trying to clarify is typically
20 they're surveying areas, agricultural sensitive
21 areas, which would be amenable to someone
22 inhabiting that location. And we'll clarify. But
23 I believe why those test pits were not taken into
24 consideration is because of the slope and the lack
25 of habitat for people to inhabit that location.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: And again, if we got an
2 overlay that could show me where the panels are in
3 relation to the pits, I think we could resolve
4 that issue.

5 THE WITNESS (Gravel): Okay. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Going back to
8 stormwater, this year was quite unbelievable in
9 Connecticut, as everyone knows, for rainfall.
10 September was extremely wet. And I think there
11 were only four days in the month in which no
12 measurable participation was recorded anywhere
13 within the state. With multiple consecutive rain
14 events, I would think that the ground soils would
15 become saturated at some point in time. So my
16 question for you is, do your calculations for
17 storm events, runoff, the berms, et cetera,
18 incorporate saturated ground soils?

19 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The
20 post-construction analyses that we did essentially
21 for what is going to remain throughout the project
22 post-construction are based on standard industry
23 practices which do not incorporate a super
24 saturated condition. That said, what we have done
25 from a construction perspective is there is a

1 construction stormwater pollution control plan
2 that has been put into place that involves
3 phasing, subphasing, staging, as well as
4 stormwater traps, basins, and an aggressive
5 stabilization plan that will incorporate those
6 conditions, and it will address the site
7 conditions regardless of whether it's a saturated
8 condition or, you know, it's been an arid
9 condition leading up to a storm event.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: Back on September 26th
11 in my area in Hamden got hit with 8 inches of rain
12 all at once, and the street actually turned brown
13 from runoff that I don't know where it was coming
14 from. And my concern is that there was a number
15 of rain events before that, again, the ground gets
16 saturated, things happen. I'm trying to figure
17 out is if your plans that you mentioned are
18 adequate enough to control a situation like that
19 that it would not happen, you wouldn't get all
20 this brown runoff coming down and causing havoc.

21 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The stormwater
22 plan that we put together that was submitted for a
23 permit that was issued by DEEP does include the
24 provisions to address the actual site conditions,
25 and there are requirements in there for on-site

1 mitigation, on-site requirements based on actual
2 site conditions, not necessarily design
3 conditions. So it's our belief that the
4 stormwater plan that was submitted does
5 incorporate those conditions, and it does allow
6 for or does require the contractor to manage
7 regardless of site conditions and saturated
8 conditions, yes.

9 MR. SILVESTRI: And that would be
10 during construction and post-construction?

11 THE WITNESS (Huntley): During
12 construction primarily and post-construction where
13 I believe that it's a situation where the
14 post-construction analyses show a condition very
15 similar to what existing conditions are right now,
16 so we're not proposing to change that, meaning
17 that if there was a super saturated condition now,
18 this project would not make that condition any
19 worse were it to happen. And, in fact, given that
20 the majority of the site is currently cropland,
21 this will provide more vegetated cover and much
22 more additional stabilization to what the current
23 site conditions are, at least in the farm field
24 areas.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens, you have a

1 question?

2 DR. KLEMENS: Yes, I do. You just said
3 that the majority of the site is cropland. And
4 I'm looking at the map, Figure 7. I would say the
5 majority of the site is forested. Is that not
6 correct?

7 THE WITNESS (Huntley): And I
8 apologize. And I believe that my intention was to
9 say that a majority of the cropland would be in an
10 improved condition, not a majority of the site
11 being cropland. If that's what I said, I
12 apologize.

13 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: I have two other
15 questions for you, if I can find them. Out of
16 curiosity, Interrogatory Number 72 kind of talked
17 about recycling the panels. In your discussion
18 with PV module manufacturers, are you aware of any
19 take-back program for panels at this point?

20 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes, we're aware
21 of the manufacturer, First Solar, has a fairly
22 robust take-back program.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. And
24 the last one I have for you is based on the visual
25 photos and renderings that you had provided, there

1 is an area along Broad Brook. Number 7 has west
2 of Charnley Road looking northeast. It's photo
3 number 3. There's no plantings provided for that
4 area, I believe.

5 THE WITNESS (Singer): Actually, there
6 is plantings proposed. The way that the
7 renderings are structured, it's in three different
8 stages. Photo 6, or number 6, which is photo 3,
9 shows the existing. Number 7, which you just
10 referred to, shows without the mitigation we have
11 planned. And then number 8 is that same photo
12 with the vegetative screening mitigation rendered.

13 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. I think you
14 cleared up my confusion on that. Great.

15 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank
16 you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Hannon
18 is next.

19 MR. HANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 One of the things I will say is it was
21 a lot easier to read this application than it has
22 been on some others, so for that I do thank you.

23 I have a question for you. You have a
24 statement in your wildlife resources where you're
25 talking about the outbreak of gypsy moths, and

1 there are some general references to the impact
2 that they may have had on I guess the oak and the
3 pines. Can you be a little more specific about
4 how severe the damage was?

5 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): So that was
6 the summer of 2017 when surveys were being
7 conducted. I would have to say it wasn't
8 specifically measured or quantified, but a
9 majority of the site was completely defoliated
10 from the gypsy moths.

11 MR. HANNON: I'm not looking for an
12 exact number, but just there was a couple of trees
13 over here, or is it most of the site?

14 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes.

15 MR. HANNON: It may be here somewhere,
16 but I didn't see it. What is the maximum grade
17 slope that you can use for the solar panels?

18 THE WITNESS (Angus): So the maximum
19 for the solar panels would be 20 percent; however,
20 the vast majority is under 15 percent. And for
21 the western array there's an average of 0 to 7
22 percent, and for the eastern array an average of 2
23 to 10 percent.

24 MR. HANNON: The reason I'm asking is
25 because I know when the Council first started

1 seeing solar panel projects, we were in the 10 to
2 12 slope range. We're now getting into something
3 larger, so I'm assuming that the technology is
4 changing to enable developers to do that. So
5 that's all.

6 The majority of my questions fall under
7 Tab G. Some of the questions may be repetitive
8 because the same thing occurs on some of the
9 mapping. But starting on C-024, a question about
10 the swales, are they all stone lined, or are you
11 using something other than stone lined?

12 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The details for
13 this project are for all stone-lined swales in
14 those locations.

15 MR. HANNON: Thank you. Because that
16 eliminates a couple other questions I had. But
17 also staying there, you have a delineation 54
18 linear feet of 18 inch HDPE culvert. You show a
19 rip rap splash pad, but I don't really see
20 anything with a level spreader. Now, you've
21 incorporated level spreaders with other aspects of
22 the design, so I'm just trying to verify whether
23 or not level spreaders will be incorporated into
24 the outfalls of the pipe design because you do say
25 it will be there for the stone-lined swale

1 outlets, and there is no diagram in the details
2 which would show some type of a level spreader or
3 some type of mechanism to deal with that.

4 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I agree with
5 you, and that's correct that there is not a
6 specific detail showing a spreader at the outlet
7 of the culverts, but the intention, as indicated
8 in the design and in the analyses is that the
9 culvert outlets will be treated with level
10 spreaders to dissipate the flow from those pipes.

11 MR. HANNON: Okay. Thank you. On
12 C-025 a few questions here. But I want to compare
13 that to -- let me get one of the maps so that
14 we're talking basically the same issue. This is a
15 little further back than I had anticipated. This
16 is, for example, sheet C-036. There where you
17 have on sheet C-036 you're showing an emergency
18 spillway that has a stone construction, you have
19 the level spreader at the tail end. But going
20 back to C-025, you don't show that as far as the
21 spillway on that berm that's built on the lower
22 right-hand corner.

23 So I'm just trying to figure out
24 exactly what the construction is, is it going to
25 be some type of fortified spillway, is it going to

1 be just grass, or what's it's going to be?
2 Because I'm a little concerned if it's just grass.
3 And there's also a note that talks about a stone
4 check swale or stone check dams also tied in with
5 the emergency spillway area. So I'm a little
6 confused as to just exactly what's going in in
7 these areas.

8 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Sheet C-041
9 does show the detail of the emergency spillways
10 and their associated level spreaders. The
11 intention is that that detail will be used on all
12 of the outlets. So there will be a spreader
13 detail, and then on the outlet at the extremity of
14 the spreader the intention is that there is an
15 area that would be vegetated that would be treated
16 with permanent erosion control blankets as well to
17 further fortify the area after the velocity has
18 been reduced from the spreaders.

19 MR. HANNON: Seeing as how you just
20 gave me that answer, instead of waiting I'll ask,
21 on the erosion control blankets what is the design
22 and what are they made of, is it a woven fabric,
23 or is it a plastic material that's holding the
24 fabric together?

25 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I don't know

1 the exact material that would be used on this
2 project, but for the permanent erosion control
3 blankets the intention would be that it's a
4 plastic material that holds the fibers together.

5 MR. HANNON: It really shouldn't be the
6 plastic. We don't want something that's -- I
7 think that creates more of a problem, it does for
8 some of the animals, it creates some havoc. I
9 think what I've seen mostly for the control mats
10 is it's a woven fabric. So that may be something
11 you want to take a closer look at, but it's not in
12 the detail, and there's no language in there, so
13 that's why I'm asking on it.

14 Sticking with C-025, I'm a little
15 confused in terms of how you go in with the berm
16 in that area as it extends into the solar panels
17 and what the impact is either on the solar panels
18 on the berm or the berm on the solar panels,
19 either way.

20 THE WITNESS (Huntley): In those
21 locations the berms are built into the existing
22 topography, and they could be constructed. Likely
23 it would be concurrent with some of the racking
24 that's going in. And the idea is that the berms
25 themselves are on the neighborhood of it looks

1 like 2 to 3 feet high at the highest point in
2 those berms, and that would be compatible with the
3 structures and to have those located beneath some
4 of the array in those locations.

5 MR. HANNON: Well, the area that I'm
6 looking at right on that elbow, the height of the
7 berm is 253, I believe, and the natural topography
8 is 248. So if my math is right, that's a 5 foot
9 differential, which is much higher than the low
10 end of the solar panels. So I just think that's
11 something that's going to have to be worked out
12 just to make sure that what's being proposed is
13 actually going to function between the panels and
14 the berm.

15 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I agree.

16 MR. HANNON: We're not going to deal
17 with some of these others because we've
18 identified -- it's taken care of a lot of
19 questions.

20 On sheet C-035 I'm assuming that where
21 you have the low flow crossing on the curb of the
22 road that's just to allow some of the water
23 collection in the road to drain off. Is that
24 correct?

25 THE WITNESS (Huntley): That is

1 correct.

2 MR. HANNON: Thank you. On sheet C-041
3 just a general question. For the emergency
4 spillway detail you talk about low permeability
5 soil. Are you referring to clay or something
6 along those lines?

7 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Not necessarily
8 clay, but yes, something along those lines where
9 it could be a till material, a tight material that
10 has low permeability characteristics, yes.

11 MR. HANNON: Thank you. I do have a
12 few more questions. This goes back to one of the
13 things we were talking about earlier in response
14 to Council Interrogatory 59. That's where it
15 talks about the emergency spillways include check
16 dams, and I didn't see that in the design. So
17 that's something that would need to be addressed.
18 It's more of a statement than a question.

19 In the Siting Council Interrogatory
20 Number 70, I know you're talking about promoting
21 the grasses, but one of the things I didn't see
22 anywhere is, are you planning on using fertilizers
23 on the site?

24 THE WITNESS (Gravel): Overall, we
25 don't anticipate the use of fertilizers. During

1 the monitoring of the meadow habitat which will be
2 established, if there's a problem area, we may
3 need to use a fertilizer, perhaps, to help that
4 grow vegetation.

5 MR. HANNON: I'm not arguing against
6 fertilizer, but if you're looking at the erosion
7 sedimentation control guidelines established by
8 the department, you're probably going to need to
9 use fertilizers on some areas where you start
10 having runoff, things of that nature, maybe around
11 the berms, in order to maintain that grass area,
12 because the last thing you want on this site or on
13 any solar site is to start having the grass start
14 dying, you start getting nice open spaces of dirt
15 and create some significant issues.

16 And this last question, I don't know if
17 you can answer it. It's not on any of the
18 details. And this is just something that I came
19 across the other day, but I want to find the
20 back-up sheet that I had with it. It has to do
21 with Siting Council Interrogatory Number 72. With
22 the panels, do you know what the PV technology is
23 that's associated with the panels that you're
24 proposing to use?

25 THE WITNESS (Singer): The panels we're

1 proposing to use, which matches the 400 watt spec
2 sheet in Exhibit F, are crystalline silicon.

3 MR. HANNON: Okay. Thank you. I have
4 no additional questions.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Mr. Levesque.

7 MR. LEVESQUE: Some of my questions
8 were answered. Probably Mr. Gravel and Mr.
9 Singer, look at your photo simulation 8. Well,
10 it's actually a photo with proposed mitigation.
11 From that picture -- do you have it already?

12 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

13 MR. LEVESQUE: You generally know what
14 I'm talking about anyway. That photo and the map
15 show that you're making substantial plantings all
16 around on the roadside and also to some of the
17 neighboring property to the south also, and
18 there's a lot of -- many arborvitaes.

19 Now, that grassy area as an example in
20 8, that's still going to be under the control of
21 the farm owner. Correct? It's outside the lease
22 area, or it borders your lease boundary, it seems?

23 THE WITNESS (Singer): It would be
24 outside the project fence, but the lease boundary,
25 I couldn't say at this time if it was outside of.

1 Whether it's with the landowner or our operations
2 team, we would ensure that vegetation management
3 of that grass would be appropriate.

4 MR. LEVESQUE: Whether it's in or out
5 or the investment, the expenditure.

6 THE WITNESS (Singer): Correct.

7 MR. LEVESQUE: Some of the opposition
8 to the larger solar projects, large for
9 Connecticut, are that you're losing good farmland
10 or the opportunity to provide, you know, local
11 food products. It looks like there might be
12 room -- and you already mentioned that one of your
13 recommended plantings would be blueberry bushes.
14 Instead of spending more on the arborvitaes, or
15 even in addition, couldn't you consider, if the
16 farmer wanted it, providing like three rows of
17 blueberry bushes and then they'd have a local
18 valuable product?

19 You could look into it and come back to
20 us. Because it would provide visual screening
21 that's pleasing to people and also something
22 useful.

23 THE WITNESS (Singer): It's something
24 we're open to considering. I would also mention
25 that just recently we revised our vegetative

1 screening plan pursuant to feedback from the
2 Enfield Town Council to create denser shrubbery,
3 and so the off center spacing for the medium
4 shrubs that we're proposing to plant decreased
5 from 5 feet off center to 4. And so there's 60
6 additional plants that we're planning to put in
7 that wasn't in the original petition.

8 MR. LEVESQUE: Just a suggestion.

9 THE WITNESS (Singer): Understood.

10 MR. LEVESQUE: That you talk to the
11 Town of Enfield and only if the property owner
12 wants a bunch of blueberry bushes. He seems like
13 he grows a variety of things. Maybe that would be
14 something new, if he's interested, and then come
15 back and report on it.

16 THE WITNESS (Singer): Certainly.

17 MR. LEVESQUE: Thank you. That's all
18 for me.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Levesque.
20 Mr. Edelson.

21 MR. EDELSON: So in the report, and you
22 already mentioned it in one of the answers to the
23 questions, the project has a 30-year life, but in
24 the environmental benefits, or I should say the
25 benefits, you only use 20 years. Was that just an

1 oversight, or why 20 years when calculating the
2 greenhouse benefits versus the 30-year life
3 expectancy?

4 THE WITNESS (Singer): The difference
5 between the 20 and 30 years is due to a
6 conservative assumption on the greenhouse gas
7 analysis in terms of the emission savings that the
8 project would produce as opposed to the 30-year
9 life.

10 MR. EDELSON: And what's the
11 justification? Why short sell the project? I
12 mean, the whole RFP is about trying to generate as
13 much electricity with lower carbon emissions,
14 lower greenhouse emissions. I would encourage you
15 to redo the calculation and let's see the benefits
16 that are really there. If you really believe it's
17 got a 30-year life, let's go for it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: If I may interject? In
19 follow-up to Mr. Edelson's, from my notes and
20 having read this a long time ago, the contract is
21 for 20 years no renewal?

22 THE WITNESS (Singer): That's correct.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: How is it you talk in
24 terms of 30 years then? I mean, to me normally,
25 at least as I've experienced it, if it's a 20-year

1 deal and you're thinking 30, you've got an option
2 for the other 10, or you've got some doorway open
3 to continue on. From what I read, it's 20 years
4 but you're thinking 30, but the door is shut.

5 THE WITNESS (Singer): So we anticipate
6 that the equipment has a 30-year life.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I understand that.

8 THE WITNESS (Singer): So for the 10
9 years after the current power purchase agreements
10 would expire, we would either seek to operate in
11 one of two ways: One, a new agreement for 10
12 years to cover the balance of the project life; or
13 two, operate in the wholesale market to sell power
14 into the ISO New England grid without a contract.
15 And so that makes up for the difference, and in
16 determining the economics of the project, that's
17 how we viewed it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: But you pursue it today
19 without any options on your part to continue on
20 after 20 years if the landowner tells you a
21 flat-out no? That surprises me with such an
22 investment.

23 THE WITNESS (Singer): I believe, if
24 I'm understanding the question correctly, the
25 leases with our landowners are for a total

1 potential term, if all operator extensions are
2 used, of 40 years. So the lease being active is
3 not a concern to us.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: So the information of
5 the contract is for 20 years with no renewal is
6 not really accurate then?

7 THE WITNESS (Singer): I believe it is.
8 The contract in that context is referring to the
9 power purchase agreements, and the 40 years is in
10 relation to the land lease real estate agreements.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: So your lease then is
12 for more than 20 years?

13 THE WITNESS (Singer): Potentially.
14 How it operates is that once the production term
15 starts, there's five-year increments, and, you
16 know, we decide to renew in each of those
17 five-year increments. So it has the potential to
18 be 40 years total.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: So let me ask you flat
20 out then. When 20 years go by and you decide you
21 want to continue this operation, you have the
22 ability to do that contractually?

23 THE WITNESS (Singer): That's correct.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: So you really do have
25 some options to renew. Okay. Well, that clears

1 that up. Thank you.

2 MR. EDELSON: So just to put another
3 spin on it, when you say "conservative," that's
4 really a worst-case analysis that after 20 years
5 the electricity market is such that this
6 particular site is no longer economically viable
7 and there's no reason to continue with the solar,
8 and so that's why you didn't take the benefits,
9 would that be a way of looking at it?

10 THE WITNESS (Singer): I believe that's
11 a fair way of looking at it.

12 MR. EDELSON: If we turn to page 11 --
13 and I might have overthought this -- this is about
14 the project phasing. And it seemed to me you were
15 trying to lay out a timeline for when things are
16 going to happen so we don't expect everything is
17 going to happen on day one. But I wasn't sure why
18 you separated phase 2 and 4 and put phase 3 in
19 between. It would seem to me you would have tried
20 to make working on either array, or especially the
21 eastern array, a continuous thing, but it almost
22 reads as if you're going to start work on the
23 eastern array, then stop that, start working on
24 the western array, and then come back to the
25 eastern array. And it would seem to me that you

1 would want to do the western array first and
2 finish that. It seems to be easier because it's
3 an open field already, you don't have to do as
4 much of the grubbing and more extensive stormwater
5 work.

6 So I might be overinterpreting this as
7 being phased as one phase followed by another by
8 another, but if you could just speak to the
9 timeline associated with this phasing?

10 THE WITNESS (Huntley): The phasing
11 that we put together is intended to follow both
12 what makes sense from a time of year point of view
13 assuming that the construction, that the clearing
14 is starting in the winter, and then we're moving
15 on from that to spring and then through the summer
16 and fall construction, as well as it's aligned
17 with the stormwater permit from a construction
18 period and a construction point of view.

19 The intention is -- and let me back up.
20 The reason that we're breaking up those phases is
21 the idea is that a lot of the work for the civil
22 components of the construction, which are the
23 grubbing, the road construction, those types of
24 pieces, are going to be done by a single
25 contractor, and this allows the concurrence of

1 that contractor to continue throughout the site
2 and then move on to the other areas with the other
3 contractors that are doing the racking, that are
4 doing the installation to follow along behind.

5 There is an intention that a level of
6 this will be done concurrently depending on what
7 contractors, what subcontractors are on site at
8 any given time, to allow for a lot of these to
9 happen at the same time, just as you indicated,
10 that phase 4 could happen immediately after phase
11 2 while phase 3 is happening in another location
12 by a different contractor.

13 So I think that the way it's written
14 out is a logical representation on paper. There
15 is going to be some overlap, but those overlaps
16 have very specific stormwater requirements and
17 DEEP permit requirements that are going to be
18 associated with each of those operations in those
19 areas.

20 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Thank you. So my
21 next question is about remote monitoring, and
22 there's references to that. And it sounds like
23 NextEra has quite a lot of experience in that.
24 But I'm trying to better understand what that
25 actually means. Is that just monitoring the

1 output, or are you using other visual techniques
2 that allow you to visually monitor what's going on
3 on the site? It wasn't clear to me in reading
4 that section. So if you could speak to what you
5 mean by remote monitoring and how it actually
6 works on an operational basis?

7 THE WITNESS (Asheim): The site is, as
8 you said, monitored by the output. There's also
9 controls in place to monitor when equipment is
10 online or offline.

11 MR. EDELSON: So no visual, it's just
12 all based on, let's say -- well, again, I keep
13 coming back to output. I'm aware that some solar
14 fields are being monitored by drones as a way to
15 look for problems and maybe going along with the
16 idea of, you know, you end up -- this is a large
17 area, and things can happen as far as mud,
18 vandalism, other things that could cause the
19 output to be degraded. So I'm wondering if you're
20 thinking in terms of any visual monitoring
21 remotely?

22 THE WITNESS (Asheim): We currently do
23 not have cameras installed or drones flying over
24 our sites, but that's something that we are
25 looking into as that technology advances.

1 MR. EDELSON: So currently you're --

2 THE WITNESS (Singer): If I may add?
3 And part of that that we're looking at, the
4 company is looking at right now, is thermographic
5 scanning in general. So that whether it's someone
6 on foot with a device that could see if current is
7 flowing through properly, or if it's via a drone,
8 that you're able to quickly identify if a part of
9 the site isn't operating properly.

10 MR. EDELSON: But again, that's
11 potentially in the future, it's not in the current
12 operational plan, at least in your mind?

13 THE WITNESS (Singer): Correct.

14 MR. EDELSON: And I don't know if
15 that's something, you know, in terms of the local
16 community would want you to come back if that was
17 a change in your operation. But again, currently
18 in your operation it's, if you will, much more
19 noninvasive in the sense of having physical
20 devices going around, you can be down in Juno,
21 Florida enjoying the good weather and remotely see
22 what we're going through up here. We're not
23 jealous.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. EDELSON: I guess my last area, and

1 I want to make sure I understand what it is you're
2 trying -- and just briefly on page 31, a lot of
3 discussion about the stormwater. And I'm trying
4 to make sure I believe our ultimate objective here
5 is, you know, that the flow or the hydrology of
6 the site is pretty much the same afterwards as it
7 is today, especially on the fields on the western
8 array.

9 And you refer here, if I've got the
10 right page, that you look at these arrays as the
11 only array or the only line of arrays that's
12 impervious is the, let's say, the upper-most one,
13 and therefore from that point going down gradient
14 all the others are considered to be pervious
15 because the water keeps flowing sheet flow to
16 sheet flow so that the amount of acreage that is
17 covered is quite minimal because it's just that
18 first row. Is that what you're trying to say
19 there in that sentence that says kind of the top
20 of the page, "Therefore, the only solar modules
21 that are considered impervious will be the most
22 upgradient modules in each subcatchment." That's
23 the intention, right?

24 THE WITNESS (Huntley): That's correct.
25 And the intention is that based on the

1 construction of the racking systems and of the
2 arrays, each one of these panels is independent
3 from the others. So where stormwater falls on top
4 of a panel, it will run off down to the grade, as
5 it exists currently, or as it will exist with
6 minor modification, to vegetated states and to
7 meadow grass that in those areas the downgradient
8 areas will receive runoff from the higher gradient
9 panels, and in all of those areas it's still a
10 meadow that exists beneath the panels so
11 evapotranspiration and infiltration can still
12 occur within those areas.

13 To be conservative, we've assumed that
14 the most hydraulically remote of these panels are
15 impervious. That way we're basically saying that
16 if there is no panel or no contributing area at a
17 higher level than that, then in that area there
18 would not be any infiltration because there
19 wouldn't be anything contributing to that area.
20 So we believe it's the most conservative approach
21 to take in the modeling that was done for the
22 stormwater, that's correct.

23 MR. EDELSON: I think in other solar
24 projects we've heard the concern that the water
25 that comes off of the panel, so it has a sheet

1 flow to it but it comes down, if you will, in one
2 row, and that you could get gullying or erosion
3 there. So that although we'd like to see it as a
4 nice flow, the concern might be that that's going
5 to create kind of little gullies going along the
6 front end of each panel or each line of panel.

7 Anything you can do or say to allay my
8 concern that that's going to happen and we're
9 going to see not the continuous sheet flow that we
10 see today on the property? Do you see the image I
11 have in my mind?

12 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Yes, I
13 understand. And I guess the answer to that is
14 twofold: One is that each one of the panels are
15 separate from the others. So as opposed to like a
16 roof of a barn or a roof of a house or a building
17 where you have a continuous, you know, roof that
18 is a continuous flow and a drip edge that has a
19 potential for erosion, what we have here are the
20 individual panels themselves with a drip coming
21 down in between each one of those rows. So it is
22 a much less of a concentration in those areas.

23 And then the second part of that is
24 that based on the experience that we have, the
25 grass vegetation, once established, with

1 recognizing that the leading edge of these panels
2 is likely somewhere in the 2 to 3 foot range, we
3 don't see any erosion or rilling from the drip
4 edge of those panels in the industry throughout
5 the area.

6 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Chairman, those
7 are my questions. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens, please.

9 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 A couple questions have come up as hearing my
11 colleagues speak. Firstly, the concept of using
12 arborvitae, isn't that just putting out a buffet
13 for the deers?

14 THE WITNESS (Angus): There actually is
15 no arborvitae proposed. It's eastern red cedar.

16 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you. Much better.

17 I have a question on the western array.
18 Why is that hedge row being left intact, is there
19 a reason? Because it just seems if you're trying
20 to create the arrays that you're creating this
21 area of trees and shading, and it sort of affects
22 the efficient layout of the solar arrays.

23 THE WITNESS (Singer): Dr. Klemens, are
24 you referring to the space below barns 4 and 5 on
25 the figure where there's a kind of rectangular

1 cut-in where the panels and the vegetation
2 screening discontinues?

3 DR. KLEMENS: I'm talking, if you look
4 at figure number 3, existing conditions, there
5 just seems to be the disturbance limits, and there
6 is this long hedge row that goes from the road
7 almost, you know, into the vernal pool protection
8 area.

9 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes.

10 DR. KLEMENS: What's the purpose?

11 THE WITNESS (Singer): That is a
12 right-of-way owned by Connecticut Light and Power.

13 DR. KLEMENS: Okay. Thank you.

14 Okay. Now I'll get to the questions
15 I've prepared. Most of these are going to focus
16 on Exhibit D. And I just want to for the record
17 confirm that it's the applicant's conclusion that
18 the area that is used by vernal pool amphibians
19 for breeding does not meet the definitions of a
20 wetland based on either federal, state, or town
21 definitions?

22 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): That's
23 correct.

24 DR. KLEMENS: So it's not a wetland?

25 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Correct.

1 DR. KLEMENS: So based on my -- and
2 this is a very complete application. And it's
3 nice to have an application where you have enough
4 data. You don't have to talk about the
5 deficiencies, but you can talk about the planning
6 implications of the data. We don't always get
7 them like that.

8 So we have called this vernal pool an
9 ecological sink. Is that the same as what we also
10 often refer to as a decoy pool, one that's
11 essentially siphoning off breeding animals from
12 viable pools and fails to provide the adequate
13 hydroperiod and other factors to result in
14 successful development in metamorphosis. Is that
15 what this pool is?

16 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): We're saying
17 that in most years that's correct.

18 DR. KLEMENS: So most years it
19 functions as a sink?

20 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Correct.

21 DR. KLEMENS: And you're basing this on
22 two years of data, and one of those years was
23 quite wet?

24 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Which year
25 are you referring to?

1 DR. KLEMENS: 2018.

2 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): I would say
3 2018 was quite wet later in the season. During
4 the vernal pool season we discussed it and kind of
5 concurred that it was sort of a normal or average
6 year.

7 DR. KLEMENS: Okay.

8 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): In the
9 spring. Sorry.

10 DR. KLEMENS: So the application refers
11 to other wetlands immediately offsite to the
12 southeast, including a large buttonbush swamp,
13 scrub swamp. And is it your sense that this is
14 probably where the amphibians came from?

15 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Likely, yes.

16 DR. KLEMENS: Okay. So let's go to
17 Appendix K.

18 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Of Exhibit D?

19 DR. KLEMENS: Appendix K. I've leaving
20 D. We're going to Appendix K --

21 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Excuse me.

22 DR. KLEMENS: -- which is the
23 stormwater management. And my first question is,
24 I believe that one of the Figure 5s should be
25 Figure 4. You have two Figure 5s and no Figure 4

1 there. And I'm looking at the existing -- I'm
2 actually looking at Figure 3, and what you label
3 as Figure 5, which I believe the following figure
4 should be 4. That may be just a labeling error.

5 THE WITNESS (Huntley): I believe that
6 is correct, yes. Thank you.

7 DR. KLEMENS: Okay. So we're calling
8 that Figure 3 and Figure 4 now, right, these two,
9 and Figure 5 is the Scantic River Watershed?

10 THE WITNESS (Huntley): Correct.

11 DR. KLEMENS: So can you tell me, I'm
12 looking at all these different sub-watersheds, is
13 the hydrological contribution to the vernal pool
14 post-development the same, are you increasing or
15 decreasing the amount of water entering this
16 vernal pool?

17 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes. The
18 level of site work required for the project will
19 not alter the smaller watersheds within the site.

20 DR. KLEMENS: So the hydrological
21 budget for the vernal pool remains the same
22 post-construction?

23 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Correct.

24 DR. KLEMENS: Calhoun and Klemens BDP,
25 which is administratively noticed as Item No. 90,

1 recommends on page 21, "Avoid creating ruts and
2 artificial depressions that hold water. And if
3 ruts are created, refill to grade." Do you agree
4 with that statement?

5 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes.

6 DR. KLEMENS: Your response to CSC
7 Interrogatory 91 states that the project will
8 occupy 84 percent of the critical terrestrial
9 habitat. That is the area 100 to 750 feet from
10 the vernal pool. Is that compliant with the
11 development standards set forth in Calhoun and
12 Klemens 2002, page 16?

13 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Sorry. I'm
14 looking for what exactly you're referring to on
15 page 16.

16 DR. KLEMENS: I'll make it easy for
17 you. It's 25 percent.

18 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): 25 percent,
19 correct. So it's not technically in conformance
20 with the 25 percent threshold; however, we
21 considered that in the development of the project
22 and decided to offer the directional corridor as
23 an alternative to conforming with that given the
24 nature of the pool.

25 DR. KLEMENS: And will this 84 percent

1 removal include a significant amount of forested
2 habitat; and if so, what is the acreage?

3 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): So the 84
4 percent is the project footprint; 71 percent of
5 that is forested.

6 DR. KLEMENS: So 71 percent of the 84
7 percent in the critical terrestrial habitat is
8 forested habitat removing --

9 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Correct.

10 DR. KLEMENS: So as the excavated pool
11 is not a wetland, and as you're developing a
12 significant amount of the critical terrestrial
13 habitat rendering the pool noncompliant, and the
14 pool is primarily functioning as an ecological
15 sink, wouldn't the prudent conservation solution
16 be to grade out this area, fill it, as opposed to
17 trying to conserve it as a dysfunctional pool?
18 What's the conservation benefit of all of this?

19 THE WITNESS (Ryan): In some years, and
20 particularly wetter years, it still may produce a
21 metamorph, say wood frogs.

22 DR. KLEMENS: May?

23 THE WITNESS (Ryan): It might.

24 DR. KLEMENS: A handful of eggs. And
25 the reason I'm asking this is there's an awful lot

1 of redesign on this project that has been
2 redesigned on some very, very gently, relatively
3 flat area with sort of rather poor, at least as I
4 saw it, forest. Might it make sense to really
5 remove that and turn that into area for solar
6 arrays and avoid some of the better forest and
7 some of the steeper slopes?

8 THE WITNESS (Singer): Based on the
9 points you've raised, it is something we're
10 willing to take under consideration in refining
11 the site design. I would like to add that the
12 steepest portions that break up the western and
13 eastern array, that ridge, we are avoiding placing
14 solar panels on as it is.

15 DR. KLEMENS: And I noticed that there
16 is in this corridor that you are now protecting
17 part of it is quite steep, but around the vernal
18 pool, as we've walked to the vernal pool and the
19 toe of the slope, there's a large area, relatively
20 flat that I think could be used and maybe move the
21 arrays around and maybe get a better fit, maybe
22 protect some more of the forest. That's just --
23 so if you do reconsider it, that would be great.
24 Because I think based on the data that you have
25 put into the record, it's marginal the full

1 effective pool, and actually if you're following
2 Calhoun and Klemens, the recommendation is to fill
3 such things and not leave them on the landscape,
4 and it's not a wetland, as you have determined.

5 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Understood.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Silvestri has a
7 follow-up question.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: I appreciate Dr.
9 Klemens' comments on this. Correct me if I'm
10 wrong, isn't there an agreement between you and
11 the landowner that that area remains as-is?

12 THE WITNESS (Singer): To my knowledge,
13 our agreement with the landowner does not contain
14 a provision stating that.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. I thought I read
16 that. That's why I asked the question. Thank
17 you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Dr. Klemens.

19 DR. KLEMENS: Moving to the eastern
20 spadefoot toad study, in a recently approved CSC
21 application, Petition 1345, nocturnal surveys took
22 place between May 22nd and October 29, 2017,
23 expending 198 person hours over 11 nights and
24 locating 31 eastern spadefoots. Can you explain
25 why 26 person hours over five nights between May

1 and July of 2018 constitutes sufficient effort on
2 the part of the applicant to conclusively
3 demonstrate that eastern spadefoots were not
4 present at this site?

5 THE WITNESS (Ryan): Based on my
6 previous experience, I felt that that amount of
7 time, that five nights in optimal conditions,
8 would be adequate to detect the presence of
9 eastern spadefoots on the property.

10 DR. KLEMENS: You're going to have to
11 qualify or tell us what is different about this
12 property that led you to that conclusion, Dr.
13 Ryan.

14 THE WITNESS (Ryan): While I searched
15 everything from having a search image from where
16 I've observed eastern spadefoots in the past, it
17 did not seem to be an abundance of adequate
18 habitat at this site, nor is there Hinckley soils
19 necessarily on the site. The agricultural fields
20 themselves are pretty bare, so there's not clumps
21 of vegetation when you typically would find
22 spadefoots. So surveying was focused mainly on
23 the edges of the fields, but again, I tried to
24 cover the entire site just to --

25 DR. KLEMENS: Did you go into the

1 woods?

2 THE WITNESS (Ryan): Yes.

3 DR. KLEMENS: All through that hill?

4 THE WITNESS (Ryan): Yes, and searched
5 the entire property just to be thorough, focused
6 on areas where you think you would find them,
7 where you'd have the optimal chance of detecting
8 the species, but then to stay open minded and not
9 close anything out and cover the rest of the area
10 as well, which includes the woods.

11 DR. KLEMENS: As a conservation
12 biologist, you know that it's much more
13 challenging to conclusively prove an absence than
14 a presence?

15 THE WITNESS (Ryan): I agree, and I
16 would say they're likely not present. I refrain
17 from -- or avoid making absolute statements.

18 DR. KLEMENS: But can you give us some
19 level of confidence, some sort of -- 95 percent?

20 THE WITNESS (Ryan): I think it's
21 highly unlikely that eastern spadefoots occur on
22 the site.

23 DR. KLEMENS: Based on?

24 THE WITNESS (Ryan): Based on the
25 amount of effort that we have put in and previous

1 experience.

2 DR. KLEMENS: Let me try to understand.
3 You're saying the site is just not, in your
4 opinion, suitable compared to other sites you've
5 studied?

6 THE WITNESS (Ryan): It doesn't look
7 optimal, no. And the spadefoot observations track
8 pretty well with Hinckley soils and with the
9 predictive model developed by DEEP. And there is
10 no predicted area of Hinckley soils on the site.
11 The Hinckley soils are on the other side of --
12 across from the project area across Bailey Road to
13 the north.

14 DR. KLEMENS: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS (Ryan): I should mention,
16 too, that the nocturnal surveys also consisted of
17 nocturnal searches on Bailey Road on the
18 properties adjacent to get as near as the Hinckley
19 soil as I could without going in people's yards.

20 DR. KLEMENS: And one additional
21 question or comment because we strive to make a
22 very complete record. As you heard Mr. Perrone
23 started off trying to get a lot of facts into the
24 record.

25 Now, as I understand it, Dennis Quinn

1 conducted 20 percent of those nocturnal studies.

2 Correct?

3 THE WITNESS (Ryan): That is correct.

4 DR. KLEMENS: Without you?

5 THE WITNESS (Ryan): Without me. I was
6 not present.

7 DR. KLEMENS: Right. And you also
8 relied on corroborating data from other surveys
9 Mr. Quinn was conducting contemporaneously in
10 another part of Connecticut to reach some of your
11 conclusions. Correct?

12 THE WITNESS (Ryan): Correct.

13 DR. KLEMENS: So this is just an
14 administrative thing. Don't you think that
15 including his CV as part of the project would be
16 appropriate and necessary for a complete record
17 the qualifications of the scientists working on
18 this as opposed to the assistance?

19 THE WITNESS (Ryan): That would have
20 been prudent, yes.

21 DR. KLEMENS: That can be added?

22 MR. BOGAN: Yes.

23 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you. I have no
24 further questions, Mr. Chairman.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Silvestri has a

1 follow-up.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: I knew I wasn't getting
3 senile on this one based on the question I asked
4 you before. I want to refer you to within Section
5 D by Tetra Tech there is a Herpetofauna Avoidance
6 and Mitigation Plan. And on page 4 of that, and
7 I'll quote, "The contract with the leasing
8 landowner has been negotiated to allow no clearing
9 within the landscape connection (directional
10 buffer) for the life of the project. The critical
11 terrestrial habitat calculations and a visual
12 demonstration of the directional buffer is
13 provided in Appendix A, Figure 2."

14 How does that differ from what you gave
15 me for an answer before?

16 THE WITNESS (Singer): The
17 clarification, if I may, is that that stipulation
18 is that the landowner may not conduct the clearing
19 activity, not precluding the tenant, us, from
20 doing the clearing actively should it be in the
21 project scope.

22 MR. SILVESTRI: I don't read that from
23 here, but you have the contract, I don't. To me
24 when I read this is that you are not allowed to do
25 the clearing.

1 (Pause.)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps maybe you can
3 take a look at the contracts and give us whether
4 or not the tenant can do it, which I think will
5 answer the question for you, Mr. Silvestri.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay.

7 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes, if it's --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Otherwise, we'll just
9 talk about it for quite a while and not resolve
10 it.

11 THE WITNESS (Singer): We'd like to do
12 so.

13 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: That's the end of your
16 questions?

17 DR. KLEMENS: That's the end of my
18 questions, Mr. Chairman.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Does any member of the
20 Council have any? Mr. Silvestri.

21 MR. SILVESTRI: I actually have one
22 more quick one. Before we were talking about
23 20-year life spans, 30-year life spans, I heard 40
24 might pop in there. My comment starts with the
25 inverters have a finite life, so somewhere along

1 the line, 10 years or whatever, you're going to
2 have to replace the inverters. All right?
3 Somewhere along the line I would think
4 manufacturers are going to produce panels that are
5 probably greater than 400 megawatts to some other
6 number. So with that, replacing and upgrades by
7 manufacturer, couldn't this project go on in
8 perpetuity, I mean, periodically go back, change
9 an inverter, change a panel, make it a stronger
10 megawatt or watt, rather, and just keep going
11 beyond 20, 30, 40 years?

12 THE WITNESS (Singer): The replacing of
13 the panels that we're proposing to install
14 currently with newer panels would likely require a
15 lot of downstream effects such as changing the
16 racking components and making sure that the
17 voltage with the inverters is consistent.
18 Moreover, I would add the way that we view the
19 economics of the project is that you make the
20 upfront investment and those panels pay back over
21 that 20-year period, and that it's currently not
22 economically viable to replace panels in a time
23 frame shorter than that period.

24 MR. SILVESTRI: What about at the end
25 of that period?

1 THE WITNESS (Singer): The end of that
2 period being 20 years?

3 MR. SILVESTRI: Or 30.

4 THE WITNESS (Singer): I can't speak
5 definitively to that where we would be 30 years
6 from now, and so I wouldn't want to make a
7 prediction on that front, but our current plan is
8 to decommission after 30 years.

9 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you.

10 THE WITNESS (Asheim): I would add that
11 it is technically possible outside of the -- from
12 an economic or development perspective to replace
13 equipment consistently for beyond 30 or 40 years.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you again.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hannon, you had
16 something?

17 MR. HANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Two quick questions, maybe three.

19 Where are the panels manufactured?

20 THE WITNESS (Asheim): The proposed
21 panel is manufactured in a number of different
22 facilities, including the U.S. and outside of the
23 U.S. So it would depend on what batch of modules
24 we get at the particular time.

25 MR. HANNON: Is there any way to get a

1 certification that the solder that's used in the
2 panels is lead free? And the reason I'm asking is
3 because some recent TCLP testing showed that some
4 of the panels are exhibiting signs of lead and
5 they did not pass the test, and it had to do with
6 the soldering. So is that something you can look
7 into?

8 THE WITNESS (Singer): Yes, it's
9 something we could look into.

10 MR. HANNON: Thank you. That's all.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens.

12 DR. KLEMENS: Actually I'm glad you
13 mentioned the herpetofauna avoidance plan because
14 I did have a couple of comments. This was not
15 written -- who wrote this plan?

16 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): I wrote the
17 majority of it. It was reviewed by Dr. Ryan.

18 DR. KLEMENS: Okay, great. Thank you.
19 And the only comment I had was on page 4,
20 "Documentation and Reporting: If rare,
21 threatened, or endangered species are found..." I
22 mean, as I understand it, rare is not a legal
23 classification in Connecticut. We have three
24 classifications: Endangered, threatened, or
25 special concern. Is what you mean when you say

1 rare species are the special concern ones?

2 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes, I would
3 say that that was referring to kind of regular
4 surveys that would be done to indicate rare,
5 threatened, or endangered species, specifically,
6 yes, you're correct in saying that if threatened,
7 endangered, or special concern species are
8 identified, that's what it's referring to.

9 DR. KLEMENS: You could change that
10 then, right?

11 THE WITNESS (Nickerson): Yes.

12 DR. KLEMENS: Great. Thank you.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. With that, the
15 Council is going to recess until 6:30 p.m., and
16 this evening's session will be restricted to the
17 public comment hearing testimony or comments from
18 the public. So we'll adjourn until 6:30 p.m.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. BOGAN: Thank you.


21 (Whereupon, the witnesses were excused,
22 and the above proceedings were adjourned at 5
23 p.m.)

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 89 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the Council Meeting in Re: PETITION NO. 1352,
7 PETITION OF NUTMEG SOLAR, LLC FOR A DECLARATORY
8 RULING FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE,
9 AND OPERATION OF A 19.6 MEGAWATT SOLAR
10 PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY
11 GENERALLY SOUTH OF BAILEY ROAD AND EAST OF BROAD
12 BROOK ROAD AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL
13 INTERCONNECTION TO EVERSOURCE ENERGY'S SCITICO
14 SUBSTATION AT 20 BAILEY ROAD IN ENFIELD,
15 CONNECTICUT, which was held before SENATOR JAMES
16 J. MURPHY, ACTING CHAIRMAN, at Enfield Town Hall,
17 Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield,
18 Connecticut, on January 10, 2019.

19
20 
21 -----
22 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
23 Court Reporter
24 BCT REPORTING SERVICE
25 55 WHITING STREET, SUITE 1A
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062

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6		JONATHAN GRAVEL	
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8		MATTHEW SINGER	
9		BRIAN HUNTLEY	
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23	II-B-1	Petition for a declaratory ruling	
24		filed by Nutmeg Solar, LLC, received	
25		October 19, 2018	12

1 I n d e x (Cont'd.):

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3 EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION PAGE

4 II-B-2 Petitioner's responses to Council
5 interrogatories, Set One, dated
6 December 7, 2018 12

7 II-B-3 Petitioner's amended Exhibit F,
8 specification sheets for 400 watt solar
9 modules, dated December 7, 2018 12

10 II-B-4 Petitioner's Phase 1B report
11 Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey
12 of proposed Nutmeg Solar facility in
13 Enfield, CT, dated December 12, 2018 12

14 II-B-5 Petitioner's update to Item #4 of
15 Petition Exhibit N, Nutmeg Solar project
16 outreach log, dated December 31, 2018 12

17 II-B-6 Petitioner's revised response to
18 Council Interrogatory No. 14, dated
19 January 2, 2019 12

20 II-B-7 Petitioner's revised response to
21 Council Interrogatory No. 45, dated
22 January 2, 2019 12

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EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
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II-B-9	Petitioner's responses to Council interrogatories, Set Three, dated January 3, 2019	12