



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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August 26, 2016

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Acting Executive Director *MAB*

RE: **PETITION NO. 1247** – C-TEC Solar, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance, and operation of a 3.75 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 1 Ballard Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

Comments have been received from Department of Transportation, dated August 22, 2016. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/MP/cm

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

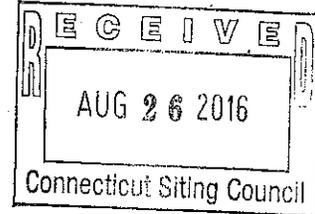


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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

Ms. Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

August 22, 2016



Dear Ms. Bachman:

**Subject: Petition No. 1247
Solar Panel Facility
1 Ballard Road
Town of Thompson**

The Department of Transportation has reviewed the above-mentioned Petition and offers the following comment.

The proposed project may result with associated work within state right of way including but not limited to overhead or underground utility work from Route 193 to the project site. Therefore, C-TEC may be required to attain a permit pursuant to the Highway Encroachment Permit Regulations in conjunction with the Connecticut General Statutes prior to performing any work within the state highway right of way. The District 2 Permit Office will need to review three complete sets of construction plans which show all work within the state highway right of way, all site work, any required easements and standard details for highway construction prior to issuing the encroachment permit.

The District 2 Permit Office will determine the bond amount, insurance coverage, maintenance and protection of traffic, inspection, roadway restoration and pavement restoration requirements. Please see attached D.O.T. Screening Check List.

Should you have any further questions, please contact, Ms. Latoya Smith, Utility Engineer (Utilities), at (860) 594-2533.

Very truly yours,

Sohrab Afrazi
Transportation Principal Engineer
Bureau of Engineering and Construction

Enclosure



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Screening Checklist

Connecticut Department of Transportation

Potential Transportation Infrastructure Impacts

Connecticut Siting Council Petition # 1247

Location: 1 Ballard Road
Thompson, CT

1. Is the proposed facility abutting the right-of-way of a State maintained highway?

No

Yes - Specify the location and show location on a detail site plan.

2. Is access for construction and maintenance of the proposed facility needed directly from a State maintained highway.

No

Yes - Identify specify needs and access location.

3. Is the proposed facility within or abutting a State owned Railroad Right-of Way?

No

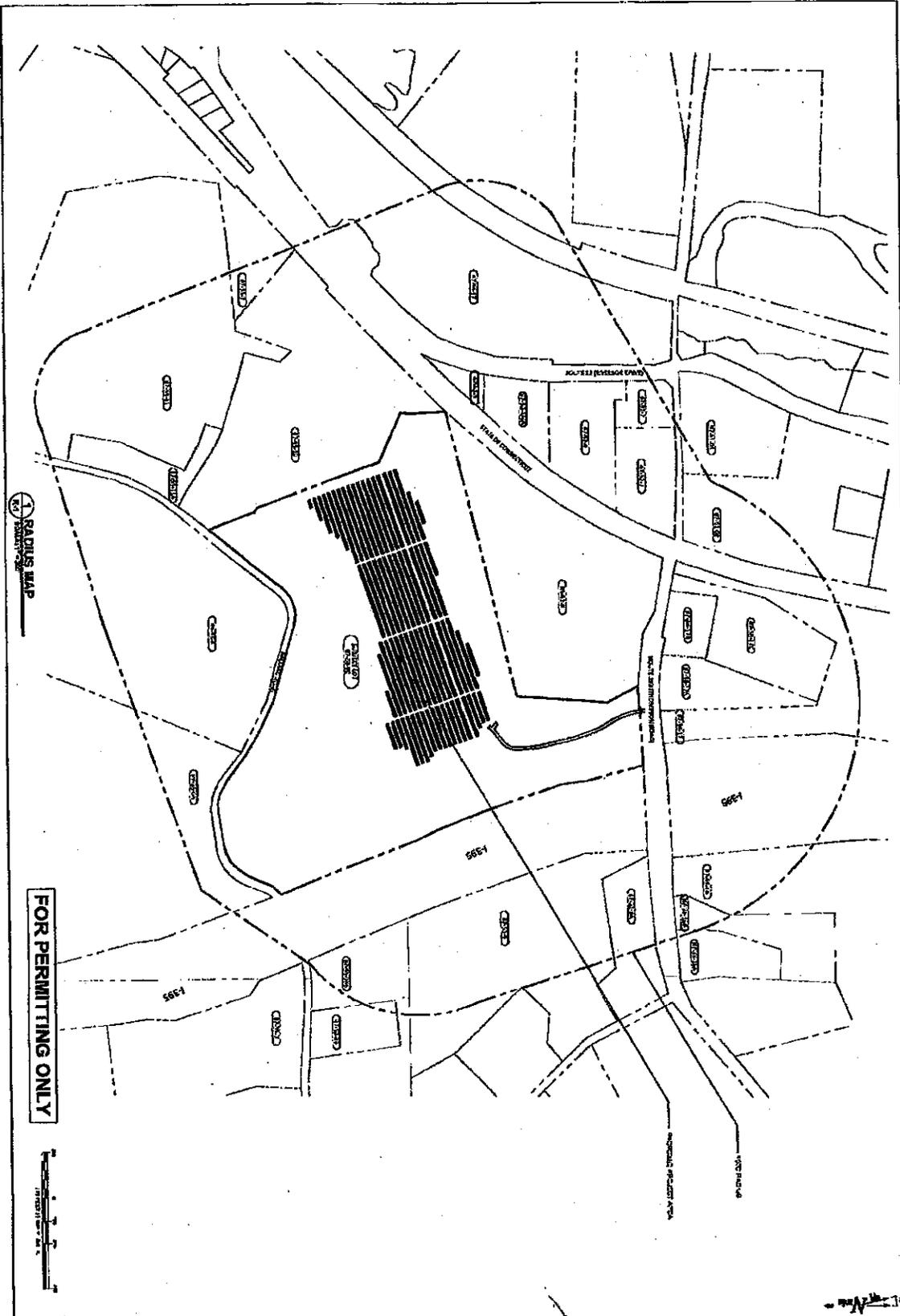
Yes - Please provide an area and site plan.

4. Is the proposed facility within a two mile radius of any lands classified as preserved scenic land in accordance with CGS Section 13a-85a, "Acquisition of land adjacent to state highways for preservation and enhancement of scenic beauty and development of rest and recreation areas", or any designated scenic road in accordance with CGS Section 13b-31c, "Designation of scenic roads"?

No

Yes





1 RADIUS MAP
R-1

FOR PERMITTING ONLY



<p>B/C-TECHNICALS 1 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06022 OFFICE (860) 853-1774</p>		<p>ALL-POINTS TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANTS 1000 WASHINGTON STREET BLOOMFIELD, CT 06022 OFFICE (860) 853-1774</p>	
<p>CITIZENPLAN "SMARTER PLANNING" WITH THE BLOOMFIELD TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION 1000 WASHINGTON STREET BLOOMFIELD, CT 06022 OFFICE (860) 853-1774</p>		<p>STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION 1000 WASHINGTON STREET BLOOMFIELD, CT 06022 OFFICE (860) 853-1774</p>	
<p>PROJECT NUMBER: R-1</p>		<p>PROJECT TITLE: RADIUS MAP</p>	

space/agricultural. As such, the development of the Project will result in immediate benefits to the Town of Thompson without burdening Town resources.

B. Project Description

The Project consists of the installation of 11,200 photovoltaic modules, associated ground equipment, an ancillary building, an access road, and an electrical interconnection. It is anticipated that the Project will have an anticipated useful life of 25 years. It should be noted that the Project location is remote as it relates to roads and neighbors and is surrounded by natural barriers, such that its requirements for new fencing and a new gate are only along the entrance to Thompson Road. An existing gated access off of Ballard Road will have similar, adjoining fencing to discourage unauthorized entry to the Property. The Project will have minimal visual impact from the road. The Project operates silently and exclusively uses sunlight as fuel.

1. The Equipment

The current configuration of Project equipment is listed in the Environmental Assessment. As Project development continues, the final types of equipment may vary from the current configuration, but will be substantially similar.

2. Access Road

The Property will be accessed from Thompson Road (Rte. 193). C-TEC will utilize an existing gravel and sand driveway for access during construction and operation of the Project. In addition, the existing gated fence along Thompson Road will be improved.

3. Ground Equipment

An electrical collector will be constructed on the Property. At the point of common coupling with Eversource, C-TEC will provide a utility-class circuit breaker, equipped with a multifunctional relay, to serve as the Interconnection Interruption Device. State-of-the-art anti-

operative, noise levels at nearby property lines and/or residences would not change substantially and continue to be well below applicable criteria (estimated at 28 to 45 dBA).

N. Lighting

No artificial lighting exists at the Property today and no such lighting is planned to be installed.

O. Other Surrounding Features

The locations of non-residential development and other resources within two miles of the Property are listed in the Environmental Assessment, p.18, Table 3 and depicted on Environmental Assessment, p.19, Figure 4.

P. Local, State and Federal Land Use Plans

The Project is consistent with local, State, and Federal land use plans, including the 2010-2020 Town of Thompson Plan for Conservation and Development (TPCD) which outlines the need for expanding "the use of photovoltaic panels...at Town owned facilities, private businesses and residential dwellings". TPCD states that "over reliance on fossil fuels is acknowledged to be a substantial problem for Thompson, and society in general and is likely to remain a problem in the near future". This Project will support TPCD's policies and strategies by developing a renewable energy resource while not having a substantial adverse environmental effect.

Q. Roads

The existing access drive originating off Thompson Road (Rte. 193) will be used during construction and for permanent access to maintain and monitor the Project. Minimal upgrades would be required for the access road. Developing a stable gravel apron, regrading/reestablishing select areas along the existing access drive and the installation of one (1), 16-foot-wide, chain link security access gate south of the intersection of Thompson Road is all that would be

required. A secondary access road is located to the southeast of the Project on Ballard Road. This access road would not be used in association with the Project but will continue to be used by the property owner for access to portions of the Property. The existing security gate will be upgraded to one similar to the proposed gate on Thompson Road. During construction, temporary interior field roads would be used to access construction locations.

R. Rare Species

No rare species will be impacted by the Project. In a June 6, 2016 letter, CTDEEP confirmed that they "do not anticipate negative impacts to State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) resulting from your proposed activity at the site based upon the information contained within the NDDDB." See Environmental Assessment, Appendix F.

S. Northern Long-eared Bat

One federally-listed threatened species is known to occur in the vicinity of the Property, the northern long-eared bat ("NLEB"; *Myotis septentrionalis*). NLEB range encompasses the entire State of Connecticut. Suitable NLEB roost habitat includes trees (live, dying, dead, or snag) with a diameter at breast height ("DBH") of three (3) inches or greater. The proposed Project will result in the removal of trees greater than three (3) inches DBH. Therefore, since NLEB potentially occurs in the vicinity of the Property, the Property supports potential habitat for NLEB and the proposed activity may potentially impact its habitat, a determination of compliance with Section 10 of the ESA is required. The NLEB areas of concern in Connecticut to assist with Federal Endangered Species Act Compliance map (February 1, 2016) was reviewed to determine the locations of any known maternity roost trees or hibernaculum. This map reveals that there are currently no known NLEB maternity roost trees in Connecticut. The nearest NLEB habitat resource to the Project Area is located in East Granby approximately 43