



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

June 26, 2017

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Rob Klee, Commissioner
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Deepwater Wind, LLC Proposed Solar Project for Simsbury

Dear Commissioner Klee:

As you know, Deepwater Wind, LLC (“Deepwater Wind”) submitted a solar farm proposal in response to a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) jointly issued by the three states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The goal of the RFP as we understand it was to increase the amount of Qualified Clean Energy delivered in or to New England through the construction of new facilities or upgrades to existing generators. Deepwater Wind’s proposal, which is named “Tobacco Valley Solar,” contemplates a 26.4 megawatt solar project on approximately 289 acres in Simsbury, Connecticut. Deepwater Wind was notified in late 2016 that its proposal was one of the projects selected from the RFP process. In early 2017 it negotiated a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Eversource Energy. We have recently been informed that the company intends to file a “Petition for a Declaratory Ruling for a Renewable Energy Facility” with the Connecticut Siting Council sometime next week.

Due to the size of the project, the Town of Simsbury’s land use ordinances and procedures are completely pre-empted by state law which gives complete decision-making authority to the Connecticut Siting Council. In short, the Town has no say in the decision about how approximately 289 acres of land in Simsbury, which is currently zoned for industrial and residential use, will be used. While the Town can and will seek party status in Siting Council proceedings and will endeavor to protect the best interests of its residents, the fate of this project ultimately is in the hands of the Siting Council. Our goal, therefore, is to make sure that the Siting Council’s decision is based upon the best possible information.

Accordingly, once the petition process has been initiated, we respectfully request that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection conduct a comprehensive level of review of the Petition. This will ensure that the proposal is thoroughly evaluated and that critical health, safety, environmental, economic and social issues are explored in depth.

We recognize that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may not be required to conduct a comprehensive review in connection with the anticipated Petition. Given that the genesis of this project was a State of Connecticut RFP process, and that the project raises significant state policy concerns, we submit that it is in the public's best interest to have as complete a review of the underlying issues as possible. It is certainly important to the residents of Simsbury that the Siting Council's decision is based on a comprehensive and complete record.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa L. Heavner
First Selectwoman