



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

*Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman*

**Via Regular Mail and E-Mail (efielding@frwa.org)**

June 26, 2017

Eileen Fielding  
Executive Director  
Farmington Valley Watershed Association  
749 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Eileen,

Nice speaking with you the other day. Many thanks for agreeing to evaluate the Deepwater Wind proposed site.

Deepwater Wind, LLC has informed the Town of Simsbury that they anticipate filing a Petition for Declaratory Ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council for a 25.4 megawatt solar project (Tobacco Valley Solar) located on 290 acres of property owned by Griffin Land off Hoskins and County Roads in the North end of Simsbury. That land is currently zoned for industrial and residential use.

Deepwater Wind submitted a 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 was to increase the amount of Qualified Clean Energy delivered to New England through the construction of new facilities or upgrades to existing generators.

Deepwater Wind was notified in late 2016 that its proposal was one of the projects selected. In early 2017 it negotiated a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Eversource Energy. The entire process for this project was conducted at the state level with no Town approvals required.

Under Connecticut State law, entities, like Deepwater Wind, proposing to generate more than (1) megawatt of energy are permitted by the Connecticut Siting Council and are not subject to the local zoning and land use requirements of the Town. Accordingly, this project will not come before Simsbury boards or commissions for required approvals.

The Town will have a limited role in the process before the Siting Council with no provisions for local land use approvals. On June 12, 2017, the Board of Selectmen authorized the First Selectwoman for the Town of Simsbury to request party status before the Siting Council once the

petition is filed. As part of that process, the Town will request a public hearing be held in Simsbury by the Siting Council regarding the Deepwater Wind petition.

In order to best represent the Town of Simsbury in proceedings before the Siting Council it will be helpful to have the Farmington Valley Watershed Association's evaluation of the project. It would be of great value to the Town to understand any areas of concern or recommendations identified by the Association. If the Association believes that additional information or studies are required in order to fully evaluate the proposal and fulfill the Town's role with the Siting Council, please specifically identify what additional information or studies are necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Heavner  
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933 Hopmeadow Street  
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