



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

June 26, 2017

Mr. David Ryan
Chairman
Zoning Commission
Town of Simsbury
933 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Chairman Ryan,

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 26.4 megawatt solar project (Tobacco Valley Solar) located on 289 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. 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.

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8:30 - 1:00 Friday

In order to best represent the Town of Simsbury in proceedings before the Siting Council, the Board of Selectmen respectfully requests that your Commission evaluate the project in an advisory role at a regular or special meeting of the Zoning Commission, once the Town of Simsbury is notified that the Petition for Declaratory Ruling has been filed with the Siting Council and has the Petition in hand. It would be of great value to the Town to understand any areas of concern or recommendations identified by the Commission. If the Commission 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. The Board of Selectmen also respectfully requests that the Commission evaluate whether Deepwater Wind's proposal would be allowed under current Simsbury zoning regulations.

We will notify the Commission once the Town of Simsbury receives notice from the Siting Council.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Heavner
First Selectwoman



Chris Kelly
Deputy First Selectman

Sean Askham
Selectman



Cheryl Cook
Selectwoman

Elaine Lang
Selectwoman



Michael Paine
Selectman

Cc: Robert Decrescenzo, Town Counsel
Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services
Jamie Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development
Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works
Jeff Shea, Town Engineer
Michael Glidden, Assistant Town Planner