



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

*Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman*

## Via E-Mail

July 3, 2017

Dear Commission and Board Chairs,

Deepwater Wind, LLC has filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council for a 26.5 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 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. A Public Hearing has already been tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2017 at Eno Memorial Hall. More details about the Public Hearing will follow.

In order to best represent the Town of Simsbury in proceedings before the Siting Council it will be helpful to have your board or commission's evaluation of the project. It would be of great value to the Town to understand any areas of concern or recommendations identified by your board or commission. If your board or commission believes that additional information or studies

Telephone (860) 658-3230  
Facsimile (860) 658-9467

*LHeavner@simsbury-ct.gov*  
*www.simsbury-ct.gov*

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8:30 - 1:00 Friday

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.

**As the Siting Council process is expedited, please share this email with your commission or board members and provide any guidance to the First Selectwoman within 45 days. The link to the Petition No. 1313 DWW Solar II, LLC can be found here: [Petition No. 1313](#)**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Heavner  
First Selectwoman  
Town of Simsbury  
933 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
Phone (860) 658-3230

Board and Commission Chairs

Aging and Disability  
Board of Assessment Appeals  
Board of Education  
Board of Ethics  
Board of Finance  
Clean Energy Task Force  
Community for Care  
Culture, Parks and Recreation  
Design Review Board  
Economic Development Commission  
Historic District Commission  
Library Board of Trustees  
Planning Commission  
Police Commission  
Public Building Committee  
Recycling Committee  
Technology Task Force  
Tourism Committee  
Water Pollution Control Authority  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Zoning Commission

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
Department Heads  
Matt Curtis, Superintendent of Schools