



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner  
DATE: November 8, 2017  
RE: Deepwater Wind Siting Council Update

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On November 2, 2017, the Siting Council concluded the public hearing on Petition 1313 - DWW Solar II, LLC.<sup>1</sup> Counsel for the Town of Simsbury is currently preparing final briefs for the Connecticut Siting Council which are due on December 2, 2107.

As previously discussed by this Board, the Town raised three primary concerns with the Deepwater Wind project during the course of the hearing process. First, the safety of our residents is a top priority, which means making sure the Council has the evidence it needs to assess the environmental impact of this project. At this point, the Town takes the position that the environmental review is insufficient. Second, if the Siting Council approves the project, the Town wants to ensure the project fits with Simsbury's culture, history and aesthetics and that it takes seriously the concerns of abutters and affected neighborhoods. In this context, the Town has requested that the parcel on the southern side of Hoskins be eliminated, that all five barns be preserved and that landscaping be improved. Third, the Town has taken the position that the long-term impact of this project should be properly vetted and that the decommissioning plan be strengthened.

During the Siting Council proceedings, Deepwater Wind agreed to some important concessions:

- Pre- and post- construction testing of abutters' wells;
- Raising the security fence to allow the passage of small mammals;
- Committing to donate the entirety of project land to either the town or the state at the conclusion of the project, possibly with an environmental/agricultural easement; and
- Evaluating whether more efficient panels could be used to reduce the footprint of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Deepwater Wind's 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 26.4 megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on approximately 289 acres comprised of 5 separate and abutting privately-owned parcels located generally west of Hopmeadow Street (US 202/CT 10), north and south of Hoskins Road, north and east of County Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's North Simsbury Substation west of Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury, CT.

During the hearing, the Siting Council asked me, in my capacity as First Selectwoman, whether the Town would prefer the land to go to the Department of Agriculture or to the Town of Simsbury and in what capacity. I responded that the Town prefers the land to go the Town unencumbered so that the needs of the Town can be evaluated and met 25 years from now without restrictions.