

THE CANDLEWOOD SOLAR PROJECT



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CANDLEWOOD SOLAR FILES RESPONSE TO TOWN OF NEW MILFORD'S COMMENTS TO CT DEEP ON SOLAR PROJECT SLATED FOR CANDLEWOOD MOUNTAIN

HARTFORD, CT – Candlewood Solar, LLC, (CS) today announced that it has submitted a detailed response to comments recently filed by the Town of New Milford with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (the Plan) for the proposed Candlewood Solar project. DEEP approval of the Plan is the last major regulatory hurdle facing the Candlewood Solar project, a 20 MW solar array to be built on a remote section of Candlewood Mountain in New Milford, CT.

“We worked diligently over the last year to ensure this vital clean energy project complies with all applicable regulatory requirements. We are hopeful that the DEEP will swiftly and thoroughly review and accept our stormwater management plan so that we can begin construction,” said Robert Jackson, Candlewood Solar’s Director for Solar Development. “The Candlewood Solar Project will be both economically and environmentally beneficial for New Milford and the region. This project will not only produce clean, silent, emissions-free energy for Connecticut, but it will generate millions of dollars in revenue to the Town and provide good-paying local jobs.”

In a 44-page filing sent to DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes, CS states that the Plan, which was submitted to DEEP on March 4th, addresses the concerns previously expressed by the Town and its engineers and “should be a model for future similar projects.”

“We are extremely proud of the stormwater management design represented by this Plan; and we are confident that the Plan will be found sufficient to protect the waters of the State,” said Jackson. “We welcomed the Town to allow its consultants to meet and confer with our engineers on several occasions during the design process. This is an important renewable energy project that will provide environmental and economic benefits to the community and should not be further delayed.”

“This project, like 30 other similar solar projects in Connecticut approved by DEEP, is designed to benefit the community while meeting the requirements of the General Permit. Moreover, the Plan filed on March 4th with DEEP contains extensive stormwater management and construction controls developed in accordance with the stormwater guidelines and in consultation with DEEP staff,” said Jackson.

Jackson listed several changes to the project that CS has proposed in response to the concerns raised by DEEP, the Town and others, including:

- Preserving 120 acres of land that has been identified as habitat for species of concern, including slimy salamanders, wood and box turtles, and brown bats, and instituting mitigation measures to protect these and other species at the project site
- Funding a 10-year monitoring program for species of concern at the project site
- Rendering the solar array virtually invisible through a combination of cedar fencing and native plantings and by pulling back the solar array at least 50 feet from adjacent property lines
- Proposing a construction phasing program and enhancing other stormwater management quality control measures to minimize or eliminate the risks of soil erosion

The Candlewood Solar project was developed in response to the TriState Clean Energy RFP (the “RFP”) issued by the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in October 2015. The RFP was a cooperative effort of all three states and the regional investor-owned utilities to procure clean energy for delivery into the ISO-NE grid, thereby decreasing dependence on non-renewable sources of electric power within the region. The project was approved by the CT Siting Council in December 2017.

Benefits of the CANDLEWOOD MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT:

- Job Creation: System installation creates more than 100 jobs, local labor hired for civil, site and electrical work
- Tax Revenue for New Milford: PILOT agreement will result in \$2.7 million in tax revenue for New Milford, a 500% increase for the parcel. The system does not require town services.
- Community Education: CS will work with the Town and New Milford schools to offer grade-specific solar PV educational modules for classroom use. CS will also provide a kiosk with an LED screen showing real-time system production, installed either at Town Hall or the high school.
- Green, Clean, Renewable Energy for the Environment: Annual energy generation of 34,000 MWh
 - Enough to power 2,400 homes each year
 - Carbon dioxide emissions reduction equal to the consumption of more than 2,500,000 gallons of gasoline or the intake of nearly 22,000 acres of forest in one year*

**Source: EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator*

For more information on this green, clean, sustainable project, please visit:

www.SolarOnCandlewood.com

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