



January 19, 2019

Commissioner Katie Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Post Office Box 114
Gaylordsville, CT 06755
RescuetheMountain@gmail.com

RE: APPLICATION NO: 201816062
Candlewood Solar, LLC – 20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Project
Candlewood Mountain Road, New Milford, Connecticut

Request for Public Hearing

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

Rescue Candlewood Mountain ("RCM") is a voluntary association, and a coalition of Greater New Milford and Sherman residents concerned about the massive destruction of core forest and other environmental impacts to be caused by the Project.

We wish to offer the following comments in support of the Town of New Milford's ("the Town") petition for a Declaratory Ruling that the project should not proceed under a request for registration under the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities.

We agree with the Town that because of the massive adverse environmental impact of the Project, including the proposed destruction of some 54 acres of core forestland on Candlewood Mountain and the resulting potential for substantial stormwater runoff and erosion during and after construction, the Commissioner should require the developer to apply for an individual permit pursuant to her authority under C.G.S. § 22a-430b(c), because an individual permit will better protect the waters of the state from pollution.

As a result of granting this request, the individual permit process will provide the Town, RCM and others ample opportunity to review and comment on the developer's proposed stormwater management plan.

RCM also supports the Town's request to extend the public comment period to 90 days after either the Commissioner rules on the Town's request for a declaratory ruling requiring an individual permit application, or in the alternative, 90 days from the current due date for comments of January 17, 2019.

Given the short period of time from the application posting date to the close of the public comment period, RCM and residents of the Town have not had ample time to review the complex 393-page submittal in a meaningful way, let alone submit comment.

In addition, the Commissioner has the discretion to hold a hearing where there is public interest in a particular application. RCM respectfully requests DEEP to hold a public hearing on this application – such hearing to be held, in part, in the Town of New Milford so as to accommodate the interested public – and because of the extreme interest and level of scrutiny this project has generated.

Sincerely,

Liba H. Furhman
Authorized Member
Rescue Candlewood Mountain