

June 29, 2018

Town of Farmington Planning Board 1000 County Road 8 Farmington, NY 14425

Re: Proposed Solar Project Yellow Mills Road ("Solar Facility") Soils Classified as Class 1 through 4 JUL 17 2018

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BUILDINGS OFFICE

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

Delaware River Solar ("DRS") proposes to build the Solar Facility at 466 Yellow Mills Road in the Town of Farmington ("Town") under New York State's Community Solar initiative. The Solar Facility is planned to have a nameplate capacity of approximately 7.0 megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC) and be built on private land owned by Robert and Carol Smith ("Property Owner"). The Property Owner owns approximately 135 acres, of which 30 to 35 acres ("Project Site") will be leased by an affiliate of DRS to host the Solar Facility.

The Project Site has the following characteristics:

- 1. The Project Site is part of an Active Farmland Parcel on the Town of Farmington Active Farmland Map, Number 8, page 92 of the adopted Town of Farmington Farmland Protection Plan,
- 2. The soils on the Project Site are classified as Class 1 through Class 4 soils.

The Solar Facility is a "Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV System under the Town of Farmington, Ontario County, New York, Local Law No. 6 of the Year 2017 ("Local Law 6").

Local Law 6 reads as follows:

"Large-scale ground mounted solar PV systems located upon Farmland located within the delineated Town of Farmington Farmland Active Farmland Map, Number 8, page 92 of the adopted Town of Farmington Farmland Protection Plan, shall be allowed on soils classified as Class 1 through Class 4 as documented upon the Soil Group Worksheets prepared by the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District and used by the Town Assessor in calculation of the Agricultural Use Exemption Values, a part of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Agricultural Districts Law, once it can be determined by the Planning Board, that there is no feasible alternative."

The Property Owner has provided the letter attached as an Appendix indicating they are aware of the soil classification, have reviewed the location of the proposed Solar Facility with DRS and have concluded it is the only portion of their property that is suitable for the Solar Facility. There are wetlands to the west on which the Solar Facility cannot encroach. There is a slope too steep to the south to allow for the Solar Facility (i.e. the footprint would be unnecessarily large). The fields to the north and east are to be maintained (farming and cattle grazing) to provide distance from the road to the Solar Facility to mitigate views. The Property Owner would continue to farm (hay) and cattle graze on the acreage not utilized for the Project Site.

DRS understands the concern regarding the preservation of prime farmland soils and would like to note the following:

- 1. The racking on which the Solar Facility is mounted is pile driven into the ground (i.e. there are no concrete foundations or sleeves). As a result, the ground will remain largely undisturbed and vegetation will continue to grow under and between the rows of modules. When the Solar Facility is decommissioned and removed, the ground/soil can easily be turned back to farmland and pastures (i.e. there are no parking lots or large foundations that will change the soil composition) with minimal impact to the soils.
- 2. Sheep grazing to maintain vegetation within the Project Site will be considered thereby retaining some elements of agricultural / grazing of the Project Site.
- 3. The Solar Facility currently consists of three individual solar facilities due to RG&E interconnection rules which will also result in subdivisions being necessary. Under the current town zoning laws each subdivided parcel would require a 40' setback from the adjacent parcel (or 80' between arrays). DRS would suggest a zoning variance to eliminate the 40' setback requirement between the individual array parcels in order to minimize the footprint of the Solar Facility and leave as much of the 135 acres owned by the Property Owners available for grazing and farming.

If there are any questions or additional information required, I can be contacted at 646-998-6495 or at peter.dolgos@delawareriversolar.com.

Sincerely,

Peter Dolgos

Senior Vice President

Peter Dolgoz

Delaware River Solar, LLC



December 13, 2017

Roger and Carol Smith 4790 Fox Road Palmrya, New York 14522

Re:

Proposed Solar Farm

Dear Roger and Carol;

The following is an excerpt from the Town of Farmington, Ontario County, New York Local Law No. 6 of the Year 2017 ("Local Law 6"): "Large-scale ground mounted solar PV systems located upon Farmland located within the delineated Town of Farmington Farmland Active Farmland Map, Number 8, page 92 of the adopted Town of Farmington Farmland Protection Plan, shall be allowed on soils classified as Class 1 through Class 4 as documented upon the Soil Group Worksheets prepared by the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District and used by the Town Assessor in calculation of the Agricultural Use Exemption Values, a part of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Agricultural Districts Law, once it can be determined, by the Planning Board, that there is no feasible alternative." The full Local Law No. 6 is attached.

Please note the following:

- The proposed solar farm on your property at 466 Yellow Mills Road, Farmington, NY (the "Property") is a Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV System under Local Law 6.
- The Property is an Active Farmland Parcel on the Town of Farmington Active Farmland Map, Number 8, page 92 of the adopted Town of Farmington Farmland Protection Plan (the full Town of Farmington Farmland Protection Plan is attached).
- The soils on the Property are classified as Class 1 through Class 9 with approximately 50% of the soils classified as Class 1 through Class 4.
- The proposed solar project footprint would be on soils classified as Class 1 through Class 4 as the soils Classified as Class 5 through Class 9 are wooded areas that not viable (to avoid removing vegetation) and may have wetlands implications.

As indicated above in the underlined portion of Local Law 6, the Town of Farmington Planning Board requires confirmation that there is no feasible alternative for the location of the proposed solar farm on the Property.

Please acknowledge by signing below and returning this letter, that you have reviewed with Delaware River Solar, LLC the 135 acres of the Property and the location of the proposed solar farm, as indicated on the attached Appendix, represents the only portion of the Property on which you will permit construction of the proposed solar farm. In addition, you own no other parcels of property in the Town of Farmington that would be suitable for a solar farm.

Name: Roger Smith

12-18-17 Date:

By:

Name: Carol Smith

Date: 12-18-17