

# THE CANDLEWOOD SOLAR PROJECT



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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***CANDLEWOOD SOLAR FILES REVISED STORMWATER PERMIT APPLICATION WITH DEEP AND TOWN OF NEW MILFORD FOR SOLAR PROJECT IN NEW MILFORD***

*Project will produce a renewable, reliable and cost-effective power supply while benefitting the community environmentally and economically*

**HARTFORD, CT** – Candlewood Solar, LLC, (CS) today announced that it has submitted a revised Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (the Plan) with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Town of New Milford. 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.

CS has also submitted the Plan to the Town of New Milford to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Town’s Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) Agreement negotiated in 2017. In that Agreement, the Town recognized that the proposed solar facility “will produce a reliable and cost-effective power supply, thereby benefitting residential, industrial, commercial and governmental consumers of electricity.” The facility will tie into the Connecticut power grid at the Rocky River substation in New Milford.

CS’ prior stormwater management plan was rejected by the DEEP on March 14, 2019. In its rejection, the DEEP provided CS with staff comments that identified concerns with the project design.

“We worked diligently over the last year to ensure this vital clean energy project complies with all regulatory requirements,” said Robert Jackson, CS’ Director for Solar Development. “The Candlewood Solar Project will be both economically and environmentally beneficial for New Milford. 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.”

CS personnel and its engineering consultants met on multiple occasions with DEEP staff to understand and fully address each of DEEP’s concerns. CS repeatedly requested to meet with the Town of New Milford for similar contact with the Town’s engineering consultants with the goal of resolving the Town’s concerns.

The revised Plan reflects “substantial project design and stormwater management changes” according to 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](http://www.SolarOnCandlewood.com)

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