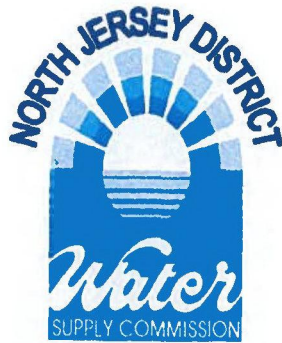


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973-835-3600 FAX: 973-835-8701
E-Mail: commissionoutreach@njdwsc.com

March 27, 2023

Sherri L. Golden, Secretary
New Jersey State
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: In the Matter of the Application of the North
Jersey District Water Supply Commission for
Eligibility Under the Competitive Solar Incentive
Program (P.L. 2021, c. 169)
Project I.D. 23CSIHDB3WU
Expedited Application for ADMINISTRATIVE Waiver
Pursuant to Board Order Launching the CSI Program
Under Docket Q021101186

Dear Ms. Golden:

On behalf of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission ("Commission"), please accept this submission in lieu of a more formal expedited application, for administrative waiver pursuant to the Board Order Launching the CSI Program, Docket Q021101186, and dated December 7, 2022 (the "CSI Order"). More specifically, this Built Environment Administrative Waiver is submitted pursuant to the expedited waiver provisions of the CSI Order appearing on pages 39-40 thereof.

To be brief in the interests of time given the March 31, 2023 CSI Program application deadline, in early March 2023, the Commission applied for CSI Program prequalification (Tranche 4) for a floating solar project (the "Project") upon the Commission's Wanaque Reservoir. The application (with its attachments, enclosed for ease of reference) described the Project as follows:

North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC)

is developing a 10MWdc/8MWac floating solar project for the supply of renewable energy to its operations at 1 F.A. Orechio Drive, Wanaque, NJ 07465. **This project is expected to deliver approximately 90% of NJDWSC's annual energy requirements and is consistent with our long-term goals of reducing our environmental impact while providing budget certainty for our operations.** Final design and specifications remain subject to change, however, our current design is consistent with JCP&L's conditional interconnection approval of up to 10MWdc / 9MWac. The proposed **floating solar array** currently consists of two islands, each approximately 10 acres in size, with 17,075 Heliene 585W PV modules for a total rated capacity of 9.988MWdc. Conductors will bring DC power to shore **near existing roadways and NJDWSC filtration plant operations to an equipment pad where 32 Selectria XGI 1500 (250kW) inverters will convert the energy to AC power.** Four 2MVA dry-type transformers will elevate output voltage to 34.5KV and pole mounted wires will deliver energy to the point of interconnection approximately 100 feet behind the existing JCP&L service meter. All work will be on property owned, managed, and used continuously by NJDWSC for water management operations. **Environmental disturbance is expected to be minimal including less than 1% of surface area of the reservoir, no effect on storm water, and land-based disturbance will be inside the facility operations envelope along existing roadways and using infrastructure already on site.** Existing poles will be replaced with taller poles to carry power from the equipment pad to the point of interconnection. **Importantly, on April 23, 2021, the Highlands Council issued a Highlands Applicability Determination (HAD) indicating Highlands Preservation Area Exemption Determination based on the applicability of exemption #11 for this project.** March 2023 Project Prequalification Application submitted through Daymark Energy Advisors (Emphasis added)

Following that submission, the Commission was subsequently advised that:

We have begun preliminary review of the applications and **your application indicates that this project is**

partially or entirely on prohibited land. Please return to the application via the edit button in this email to upload the **land use waiver or Board correspondence relating to your project at your earliest convenience so we may review.** See enclosed Prequalification Application Response, March 24, 2023 (Emphasis added)

The essence of the prequalification denial appears to stem from the fact that the proposed Project is within the Highlands Preservation Area. Consistent with the Built Environment Administrative Waiver provisions of the CSI Order, the Commission submits that there are sufficient, unique factors here that make the Project consistent with the character of the Wanaque Reservoir under these circumstances, that warrant the grant of a CSI Program waiver.

First, the proposed Project will not be developed upon any land within the Highlands Preservation Area. It will instead be a floating solar Project upon an approximately 20 acre surface area of the Wanaque Reservoir - part of the Commission's public water supply system - about one percent of its total surface area. As the Project will be built upon a public water supply system, the Highlands Council, as noted in the prequalification application, did approve the Project for a HAD under Exemption 11 to its land use requirements on April 23, 2021.

Second, the Wanaque Reservoir is itself already Built Environment. The Reservoir has existed since the late 1920s, and been an integral component of the Commission's water supply plant and infrastructure ever since. As noted in the CSI Order at page 40, BPU Staff generally "views these projects as highly desirable, since they do not impinge upon open space or farmland, being situated on previously existing impervious surfaces." The Wanaque Reservoir's presence within the Highlands region as a component of the Commission's water supply system places it within the spirit and intent of the CSI Order (and indeed, it may indeed constitute an impervious surface for planning purposes as water surfaces such as a pond or reservoir are modeled and reported as impervious surfaces). No farmland or open space will be impacted by the proposed Project. It will only benefit and involve existing physical plant and infrastructure of the Commission, including the Reservoir, meeting nearly all of the Commission's electrical needs and therefore reducing its energy footprint in connection with its ongoing water supply operations (and also saving substantial

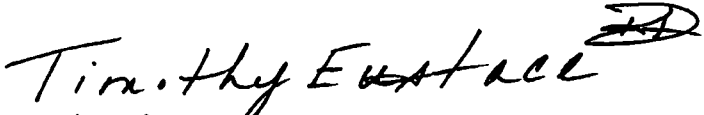
expense for the ratepayers of the Commission).

Notably, the CSI Order deems such installations to be "presumptively in the public interest, despite being sited on an otherwise prohibited land use, provided that the structure or surface has existed for at least three (3) years prior to the date that the waiver application is filed." CSI Order, page 40 (Emphasis added) The Reservoir upon which the Project is proposed has existed for nearly a century. There will be no impact upon open space, farmland or any other raw and open land area. The CSI Order's presumption that the Project will benefit the public interest under the totality of the circumstances should stand in this case.

For all of these reasons, the Commission submits that the grant of a Built Environment Administrative Waiver on an expedited basis pursuant to the CSI Order is appropriate, consistent with the spirit and intent of the CSI Program, and will serve the public interest for the reasons expressed herein and within the Commission's Prequalification Application.

We appreciate your time and consideration with respect to this request and application. Please do not hesitate should you have any questions or require further information in connection with this application. Thank you.

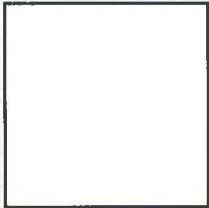
Respectfully submitted,


Timothy Eustace,
Executive Director

Encls.

(Prequalification Application and attachments, and
Prequalification Denial)

cc w/ Encls.: Veronique Oomen, BPU



Application Status Update: Prequalification Denied, Action Needed

[Edit Submission](#)

Please click the link above to edit your submission.

Here is more information on the deficiencies of your application: Hello, the following response was sent on March 9th: "I application. We have begun preliminary review of the applications and your application indicates that this project is partial. Please return to the application via the edit button in this email to upload the land use waiver or Board correspondence related convenience so we may review. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to njcsi@daymarkea.com. Thank you."

Which Tranche will you be applying for? Tranche 4: Net Metered Non-Residential Projects Above 5MW

Project ID 23CSIHDB3WU

Bidder Name Timothy J. Eustace

Bidder's Title/Position in Company Executive Director

Project Entity North Jersey District Water Supply Commission

Email teustace@njdwsc.com

Phone (973) 616-2906

Description of Project North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) is developing a 10MWdc/8MWac floating solar renewable energy to its operations at 1 F.A. Orechio Drive, Wanaque, NJ 07465. This project is expected to meet NJDWSC's annual energy requirements and is consistent with our long-term goals of reducing our environmental budget certainty for our operations. Final design and specifications remain subject to change, however, our JCP&L's conditional interconnection approval of up to 10MWdc / 9MWac. The proposed floating solar arrays are islands, each approximately 10 acres in size, with 17,075 Heliene 585W PV modules for a total rated capacity. The project will bring DC power to shore near existing roadways and NJDWSC filtration plant operations to an equipment room. 1500 (250kW) inverters will convert the energy to AC power. Four 2MVA dry-type transformers will elevate the voltage to 13.8kV for transmission to the existing 13.8kV bus at the filtration plant.

pole mounted wires will deliver energy to the point of interconnection approximately 100 feet behind the ex work will be on property owned, managed, and used continuously by NJDWSC for water management oper disturbance is expected to be minimal including less than 1% of surface area of the reservoir, no effect on st disturbance will be inside the facility operations envelope along existing roadways and using infrastructure be replaced with taller poles to carry power from the equipment pad to the point of interconnection. Importa Highlands Council issued a Highlands Applicability Determination (HAD) indicating Highlands Preservatio based on the applicability of exemption #11 for this project.

Is the project for a public entity? Yes

Please upload a letter on official stationery of the public agency under signature of a bona fide officer, elected official, or employee of the public entity attesting to the status of the public entity. Include within this letter a statement or explanation of the relationship between the public entity and the project.

[Floating Solar Energy.pdf](#)

Project Address 1 F.A. Orechio Drive, Wanaque, 07465

Project Coordinates (latitude, longitude) 41.041885, -74.295168

Please upload a .zip shapefile of your project. [128021-129073 Wanaque FPV.zip](#)

Please upload a site plan of [128021-Wanaque_NJ-Devset-RevB_Heliene585_Solectria250_KB-06MAR23-Approved.pdf](#)

your proposed project.

Do you have either a PJM Feasibility Study or an executed Part 1 Interconnection Agreement?

Part 1 Interconnection Agreement

Executed Part 1 Interconnection Agreement

[210201_CONDITIONAL Approval - Reservoir Solar Partners LLC Wanaque Part 1 - Level 3 9000KW.pdf](#)

Please confirm that the project will not be on a prohibited site.

The project is partially or entirely on a prohibited site.

Have you received any Land Use Waivers for your project?

Yes

Please provide the Board Order or staff correspondence associated with your waiver.

[042321_EMAIL_HAD 11-NJDWSC Floating Solar.pdf](#)

DC Nameplate Capacity (MW)

9.98

Number of acres proposed for development

20

kW / acre

499

The proposed project is greater than 300 kW / acre. Please provide a statement from a certified

[CT USA Letter on Hydrelion System Sizing for Wanaque Signed CB 030623r1.doc.pdf](#)

engineer
confirming
feasibility.

Does the
project include
a storage
component
submitted for
the storage
adder?

No

Sign
Prequalification
Application

https://www.jotform.com/uploads/Cayleigh_cdonahue/223484365711053/5540152416217358115/5540152

