



January 16, 2019

Mr. David Payeur, Chairman
Town of Southbridge Planning Board
41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Via email: _____

Reference: Commercial Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Installation
Clemence Hill Road
Southbridge, MA 01550
WDA JN-1248

Dear Mr. Payeur:

WDA Design Group (WDA) is in receipt of a peer review letter by GCG Associates, Inc. (GCG) dated December 20, 2018. We have revised the project drawings and stormwater management report and offer the following in response to the peer review comments by GCG. The headings and numbering listed below correspond to the peer review letter. Responses are in italics.

General Comments for the Special Permit and Site Plan Review Applications:

Section 7.2.4 Landscaping and Screening.

Sub-Section 7.2.4.C

Plantings of Green Giant Arborvitae and Leyland Cypress have been included along Clemence Hill Road to screen portions of the array and break the development up. We believe this is appropriate given the relatively steep topography of the site.

Sub-Section 7.2.4.D

Plantings of Green Giant Arborvitae and Leyland Cypress have been included along the south property line. The owner has coordinated the plantings with the neighbors and placed the trees to screen the utilities to be placed on-site.

Site Plans

Plan Sheet – C0.00 Index Sheet

- 1. The Zoning Classifications have been updated.*
- 2. The Zoning line labels have been updated.*

Plan Sheet – C0.0 Existing Conditions Plan

Zoning Line labels have been updated.

Plan Sheet – C2.00 Overall Layout and Materials Plan

1. *Zoning labels have been updated.*

Plan Sheets – C2.01 and C2.02 Layout and Materials Plans

1. *The northeast curb cut is intended to be an alternate to the southeast curb cut if the power supply lines connect to the site from the northeast. If the power supply lines connect to the southeast the gravel road at the northeast curb cut could be shortened. It will remain as an emergency access in either case. The access path that is not gravel will be cleared and grubbed and maintained accessible by mowing the vegetation.*
2. *We request a waiver to the standards of section 705.11. The proposed poles have been relocated to be further from the lines of sight of the abutter and landscaping has been strategically placed to screen the poles.*
3. *Plantings of Green Giant Arborvitae and Leyland Cypress have been included along the south property line. The owner has coordinated the plantings with the neighbors and placed the trees to screen the utilities to be placed on-site.*

Plan Sheets – C3.01 and C3.02 Grading, Drainage and Utility Plans

1. *Zoning line labels have been updated.*
2. *The existing topography of the site is relatively steep. The driveways have been designed to meet the existing grades. If the slopes were reduced, excessive earth removal and most likely walls approximately eight feet high would be required to construct the roads. The south driveway has been regraded to provide a less steep area at the roadway. We request a waiver to the requirements of the Curb Cut Regulations D.6.*
3. *The pipes have been changed to 12-inch Class V RCP to match the existing pipe sizes in the swale. A minimum of one foot of cover is provided over the pipes.*
4. *Erosion control has been revised and extended along Clemence Hill Road. Temporary silt sacks have been placed in the catch basins on Clemence Hill Road.*
5. *The solar array will use panels designed to reduce reflectivity.*
6. *The water quality swale location has been identified on the plan.*
7. *The stormwater design and basin grading has been revised to provide one foot of freeboard and widen the berm.*

Stormwater Management Report

1. *The drawdown time has been updated and verified in the drain report.*
2. *A No Illicit Discharge Statement will be provided prior to construction.*
3. *An annual O&M cost estimate will be provided. A sample O&M log is attached with this letter.*

HydroCAD Report

Existing Conditions

1. *The Existing HydroCAD report has been updated to include the 10-year storm event.*

Proposed Conditions

1. *The grading of the detention basin has been revised to widen the top of the berm.*
2. *The stormwater management facilities have been designed using the USDA soil reports as a reference. We request that the soil testing be a condition of approval.*
3. *Reach R1 is used as an analysis point to combine the hydrographs at Clemence Hill Road. It is not used as a design tool in the analysis.*
4. *The pipes have been changed to 12-inch Class V RCP to match the existing pipe sizes in the swale. A minimum of one foot of cover is provided over the pipes.*

Decommissioning and Cost Estimate

The Decommissioning Removal Cost Estimate is being updated to include prevailing rates and to not include salvage value.

Sincerely,

WDA DESIGN GROUP, INC.



Patrick J. Burke PE
Project Engineer

Enclosure: O & M Inspection Sample

