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August 6, 2021

Via Electronic Filing

NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting
c/o OGS Mailroom
Empire State Plaza
240 State Street
P-1 South, J Dock
Albany, NY 12242

Re: Matter No. 21-00750: Application of ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC for a Permit Pursuant to Section 94-c of the New York Executive Law for Construction of the South Ripley Solar Project, a Solar Electric Generating Facility to be Located in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Dear Sir/Madam:

We represent ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC (the "Applicant"), in the above-referenced proceeding. The Applicant hereby files its Application for a Permit to operate a Major Renewable Energy Facility pursuant to Section 94-c of the New York State Executive Law and Title 19 of NYCRR, Part 900, seeking a permit to construct an approximately 270 megawatt ("MW") alternating current ("AC") solar facility in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York (the "Project" or "Facility").

The Project will significantly contribute to the State's clean energy and carbon reduction goals and provide direct environmental and socioeconomic benefits to the State and the local economy. The Project is a zero-emission, renewable source of energy that will assist the State in meeting the goals of both the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("CLCPA") and State Energy Plan, which include obtaining 70% of the State's energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030 and 100% of the State's energy from clean sources by 2040. These carbon reduction benefits will enable achievement of the public health and economic goals of the CLCPA and provide benefits to consumers through the additional supply of clean, renewable electricity onto the State's electric grid.

The Facility will also provide an economic stimulus to the area during construction by providing jobs and local contracts for goods and services. During operation, the Facility will

offer long-term highly skilled operational positions and significant long-term economic benefits through lease revenue to local landowners and revenue to the community.

Although the construction and operation of the Project may result in certain temporary and long-term environmental impacts, as fully described in the Application, the Applicant has thoughtfully designed the Project in accordance with the Office of Renewable Energy Siting's (the "Office" or "ORES") regulations to avoid and minimize negative impacts to land and the community. The Applicant consulted with the Office and relevant State agencies, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation, on the scope and preparation of environmental and cultural resource studies to ensure that the Applicant's assessment of Project impacts aligned with State law and the Office's regulations.

Throughout the Project design and pre-application phases, the Applicant worked with local officials from the Town of Ripley to understand the requirements of local law with respect to construction and operation of the Project. The Applicant held virtual meetings and open houses throughout the pre-application stage. These meetings were open to the public and provided interested stakeholders with the opportunity to learn about the Project and provide feedback on elements of Project planning. The Applicant considered and incorporated feedback from stakeholders on local concerns and interests. After many months of pre-application engagement and study, the Applicant is pleased to submit this Application under the State's new major renewable energy facility siting and permitting process pursuant to Execution Law Section 94-c and 19 NYCRR Part 900.

In accordance with 19 NYCRR §§ 900-1.4(a)(1) and (2), the enclosed Application includes the Office's application form and all exhibits required pursuant to 19 NYCRR Subpart 900-2. The remainder of this correspondence addresses compliance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.4(a)(3)-(10) and § 900-1.4(b).

19 NYCRR § 900-1.4(a)

(3) Requests for Site-Specific Conditions.

The Applicant does not request that the Office apply a site-specific condition in lieu of any exhibit requirement or uniform standard or condition set forth in 19 NYCRR Subpart 900-6.

(4) Project Website.

The Applicant has created a website through which it has disseminated, and will continue to disseminate, information to the public. *See* www.southripleysolar.com. The website provides the material required by 19 NYCRR § 900-1.4(a)(4).

(5) Identification of Critical Infrastructure and Trade Secret Information.

Concurrent with the filing of this Application, the Applicant submitted a request to the Office that certain documents and information contained within the Application be treated as confidential ("Request for Nondisclosure"), as specifically identified therein, pursuant to Article 7 of the New York State Public Officers Law and other applicable state and federal laws. The Applicant's Request for Nondisclosure is provided with this Application.

(6) Identification of Confidential Cultural Resource Information.

The application does contain confidential information with respect to the location, character, or ownership of cultural resources in Exhibit 9 and Appendices thereto. The confidential information is submitted under confidential cover with a request for confidential protection, as noted in section (5) above.

(7) Affidavit of Service.

Enclosed as Attachment 1 are the Affidavits of Service for the Application and all accompanying documents hand-delivered to ORES and for service upon the other parties identified in 19 NYCRR § 900-1.6(a) on August 6, 2021, via UPS.

(8) Payment of Local Agency Fee.

Prior to filing of this Application, the Applicant deposited payment in the local agency account in an amount equal to one thousand (1,000) dollars for each one thousand (1,000) kilowatts of the proposed project's nameplate capacity, as required by 19 NYCRR § 900- 1.4(a)(8).

(9) Payment of Application Fee.

Concurrent with the filing of this Application, the Applicant submitted to the Office the fee required by 19 NYCRR § 900-1.5.

(10) Additional Information Requested by the Office.

The Applicant is not aware of any additional information requested by the Office.

19 NYCRR § 900-1.4(b)

Water Quality Certification

The Applicant will consult with the appropriate agencies, including ORES, as soon as practicable after filing the application regarding Water Quality Certification.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions regarding the above.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Muscato II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James A. Muscato II
Steven D. Wilson
Young/Sommer LLC
Attorneys for the Applicant