

DEEP 6/16/21 STEPS for Solar Development Scoping Meeting Reference Sheet

AGENDA

10:00-10:15: DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes opening remarks, introductions, and overview of STEPS for Solar Development

10:15-11:00: Opportunity for public comments on questions identified in Scoping Notice

11:00-11:05: Break

11:05-11:45: Continued opportunity for public comments on question identified in Scoping notice

11:45-12:00: Opportunity for Q&A

Topics DEEP is Seeking Feedback On ([per 6/7/21 Notice](#))

I. Tentative Scope of Facility Type

1. “New solar photovoltaic (solar PV) facilities developed in CT that are grid-scale projects in front of the meter, and larger projects under the virtual net metering (VNM) and/or LREC/ZREC programs.”

II. Tentative Objectives of the STEPS for Solar Development Process

1. Ensure that new solar generation projects can be sited and built in a sustainable, transparent and efficient and manner;
2. Consideration of local laws concerning zoning, the environment or public health and safety;
3. Avoid, or minimize and mitigate, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse impacts on the environment, agricultural, and natural resources;
4. Promote equity and environmental justice through community engagement; and
5. Ensure that state and/or ratepayer-supported procurements align with the objectives, above.

III. Proposed Listening Session Topics (to be held throughout summer of 2021)

1. Preferential solar siting criteria including but not limited to natural resources and habitats, water quality and quantity, topography, equity, and degree of development;
2. Impacts associated with the location of the solar facility, including but not limited to core forest, prime agricultural land, wetlands, and environmental justice communities;
3. Types of design and construction practices available to both maximize the energy efficiency of solar projects and minimize detrimental impact to natural resources, community resources and the environment and implementation challenges such as the timing of the in-service date;
4. Opportunities to optimize regulatory and permitting requirements and processes depending upon the size of the solar project and siting considerations including sequential steps and opportunities to streamline the process;
5. Siting and permitting challenges specific to developing previously disturbed land such as brownfields and landfills;
6. Types of incentives, selection weighting factors, and timing of commitments relating to siting that may increase the effectiveness of a solicitation, including but not limited to DEEP-run procurements, LREC/ZREC, and shared clean energy facilities (SCEF).