



September 4, 2009

Mr. Peter C. Lowitt  
Land Use Administrator/Director  
Devens Enterprise Commission  
33 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434

RE: Evergreen Solar Update – Noise Compliance

Dear Mr. Lowitt:

As discussed and agreed at the May 7 open meeting of the Devens Enterprise Commission (the “DEC”), Evergreen Solar is providing this update on its efforts to reduce the noise levels in the neighboring area and bring its facility into compliance with the noise ordinance. This update is also provided in satisfaction of the reporting requirements specified in Conditions No. 5 and No. 6 of the Resolution adopted by the DEC on July 14, 2009 (the “DEC Resolution”).

Noise Level Update – Although we believe our factory noise levels have been reduced so that they are now at or below the levels required by the DEC and that noises level were reduced in compliance with the deadlines established in the DEC Resolution, we have not yet been able to formally demonstrate compliance with these levels at the monitoring location designated as R1 since July 25, 2009 due to elevated ambient and background sound at that location. As we have done repeatedly over the past seven weeks, our sound consultants, Cavanaugh Tocci Associates, Inc. (“CTA”), will continue to try to find conditions when the background noise will allow for nighttime compliance measurements.

Proposed Alternative Measurement Protocol – In light of the difficulty we have had measuring our compliance at R1, we are working on completing a reference measurement protocol that will provide an interim measurement standard to effectively demonstrate our compliance with DEC noise standard levels. We understand that the protocol needs to be reviewed and approved by the DEC’s sound consultant as well as the sound consultant now representing certain of our neighbors. Once approved a date will be set for the initial implementation of protocol which requires the production of significant noise at the facility (approximately 100 dBA for about an hour) to establish the applicable measurements level at a location other than R1. The timing of this implementation will be communicated to our neighbors and the DEC sufficiently in advance so the neighbors can plan accordingly.

Continuous Monitoring Activity Summary – CTA continues to monitor 9 locations near the Evergreen Solar facility. Four locations are adjacent to the facility on Evergreen Solar or DEC property, four locations are on neighboring properties and one is further from the Evergreen facility and in close proximity to the railroad tracks. This week we also added two new reference monitors. These new monitors are located on Evergreen property at approximately 30' elevation to provide a 'line of sight' measurement as recommended by the DEC consultant. The continuous measurements from these unattended receptors continues to be helpful in assessing the trend of noise sources generated from the Evergreen Solar facility as well providing an indication of when non-Evergreen facility noise sources are contributing to sound levels on properties neighboring the facility.

Noise Abatement Progress Report –

Attachment 1 shows we have completed all the agreed to abatement activities. There have been no new noise sources identified and no new noise control measures added since the Abatement Plan was adopted.

Attachment 2 is the graph presented to the DEC on September 3, 2009 which shows the dBA reduction made at the facility between July 2, 2009 and August 31, 2009 as measured from the two noise monitors located adjacent to the facility and R1.

Additional Mitigation Measures Planned – In our further review of activities at the facility we have decided to add an additional ground mounted pump for deliveries of oxygen. This additional pump was not originally included in the upgrades to our process gas delivery area because of the infrequency of oxygen deliveries and the shorter time required to make each oxygen delivery. From discussion with the DEC, it was unclear as to whether this additional pump would be required, but nonetheless we have decided to have it installed and avoid any additional, although brief and intermittent, gas delivery noise. The additional pump should be installed by November 30, 2009. The new pump has just been ordered and the installation schedule is being developed with our vendor. Prior to the installation of the additional pump we expect to receive two more deliveries of oxygen using truck mounted pumps. The deliveries will be made during weekday daytime hours and will be made within the temporary enclosure that is currently in place.

Community Outreach and Communication – On September 2, we held an open house meeting for interested neighbors and the DEC. Additionally we attended the DEC public hearing. At both sessions Evergreen Solar presented noise measurement data, responded to requests from the neighbors and the DEC made at previous meetings and in prior communications. We also introduced the proposed alternative measurement protocol which we are now working to refine and adjust in response to concerns and questions posed by various parties.

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We will continue to work diligently to demonstrate nighttime compliance levels, install the additional ground mounted pump, implement the new noise measurement protocol, complete the stress test and otherwise fulfill all of our obligations under the DEC Resolution and the DEC regulations.

Sincerely,

Carl Stegerwald

CC:

Christian Ehrbar

Phil McRae

Brian LaValley

Tom Cusson – MA DEP

## Attachment 1

### Evergreen Solar Noise Abatement Plan Update

Noise controls	Plan Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
SDX fans enclosure	7/20/2009	7/13/2009
ASX fans enclosure	7/20/2009	7/16/2009
NOX pump motor enclosure	7/27/2009	7/29/2009
Laminator rooftop exhaust silencers	7/27/2009	7/26/2009
SDX noise wall	8/10/2009	7/20/2009
VOC Combustion Blower enclosure	8/10/2009	8/11/2009
ASX stack discharge silencer	8/10/2009	7/21/2009
Cooling tower Phase 1 cell 5 intake silencer	8/10/2009	8/9/2009
VOC stack discharge silencer	8/17/2009	7/26/2009
VOC noise wall	8/17/2009	7/27/2009
Gas PRV station attenuation	8/17/2009	8/7/2009
Boiler room louver silencer	8/24/2009	7/26/2009
Additional cooling tower attenuation	9/15/2009	7/26/2009
Temporary gates added to the temporary wall	7/27/2009	7/18/2009
Permanent ground mounted pumps with enclosure	8/28/2009	11/30/2009

**Attachment 2**

**Evergreen Solar Noise Reduction Progress – September 4, 2009  
Lowest 24-hour A-weight sound pressure levels (L90)**

