



# WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP

1039 Wilmington Pike  
West Chester, PA 19382  
610—692-1930  
email: [administration@westtown.org](mailto:administration@westtown.org)

Post Office Box 79  
Westtown, PA 19395  
FAX 610-692-9651  
[www.westtownpa.org](http://www.westtownpa.org)

16 April 2023

Jon Altshul  
Township Manager

RE: Conditional Use Application, Westtown School Solar Panel Facility.

Jon,

I've reviewed the plans for the Westtown School Solar Panel Facility, and I have some concerns from a fire suppression standpoint.

- **Water supply:** The closest fire hydrant is on Shady Grove Way at Thrush Lane. I want to determine the exact distance the array is from that fire hydrant. The fire apparatus carries approximately 1500 to 2000 feet of hose used to connect to the fire hydrant. Also, the hydrant on Shady Grove Way is on the east side of the roadway; if the fire department uses this hydrant for suppression purposes, Shady Grove Way must be closed to all traffic during the incident. Closing that road would add a challenge for access to additional fire department resources.
- **Automatic disconnect devices:** I did not see any automatic disconnect devices on the plan for the solar panel array.
- **Access concerns:** Will the gravel pathway accommodate a piece of fire apparatus? I also recommend a second access point separate from the gravel pathway for emergency vehicles. Since a fence will secure the array to prevent unauthorized access, a Knox Box should be installed at the array with corresponding keys to all emergency personnel access.
- **Transformer pad:** Will the transformer pad also be secured by a fence, and if so, the fire department will need access in the event of an emergency; an additional Knox Box with keys would be requested due to the distance of the transformer from the array.
- **Batteries:** Does the plan include batteries to store energy?

Thank you for addressing my concerns; I look forward to further discussing this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald DiNunzio, Jr  
Township Fire Marshal