



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc)

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

August 27, 2021

Bruce L. McDermott, Esq.  
Murtha Cullina LLP  
265 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510  
[bmcdermott@murthalaw.com](mailto:bmcdermott@murthalaw.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1458** – Homestead Fuel Cell 1, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a grid-side 8.4-megawatt fuel cell facility located at 441 Homestead Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy’s existing Northwest Hartford Substation.

Dear Attorney McDermott:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than September 10, 2021. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council’s office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

**Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council’s office on or before the September 10, 2021, deadline.**

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council’s website under the “Pending Matters” link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

MB/IN

Cc: Service List, dated August 27, 2021



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**Petition No. 1458**  
**Homestead Fuel Cell 1, LLC**  
**441 Homestead Avenue**  
**Hartford, Connecticut**  
**Interrogatories**  
**August 27, 2021**

1. Petition page 17 states that “The closest residential property and structure is more than 300 feet to the southwest” of the facility, Figure A9 of Exhibit A shows a distance of 319 feet to the residential area southeast of the facility. Please clarify and provide the address and distance to the nearest residential property line.
2. Did HFC1 receive comments from the abutters notified as shown in exhibit C-1 of the petition?
3. Are there provisions for any extension of time in the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)? Is there an option to renew at the end of the 20-year term?
4. What is the voltage of the Northwest Hartford substation?
5. Does the underground interconnection plan involve going under the Amtrak railroad tracks? If so, what permits are required from state and federal agencies? If so, please describe the construction method to be employed.
6. Please provide details of the calculation that resulted in the 19,169 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year referenced on page 22 of the Petition. Is there a more recent data available for the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of utility grid power (1,501 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per MWh) referenced on page 22 of the Petition?
7. Does the PPA include the transfer of capacity to Eversource and UI or will HFC1 participate in the ISO-NE FCM market?
8. Footnote 3 on page 9 of the Petition is missing. Please provide the information that was intended for footnote 3.
9. What is the distance of the closest facility associated equipment (e.g. Switch, switch gear and gas supply meter) to the Route 44 highway? How would the proposed facility associated equipment be protected from a traffic accident?
10. Referencing the Exhibit A Site Plan, will bollards surround the switch, switch gear and gas supply metering pad on all sides? What appear to be bollards seem to have been cut off or eliminated due to the movement of the fence line (depicted as a bold red line). Please explain.



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11. Referencing the Egress Pathways Plan in Exhibit E – Emergency Response Plan, does this incorporate the City’s request for greenspace? If not, please provide an updated plan.
12. What is the distance of the proposed facility fence line and fuel cell units to the railroad tracks? How would the proposed fuel cell facility be protected from a train derailment?
13. Would moving the fence line for the greenspace move the facility closer to the railroad tracks? Could the facility be shifted further east to increase the distance from the railroad tracks?
14. What is the general slope/gradient of the project area?
15. Petition page 9 references minor upgrades to the substation, please describe the nature of these upgrades.
16. Petition page 24 states the nearest wetlands are 300 feet southeast across the railroad corridor. Is the correct direction southwest across the railroad corridor? If so, is any portion of the electrical interconnection within or near the wetland?
17. Will the operation of the fuel cell facility produce any type of vapor plume or cloud? If so, is there a potential for icing in colder temperatures and/or a potential to interfere with air navigation? If so for both, are there any mitigation measures?
18. What is the quantity of oil in the transformers? Will the transformers have secondary containment?
19. Page 12 of the Petition states nitrogen will be stored on-site. Are nitrogen tank leaks or ruptures addressed in the Emergency Response Plan? If not, how would HFC1 respond to any leaks or spills?
20. Please provide a detailed site plan for the proposed facility including but not limited to, the dimensions and location of the proposed fuel cell facility, gas-fired start-up burners, cooling module, concrete pads, fence designs and bollards and utility connections.
21. Page 12 of Exhibit D – Facility Sound Assessment – states, “Mitigation measures are engineered into the equipment configuration to keep the fuel cell facility cumulative sound within applicable standards.” What mitigation measures are engineered into the equipment configuration?
22. On pages 7- 8 and 18 of the Petition, HFC1 indicates it is working with the City regarding aesthetic concerns, which may include installation of greenspace, fencing, tree cover or other landscaping. What is the status of coordination with the City and what are the details of the visual mitigation measures?
23. How would the fuel cell units be delivered to the site, by truck or rail?



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24. Has HFC1 consulted with the natural gas utility regarding the adequacy of the pipeline to serve the fuel cell facility or whether upgrades would be required?
25. Page 7 of the Petition indicates the proposed facility would be enclosed on three sides by an approximately eight-foot high chain link fence and the front area would include a form of decorative fencing. Why is fencing proposed for only three sides? Does the proposed chain link fence comply with the NEC? Would the decorative fencing comply with the NEC?
26. What safety/security measures are proposed to protect the fuel cell facility from trespassing, theft, vandalism and/or sabotage?