



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 26, 2025

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
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PETITION NO. 1657 – East Point Energy, LLC (Petitioner) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 15-megawatt AC battery energy storage facility and associated equipment located at 337 Elm Street, West Haven, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnections.

Dear Attorney Bachman,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding Petition 1657.

1. Spill Prevention

The Petitioner states that “some hazardous substances may be used or stored on the Property during construction or operation of the Project such as Coolant for the HVAC units or for cooling the battery modules” and that “a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (“SPCC”) Plan and an Operations and Maintenance (“O&M”) Plan will also be developed for the Project”. The Council recommends that the referenced documents and any external environmental quality plans and/or standards, referenced by the Petitioner, be submitted to the Siting Council for inclusion in the record, consideration, and possible incorporation into permits.

2. Noise

The Petitioner states that “a sound barrier will be installed around all sides of the BESS equipment, excluding the northern boundary, to provide adequate sound mitigation for compliance with all applicable CT State and City of West Haven noise standards”. Further, the Petitioner states that “the wall will run along parts of the northern, western, southern, and eastern boundaries of the Project site with all sections being approximately 20 feet above ground level”. The Council questions if the proposed 20-foot-tall sound wall would serve as a barrier to emergency response personnel in the event of a fire or other emergency.

The Council believes that the construction of the proposed 20-foot-tall sound wall near the property lines on the east and west sides of the proposed site has the potential to adversely impact the localized environment and quality of life for nearby residents by impeding the free flow of air and light, and crowding. The Council recommends that the Petitioner assess if there are any alternative noise mitigation measures (such as sound blankets, baffles or enclosures) that could be employed to meet applicable noise standards without the need to construct the proposed 20-foot-tall sound wall. The Council also recommends that the Petitioner conduct a post-construction noise study, when the facility is at full operation, to confirm compliance with applicable noise standards, especially at monitoring sites R12 and R30.

3. Soils

The Petitioner notes that the proposed site is comprised of “disturbed habitat” that “encompasses the entire Property and includes gravel and paved surfaces, two commercial buildings, historic stockpiles and a narrow border of vegetation encroaching into undeveloped areas”. More specifically, the Petitioner states that “two fill piles covered in vegetation were observed in the western part of the Property”. The Council recommends that the Petitioner a) characterize the soil/fill material for the two “historic stockpiles” prior to construction, and if contaminated, b) properly dispose of the material consistent with applicable regulations.

The Council’s comments above addresses only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council’s administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Aresta", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director