STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of February 1, 2024

A Zoom remote conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The meeting was called to order with a quorum present by Presiding Officer John Morissette at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

John Morissette
Presiding Officer
Robert Silvestri
Thomas Near, Ph.D.
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.
(Mr. Lynch was absent for Item No. 1.)
Brian Golembiewski
(designee for Commissioner Dykes)
Quat Nguyen
(designee for Chairman Gillett)
Chance Carter

Staff Members Present:

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Robert Mercier
Siting Analyst
Ifeanyichukwu Nwankwo
Siting Analyst
Christina Walsh
Supervising Siting Analyst
Michael Perrone
Siting Analyst
Adam N. Morrone
Siting Analyst

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

Introduction.

Presiding Officer Morissette welcomed Mr. Chance Carter to the Connecticut Siting Council.

1. **Minutes of January 18, 2024.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2024; seconded by Dr. Near. The motion passed with Mr. Carter abstaining.

2. **DOCKET NO. 516 – The United Illuminating Company (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of its existing 115- kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from the railroad catenary structures to new steel monopole structures and related modifications along approximately 7.3 miles of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Metro-North Railroad corridor between Structure B648S located east of Sasco Creek in Fairfield and UI's Congress Street Substation in Bridgeport, and the rebuild of two existing 115-kV transmission lines along 0.23 mile of existing UI right-of-way to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI's existing Ash Creek, Resco, Pequonnock and Congress Street Substations traversing the municipalities of Bridgeport and Fairfield, Connecticut. Draft Findings of Fact.**

Dr. Near stated that he acquainted himself with the issues raised and the evidence and arguments presented at the public hearings on this application in order to exercise an informed judgment.

After reviewing the Draft Findings of Fact, Presiding Officer Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Silvestri, Mr. Golembiewski, Dr. Near, and Presiding Officer Morissette in favor of the Hannon-Morissette Alternative configuration with the development and management plan conditions to construct the Project in accordance with the 2023 National Electrical Safety Code; submit a Materials Management Plan; relocate Structure P723S fully off of the BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. (BWC) property and onto the railroad ROW; relocate Structure P724S (as a deadend structure) fully off of the BWC property and onto the railroad ROW or relocate Structure P724S (changed to a suspension type structure) fully off of the BWC property and onto the railroad ROW; avoid access across the BWC parking deck, or alternatively, if the parking deck must be accessed by UI equipment, include a structural review/analysis stamped by a Professional Engineering duly licensed in the State of Connecticut; implement EMF Mitigation Option 1 for 79 Unquowa Place, Fairfield; implement EMF Mitigation Option 1 for the Windward Apartment Building Complex at 20 Johnson Street, Bridgeport; submit results of any further consultations with SHPO regarding possible mitigation measures for historic resources; submit a final Wetland Invasives Species Control Plan; submit the final conductor types, structure designs with heights and finishes, and structure foundation types and dimensions; submit the remaining portion of the 1130 line to be rebuilt from between approximately P714WS (Ash Creek Connection) eastwards to approximately TP734S (near I-95) as a separate petition for a declaratory ruling; implement protective measures for the peregrine falcon and blueback herring; install a new pole or platform for osprey nesting in the area of the island in Ash Creek; and submit written confirmation from DEEP for any in-water work, including, but not limited to the barge, to ensure the protection of the blueback herring;

Mr. Nguyen voting no; Mr. Lynch not voting; and Mr. Carter abstaining.

Presiding Officer Morissette directed staff to draft a favorable Opinion and Decision and Order to be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. **PETITION NO. 1589 – USS Somers Solar, 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order.**

After reviewing the Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order, Presiding Officer Morissette took a final vote of each Council member with Mr. Silvestri, Mr. Golembiewski, and Dr. Near in favor of the proposed facility; Mr. Nguyen and Presiding Officer Morissette voting no; Mr. Lynch voting no with prejudice; and Mr. Carter abstaining. The final vote was tied. Therefore, it failed.

4. **PETITION NO. 1602 - Glastonbury Solar One, LLC and VCP, LLC d/b/a Verogy, 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 17 Wickham Road, Glastonbury, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than June 12, 2024; seconded by Dr. Near. The motion passed with Mr. Lynch recusing.

5. **PETITION NO. 1604 - Endurant Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of an 18.0-megawatt AC battery energy storage facility located at 50 Ucar Street (Parcel No. 70H-55-97), Suffield, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Dr. Near moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than June 15, 2024; seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

Tower Share Request Consent Calendar - Item Nos. 6 - 8

Presiding Officer Morissette introduced the Tower Share Request Consent Calendar as Item Nos. 6 - 8. The Consent Calendar was adopted with Mr. Nguyen recusing from Item No. 6.

6. **TS-DISH-004-231213 - Dish Wireless, LLC request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 277 Huckleberry Hill Road, Avon, Connecticut. Decision.**

7. **TS-DISH-013-231220 - Dish Wireless, LLC request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 141 Gifford Lane, Bozrah, Connecticut. Decision.**

8. **TS-VER-028-240104 - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 15 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, Connecticut. Decision.**

9. **Administrative Matters**

The following public hearings and energy/telecommunications meeting dates were discussed:

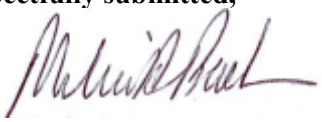
- Petition No. 1598, Thursday, February 8, 2024, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, February 15, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Docket No. 519, Tuesday, February 27, 2024, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, February 29, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.

Adjournment.

Mr. Silvestri moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer Morissette adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf