Petition No. 1030

UTC Power

Danbury, Connecticut

Staff Report

August 8, 2012

On June 29, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from UTC Power Corporation (UTC) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the installation of one 400 kW fuel cell as a customer-side distributed resources project at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. Council member Ed Wilensky and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on August 7, 2012 to review the proposal. Kyle Johnson represented UTC at the field review.

UTC has contracted with Western Connecticut State University to install a 400 kW fuel cell adjacent to the school’s science building in the northeastern corner of the campus. The fuel cell is a phosphoric acid system. The overall dimensions of the fuel cell would be nine feet wide by 29 feet long and 10 feet high. The fuel cell would be wrapped in a fire retardant blanket given a graphic treatment similar to that used on a fuel cell recently installed on the campus of Eastern Connecticut State University. The fuel cell would use natural gas, which is available on the street that runs next to the campus. The heat generated from the fuel cell would be used in the secondary heating loop in the Science Building. The operation of the fuel cell would be monitored remotely by UTC from its South Windsor headquarters. It would be serviced by technicians based in South Windsor. Water would be produced as a by-product of the fuel cell operation and would be discharged into a dry well next located next to the facility. The fuel cell is not expected to generate sound levels that would require sound proofing to be installed. The fuel cell facility would be surrounded by a wrought iron fence that would match the existing fence around the WCSU campus.

The location of the fuel cell is in a little-used corner of the WCSU campus (see attached aerial photograph taken from Google Earth). There are residences across the street from the campus to the north and to the east. The installation of the fuel cell is not expected to constitute a visual or noise nuisance to the nearest neighbors.

The proposed installation of the fuel cell is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental impacts. It would reduce the emission of air pollutants that contribute to smog, acid rain, and global climate change. It would also contribute to the state’s use of renewable energy.