Petition No. 1045

BE 2012 W LLC

Newington, Connecticut

Staff Report

January 4, 2013

On December 3, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from BE 2012 W LLC (BE) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the installation of one 250 kW Bloom Energy Corporation fuel cell as a customer-side distributed resources project at the Sam’s Club at 3465 Berlin Turnpike in Newington, Connecticut. Council member Michael Caron and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on January 4, 2013 to review the proposal. Rob Streker, an engineer with Core States Group, represented BE at the field review.

BE’s fuel cell installation is one of several proposed at different Walmart and Sam’s Club stores around the state. BE was selected by The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) as a winning bidder in CL&P’s and The United Illuminating Company’s joint request for proposals for their “low and Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit (LREC/ZREC) Program, established under provisions of Public Act 11-80, *An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Planning for Connecticut’s Energy Future*. As a result of its selection, BE has entered into a *Standard Contract for the Purchase and Sale of Connecticut Class I Renewable Energy Credits* (Standard Contract) with CL&P. BE’s selection and its Standard Contract was approved by PURA in its Docket No. 11-12-06.

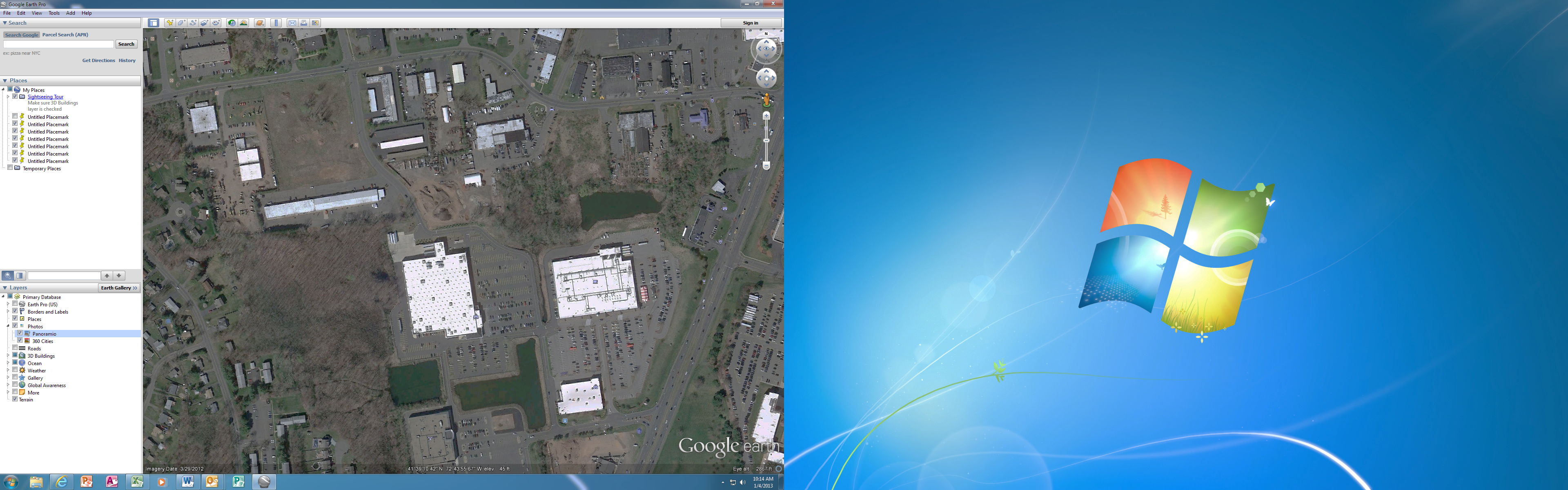
BE’s installation would consist of one Bloom solid oxide fuel cell, which would be fueled by natural gas. The overall dimensions of the installation would be 31 feet long by 8 feet wide by 6’ 9” tall. The fuel cell would provide a portion of Sam’s Club electrical requirements, and any excess electricity generated would be sold to the grid.

The fuel cell would be located to the rear of the Sam’s Club store (see aerial photograph on page 2). Currently this area has some electrical cabinets, a trash compactor, and some truck unloading spaces. The surrounding area is heavily commercial. To bring natural gas to the fuel cell, BE would bore a route from the existing line on the nearest street to the north to the site instead of digging an open trench. The nearest residences are approximately 1,120 feet to the west and would have no view of the fuel cell installation.

The fuel cells are designed to include extensive safety control systems that comply with pertinent engineering standards. Sound levels generated by the fuel cell will meet all applicable requirements at any off-site noise receptors.

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.

**Aerial View of Sam’s Club in Newington**



Proposed Fuel Cell Location