Petition No. 1047 - BE 2012 A LLC

751 Higgins Road, Cheshire, Connecticut

Staff Report

January 24, 2013

On December 3, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from BE 2012 A LLC (BE) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the installation of three 200 kW Bloom Energy Corporation fuel cell as a customer-side distributed resources project at 751 Higgins Road in Cheshire, Connecticut.

BE’s fuel cell installation is one of several proposed throughout 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.

The site consists of a 19-acre parcel developed with a 270-foot tall AT&T communications tower and associated infrastructure including an underground communications center. BE’s installation would consist of three Bloom solid oxide fuel cells, which would be fueled by natural gas. The overall dimensions of the installation would be approximately 26 feet long by 8 feet wide by 7 feet tall. The fuel cells would provide for AT&T’s on-site electrical needs with the remaining electricity sold on the electric market.

The fuel cells would be arranged in single file and would cover a 47-foot by 26-foot grassy area adjacent to an existing utility building. The fuel cells would be installed on concrete pads and would obtain natural gas from an underground Yankee Gas main on Higgins Road. The AT&T parcel is mostly open field with bordering woodlands. The fuel cell site would not be visible from residences in the area due to intervening evergreens to the north and east, and a band of deciduous woods to the south and west. The nearest residence is approximately 350 feet to the south.

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.