Petition No. 1049

BE 2012 W LLC

Hartford, Connecticut

Staff Report

January 10, 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 kilowatt (kW) Bloom Energy Corporation fuel cell facility as a customer-side distributed resources project at the Walmart at 495 Flatbush Avenue, Hartford. Council member Phil Ashton and Michael Perrone of the Council staff visited the site on January 8, 2013 to review the proposal. Rob Streker and Richard Procanik, engineers with Core States Group, represented BE at the field review.

BE’s fuel cell installation is one of several proposed at different locations around the state including several Walmart and Sam’s Club stores. 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, natural gas-fueled fuel cell unit, with an electrical output of approximately 250 kW. The overall dimensions of the installation would be approximately 31-foot 2-inches long by 8-foot 2-inches wide by 6-foot 9-inches high. The fuel cell system has been designed for the base load of Walmart, and any excess electricity generated would be sold to the grid.

The fuel cell was originally proposed to be installed directly behind the rear of the Walmart building. This location was shifted farther to the south to avoid the loading dock area. North of the site is the Walmart building. To the south is a field with light vegetation. Natural gas service would be provided underground from the building. This Walmart store is located in a heavy commercial area with no residential neighbors nearby. Thus, no residences would have a view of the fuel cell. In addition, three evergreen trees would be planted to provide visual screening and offset the loss of two existing trees.

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

Notice was provided to the City of Hartford and abutting property owners on or about November 29, 2012. No comments were received.

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.

