



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC & CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 14, 2022

Kristen Grillo
Bloom Energy Corporation
4353 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134
Kristen.Grillo@bloomenergy.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1479** – Bloom Energy Corporation petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a customer-side 1.5-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the NBC Sports Group building, 1 Blachley Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Grillo:

At a public meeting held on March 10, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal meets air and water quality standards of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any Project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Provide a copy of the Fuel Cell Emergency Response Plan to local emergency responders prior to facility operation, and provide emergency response training;
3. The use of natural gas as a fuel system cleaning medium during fuel cell construction, installation or modification shall be prohibited;
4. Submit the following information to the Council 15 days prior to any fuel pipe cleaning operations related to fuel cell construction, installation, or modification:
 - a. Identification of the cleaning media to be used;
 - b. Identification of any known hazards through use of the selected cleaning media;
 - c. Description of how known hazards will be mitigated, including identification of any applicable state or federal regulations concerning hazard mitigation measures for such media;
 - d. Identification and description of accepted industry practices or relevant regulations concerning the proper use of such media;
 - e. Provide detailed specifications (narratives/drawings) indicating the location and procedures to be used during the pipe cleaning process, including any necessary worker safety exclusion zones;
 - f. Identification of the contractor or personnel performing the work, including a description of past project experience and the level of training and qualifications necessary for performance of the work;

- g. Contact information for a special inspector hired by the project developer who is a Connecticut Registered Engineer with specific knowledge and experience regarding electric generating facilities or a National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspector and written approval of such special inspector by the local fire marshal and building inspector; and
 - h. Certification of notice regarding pipe cleaning operations to all state agencies listed in General Statutes § 16-50j(h) and to the Department of Consumer Protection, Department of Labor, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security;
5. Compliance with the following codes and standards during fuel cell construction, installation or modification, as applicable:
 - a. NFPA 54
 - b. NFPA 853; and
 - c. ASME B31;
 6. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
 7. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the City of Stamford;
 8. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
 9. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
 10. The facility owner/operator shall file an annual report on a forecast of loads and resources pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50r;
 11. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor is current with payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v and the transferee provides written confirmation that the transferee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations and conditions contained in the Declaratory Ruling, including timely payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
 12. If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated January 14,

2022, and additional information received February 22, 2022, and in compliance with Public Act 11-101, An Act Adopting Certain Safety Recommendations of the Thomas Commission.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report dated March 10, 2022

- c: Service List dated January 20, 2022
The Honorable Caroline Simmons, Mayor, City of Stamford (mayorsoffice@stamfordct.gov)
Walter F. Seely, Fire Marshal, City of Stamford (FireMarshal@stamfordct.gov)



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Petition No. 1479
Bloom Energy Corporation
NBC Sports Group
1 Blachley Road, Stamford, Connecticut

Staff Report
March 10, 2022

Introduction

On January 18, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Bloom Energy Corporation (Bloom) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the installation of a 1.5 megawatt (MW) fuel cell facility and associated equipment (Petition or Project) to be located at the NBC Sports Group building at 1 Blachley Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

On January 10, 2022, Bloom provided notice of the Project to abutting property owners, City of Stamford (City) officials, and required state agencies and officials. One abutter contacted Bloom requesting general Project information. No other comments were received.

Bloom consulted with and provided Project plans to the City's Land Use Bureau on December 10, 2021. The City did not comment on the Project.

On January 20, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the municipality to contact the Council with any questions or comments by February 17, 2022. No comments were received.

On February 8, 2022, pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, the Council notified all state agencies listed therein, requesting comments regarding the proposed Project be submitted to the Council by February 17, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council issued interrogatories to Bloom on February 8, 2022. Bloom provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on February 22, 2022.

Public Benefit

The Project would be a "customer-side distributed resources" facility, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-1(a)(49). CGS § 16a-35k establishes the State's energy policy, including the goal to "develop and utilize renewable energy resources...to the maximum practicable extent." The proposed facility is a distributed generation resource, and will contribute to fulfilling the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard as a low emission Class I renewable energy source. The Project was selected as part of the Low and Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit (LREC/ZREC) program. The Facility would be installed, maintained and operated by Bloom under a 15-year power purchase agreement with NBC Universal Media, LLC (NBC).

Project Site

The proposed facility is located on a 32.68-acre parcel, zoned M-D, Designed Industrial, that is developed with several buildings, a parking garage and parking lots. Multiple tenants utilize the on-site buildings. The fuel cell would be installed adjacent to the NBC Sports Group building in the northwest portion of the host parcel.

The surrounding area consists of high-density residential. The Rogers International School, a City K-8 school, is to the northeast at 202 Blachley Road. The nearest residential property line from the proposed facility is approximately 179 feet to the northwest.

Proposed Project

The facility would consist of five Bloom Energy 300-kW solid oxide fuel cell Energy Servers (model ES5-YASAAN) and associated equipment, including water deionizers, telemetry cabinets, disconnect switches, a transformer and utility cabinets. The fuel facility would consist of four energy servers measuring approximately 17.9 feet long by 8.6 feet wide by 6.7 feet tall and one energy server measuring 32.2 feet long by 4.3 feet wide by 7.1 feet tall. See Attached Site Plan for detail.

The fuel cell facility would be installed on concrete pads located in a paved area adjacent to the northwest corner of the building. A paved utility access way and a parking garage are located to the north of the proposed facility. A paved driveway and parking areas are located to the west, beyond which is a wooded area that buffers the host property from a residential area. A walled building compound that contains building fan units is to the east of the proposed facility.

To protect the fuel cell from potential vehicle damage, a guardrail would be installed along the north and west sides, facing the existing parking area and driveway.

The natural gas interconnection extends north from the proposed facility gas meter pad to existing service within the utility access way. Electric connections would extend east through the building to an existing building utility room. New meters and other electrical equipment would be installed within the room. A water connection would also occur within the building.

The proposed facility would be a customer-side, distributed resources project, designed only to provide electricity. The proposed facility would operate in parallel with the utility grid and provide a portion of the electrical needs of the NBC Sports Group building. The proposed facility is sized to provide at least 72% of the average annual baseload of the building. Any excess electricity created during periods of low energy usage, would be exported to the local electric grid under the net metering tariff. The interconnection application was submitted to Eversource in October 2021 for review. Final interconnection approval is anticipated in July 2022.

The proposed Bloom fuel cell units are designed to optimize the electrical efficiency alone rather than operate as combined heat and power units. Heat generated by the proposed facilities is used internally to increase the electrical efficiency of the fuel cells, and consequently there is no useful waste heat generated.

The fuel cell facility has an operational life of 15 years. The solid oxide fuel cell media would be changed at five-year intervals. At the end of the 15-year contract, NBC may renew the contract, return the facility at no cost, or buy the facility at fair market value. If the facility is to be removed at the end of the contract, the fuel cell units and associated equipment and components would be dismantled and removed.

Bloom anticipates construction to start in the third quarter of 2022 with approximately 12 - 18 weeks of total construction time, i.e. 4 to 6 weeks for site prep, 4 to 6 weeks for installation and 4 to 6 weeks for commissioning. Construction hours would be Monday-Friday, 7AM – 5 PM.

The estimated cost of the facility is \$1,738,989.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation

The fuel cell facility would comply with all applicable Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) water quality standards as no water would be consumed or discharged once the facility is operational. The proposed fuel cell facility would operate without water discharge under normal operating conditions. Water consumption would only occur at system fill and during restart operations.

Air emissions produced during fuel cell operation would not trigger any regulatory thresholds and are shown below.

Fuel Cell Facility	
Compound	lbs/MWh
NO _x	0.01
CO ₂ *	679-833

*DEEP amended its regulations in 2016 to eliminate the CO₂ permit requirements from the New Source Review and Title V Programs as a result of a United States Supreme Court decision that overturned states' regulatory CO₂ permit requirements (*Utility Air Regulatory Group v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, 573 U.S. 302 (2014))

The proposed facility would emit no methane (CH₄), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) or perfluorocarbons (PFCs), which are greenhouse gases defined in RCSA §22a-174-1(49), and would emit negligible amounts of sulfur oxides, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter.

The fuel cell desulfurization system would remove sulfur that is used as an odorant in natural gas because it is a fuel cell system contaminant. Sulfur compounds would be collected within a desulfurization unit (desulf unit) using a filter media – a composite copper catalyst. The U.S. Department of Transportation has certified the desulf unit as an acceptable form of transport for the desulfurization material that meets hazardous waste shipment standards. When a desulf unit is taken out of service, it is transported by a Bloom contractor to an out of state facility where the composite copper catalyst within the unit is removed, and the copper is used for other products. The empty desulf units are the refurbished for reuse at other Bloom fuel cell locations.

Visual impact from the proposed Project would be minimal as it is located among buildings that would block views from the north, south and east. Views from the west would be blocked by mature wooded vegetation along the host property boundary.

No wetlands, forest or prime farmland soils would be disturbed by the proposed Project as it is located entirely within paved areas on a developed commercial property. Erosion and sedimentation controls for the proposed facility would comply with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.

The proposed Project is within a DEEP Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) buffer area. DEEP provided a NDDDB Determination letter to Bloom on January 13, 2022 stating that it does not anticipate the proposed Project would have a negative impact on State-listed species. DEEP indicated the box turtle, a State Special Concern species, occurs in the general area and if a turtle is encountered during construction, that it be moved outside of the work zone.

The site is not within a Federal Emergency Management Agency- designated flood zone nor within an Aquifer Protection Area (APA). The nearest APA is 1.8 miles to the north. The site is not within the DEEP designated coastal boundary, defined under Connecticut's Coastal Management Act.

The site is previously disturbed and would not impact historic or cultural resources.

Public Safety

Before commissioning the proposed facility, Bloom would use compressed air as pipe cleaning media in accordance with Public Act 11-101, An Act Adopting Certain Safety Recommendations of the Thomas Commission.

The fuel cell facility has internal and remote 24/7 operational monitoring. Abnormal operation would cause the facility to automatically shut down. The facility can also be shut down through a remote operations center as well as manually. The fuel cell facility is designed in accordance with American National Standards Institute and Canadian Standards Association (ANSI/CSA) America FC 1-2004 and the National Fire Protection Association, Inc. Standard 853 for stationary fuel cell power systems and includes extensive safety control systems, including both automatic and manual shutdown mechanisms that comply with pertinent engineering standards.

An emergency response plan (ERP) for the facility is included within the Petition. Bloom would submit the ERP to the Stamford Fire Marshal and would provide on-site training to local officials.

The fuel cell system is controlled electronically and has internal sensors that continuously measure system operation. If safety circuits detect a condition outside normal operating parameters, the fuel supply is stopped, and individual system components are automatically shut down. In addition, manual emergency shut down push buttons would be located at the site.

Noise associated with the construction of this Project would be temporary and exempt from DEEP Noise Control Regulations. Operational noise levels at the boundary of the nearest residential property (197 feet to the west) to the facility are predicted to be 43 dBA. DEEP's Noise Control Regulations thresholds for a Class B (commercial) emitter to a Class A (residential) receptor is 55 dBA (day) and 45 dBA (night). The residential property is classified as a Class A receptor. The fuel cell would have a noise dampening foam material at the doors and exhaust of the fuel cell to lower its noise emissions by up to 5 dBA. The noise calculation included the noise dampening material.

Conclusion

The Project is a distributed energy resource with a capacity of not more than sixty-five megawatts, meets air and water quality standards of the DEEP, and would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect. It would reduce the emission of air pollutants that contribute to smog and acid rain, and to a lesser extent, global climate change, and furthers the State's energy policy by developing and utilizing renewable energy resources and distributed energy resources. Furthermore, the Project was selected under the state's LREC/ZREC Program.

Recommendations

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any Project changes be delegated to Council staff; and
2. Provide a copy of the Fuel Cell Emergency Response Plan to local emergency responders prior to facility operation, and provide emergency response training.

Fuel Cell Location



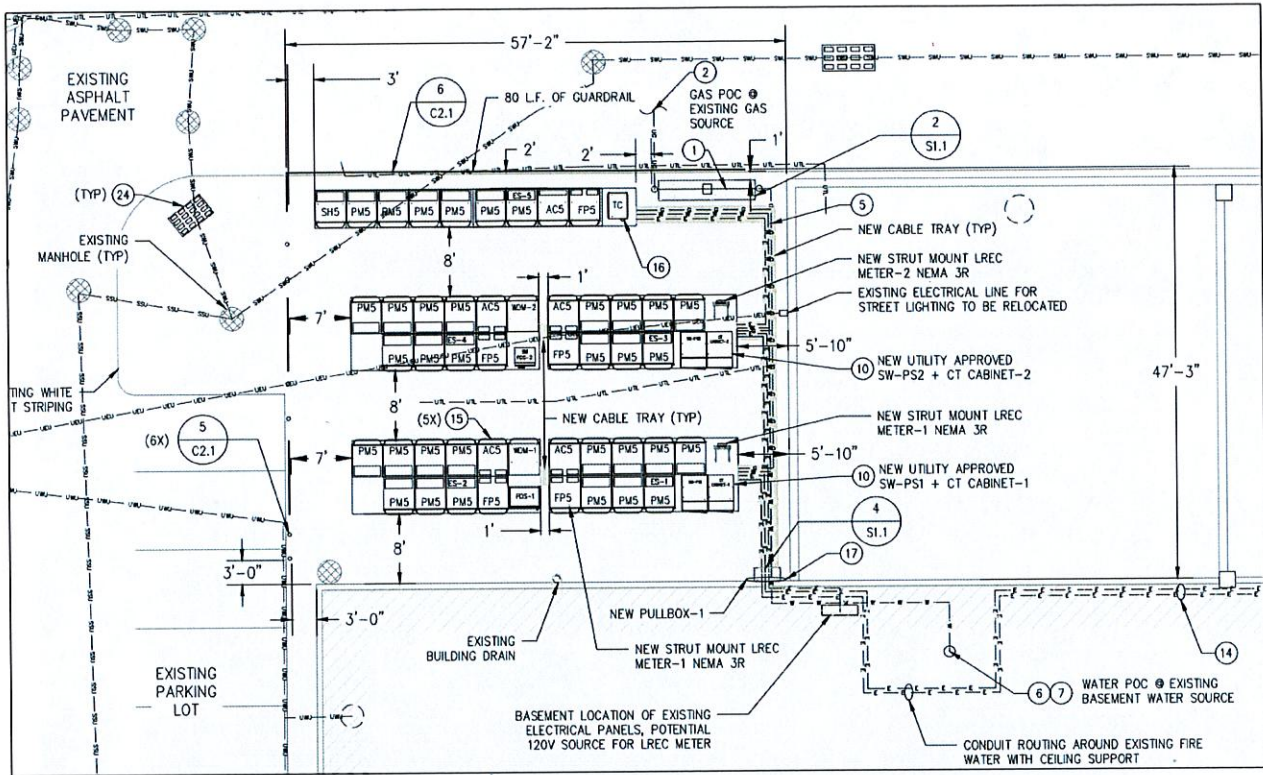
Legend

- Site
- Abutting Property
- Project Area
- Electrical Service
- Water Service
- Enclosed Electrical Area
- Approximate Assessor Parcel Boundary

Map Notes
 Base Map Source: CTECO 2019 Aerial Photograph



Site Plan



Photograph of Site Plan Area

