



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 18, 2023

Kristen Grillo
Senior Permitting Specialist
Bloom Energy Corporation
4535 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134
kristen.grillo@bloomenergy.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1497A** - Bloom Energy Corporation amended 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 2-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Dear Kristen Grillo:

At a public meeting held on August 17, 2023, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the request to amend the above-referenced Declaratory Ruling, dated April 26, 2023, with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Install landscape plantings as shown on Site Plan G1.1, submitted on July 12, 2023 in response to Council Interrogatory No. 9;
3. Provide a copy of the Fuel Cell Emergency Response Plan to local emergency responders prior to facility operation, and provide emergency response training that includes an itemized list of necessary fire suppression equipment;
4. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities; and
5. Submit a post-construction noise analysis including but not limited to, measurements performed near 25 Ford Place.

This approval applies only to the request to amend the Declaratory Ruling, dated April 26, 2023. 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 Council's May 13, 2022 Declaratory Ruling and the request to amend the Declaratory Ruling, dated April 26, 2023, and additional information dated June 5, 2023, July 12, 2023, and July 18, 2023.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this request to amend the Declaratory Ruling.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie Bachman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director

Enclosure: Staff Report dated August 17, 2023

MAB/RDM/dll

c: The Honorable Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor, City of Bridgeport (mayor@bridgeportct.gov)



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Petition No. 1497A
Bloom Energy Corporation
Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant Street
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Staff Report
August 17, 2023

Introduction

On May 13, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k, approving a proposal from Bloom Energy Corporation (Bloom) for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 2.0 megawatt (MW) fuel cell facility and associated equipment Project located at Bridgeport Hospital at 267 Grant Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut (Petition 1497).

After the Declaratory Ruling was issued, Bloom determined that the approved utility route could not be constructed due to lack of conduit space to the connections within the hospital building. Neither the hospital nor Bloom anticipated that the existing conduit was insufficient to support additional utilities required by the facility. Installing new conduit along the route is not possible due to existing subsurface utilities.

On April 27, 2023, Bloom met with City of Bridgeport (City) officials to discuss the Project. The City inquired whether the fuel cell could be rotated 90 degrees to minimize the street-side visual impact and/or whether plantings could be installed between the fuel cell and the existing wrought iron fence.

Bloom submitted a request to amend the Declaratory Ruling to the Council on April 27, 2023 to relocate the approved facility site to a different parcel owned by Bridgeport Hospital. Bloom provided notice of the request to amend the Declaratory Ruling to the City, abutting property owners and state and local officials who were notified of the original petition, on or about April 19, 2023.

On May 2, 2023, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the request to amend the Declaratory Ruling and invited the City to contact the Council with any questions or comments by May 27, 2023. No comments were received.

On May 2, 2023, pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-40, the Council sent correspondence requesting comments on the request to amend the Declaratory Ruling from the following state agencies by May 27, 2023: Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP); Department of Agriculture (DOAg); Department of Public Health (DPH); Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA); Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP); Department of Consumer Protection (DCP); Department of Labor (DOL); Department of Administrative Services (DAS); Department of Transportation (DOT); the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA); and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to Bloom on May 6 and June 20, 2023. Bloom submitted responses to the Council's interrogatories on June 5, July 12 and July 18, 2023.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take action on a petition within 60 days of receipt. On June 22, 2023 pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than October 24, 2023, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Approved Facility

The approved fuel cell facility was located on two of five parcels¹ that comprise part of the Bridgeport Hospital complex with an address of 267 Grant Street. The hospital complex is zoned Central Business District (CBD), and is developed with several buildings, a parking garage and parking lots. The approved facility was located in a lawn area at the northwestern corner of a paved parking lot.

The approved facility consisted of seven Bloom Energy 250-kW ES-5 solid oxide fuel cell Energy Servers and associated equipment, including water deionizers, telemetry cabinets, disconnect switches, a transformer and utility cabinets. The height of the energy servers would not exceed 7.1 feet. Underground utilities were proposed to be routed underground along the edge of the parking lot and through a paved driveway to switchgear in one of the buildings at the hospital complex.

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 Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation. The estimated cost of the approved facility was \$1,877,930.

Proposed Facility Amendment

The approved facility would be relocated from the northern part of the Bridgeport Hospital campus to the southern portion. The relocated facility would be installed on two parcels: 267 Grant Street and 1524-26 Central Avenue. The parcels, comprising 9.7 acres, are zoned CBD. The parcel at 1524-26 Grant Street is a vacant lot (0.14-acre) at the corner of Ford Place and Central Avenue. The relocated site is approximately 0.2 mile south of the approved site location.

The relocated fuel cell facility would be primarily located on the western portion of the 1524-26 Central Avenue parcel. The north end of the fuel cell facility would extend onto maintained lawn and a parking lot of the 267 Grant Street parcel, adjacent to Central Avenue. The fuel cell facility would be installed on concrete pads surrounded by asphalt.

The output and size of the fuel cell facility would not change. It would be arranged in two linear rows, oriented in a north-south direction. The natural gas interconnection would extend underground from Central Avenue, to a new gas valve installed north of the fuel cell facility in a lawn area. The cabinet/meter pad would be installed east of the fuel cell. Underground electric conduit would be installed along the west side of the 267 Grant Street parcel, to an existing conduit tunnel that interconnects to an on-site building.

Approximately 55 linear feet of existing chain link fence (5-foot tall) and six landscape shrubs would be removed along the 267 Grant Street and 1524-26 property line. Existing wrought iron fence (6.5 feet tall) would remain along the south and west sides of the 1524-26 Central Avenue parcel and existing chain link fence (5-foot tall) would remain on the east side. The nearest property line is approximately 50 feet to the west at 1535 Central Avenue.

¹ The five parcels total 12.5 acres

Access to the relocated fuel cell facility would be from the parking lot on the 267 Grant Street parcel. Bollards would be installed along the parking lot side of the gas valve. Two parking spaces would be removed to accommodate the relocated facility.

Bloom anticipates construction to start in the second/third quarter of 2023 with approximately 12 - 18 weeks of total construction time. Construction hours would be Monday-Friday, 7AM – 5 PM, in conformance with the City’s construction hours ordinance.

The relocated site is not within a Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated flood zone, Aquifer Protection Area, DEEP Natural Diversity Database buffer area or DEEP-designated coastal boundary, defined under Connecticut’s Coastal Management Act.

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

Based on a noise analysis, noise from the facility without mitigation would not meet DEEP Noise Control Standards for a commercial emitter to a residential receptor (exceeding 55 dBA day/45 dBA night) at a three-story residential structure at 25 Ford Place, the abutting property east of 1524-26 Central Avenue. The noise level at this structure would be 50 dBA at night.

To reduce noise levels, a sound barrier would be installed on the east side of the fuel cell, approximately 70 feet from the 25 Ford Place property line. An access gate would be installed on the sound barrier to provide access from the fuel cell facility to the cabinet/meter pad.

The sound barrier would consist of a 14-foot high, 45-foot long chain link fence with “Acoustiblok” sound mitigation panels attached to it. The sound barrier would reduce nighttime noise to 42-45 dBA, and thus comply with DEEP standards. The estimated cost of the sound barrier is \$152,185. The estimated cost of the proposed amended facility is \$2,030,115. The cost of the approved facility was \$1,877,930.

Orienting the facility in an east-west direction would cause the fuel cell to exceed noise standards at residential properties on Central Avenue. To soften views of the sound barrier, Bloom could install “Acoustiblok” with an ivy pattern.

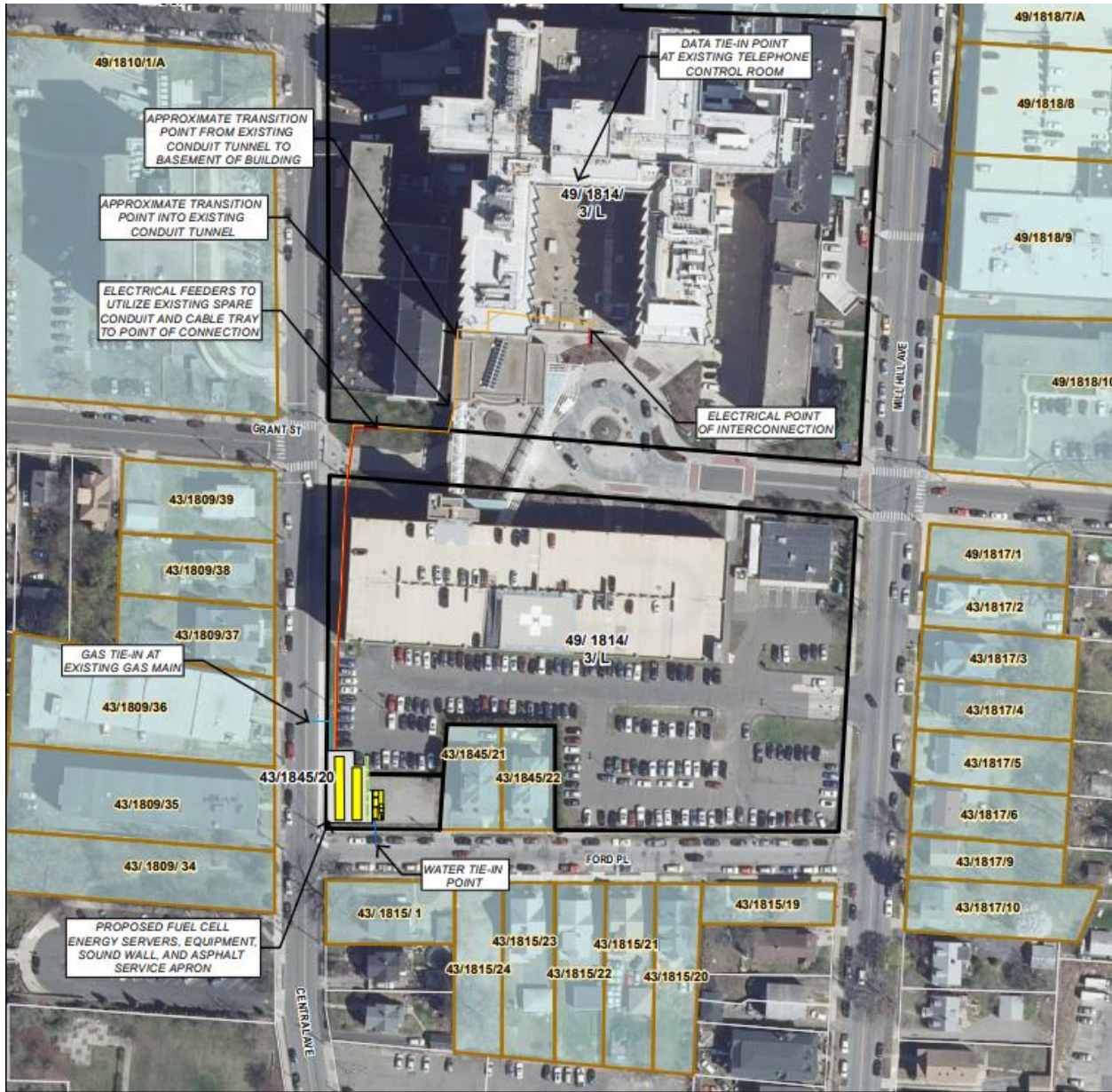
No landscaping is proposed due to limited space between the fuel cell and the existing fence line on Central Avenue and Ford Place. Bloom could install “sky pencil” holly inside the fence line facing Central Avenue. Arborvitae could be installed along the east side of the site to screen the cabinet/meter pad from the abutting property at 25 Ford Place.

Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Install landscape plantings as shown on Site Plan G1.1, submitted on July 12, 2023 in response to Council Interrogatory No. 9;
3. Provide a copy of the Fuel Cell Emergency Response Plan to local emergency responders prior to facility operation, and provide emergency response training that includes an itemized list of necessary fire suppression equipment; and
4. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities.

Amended Fuel Cell Location



Legend

- Site
- Abutting Property
- Approximate Assessor Parcel Boundary
- Equipment
- Service Apron
- Sound Wall
- Electrical Service
- Water Service
- Gas Service
- Data Service

Map Notes:
 Base Map Source: CTECO 2019 Aerial Photograph
 Map Scale: 1 inch = 150 feet
 Map Date: April 2023

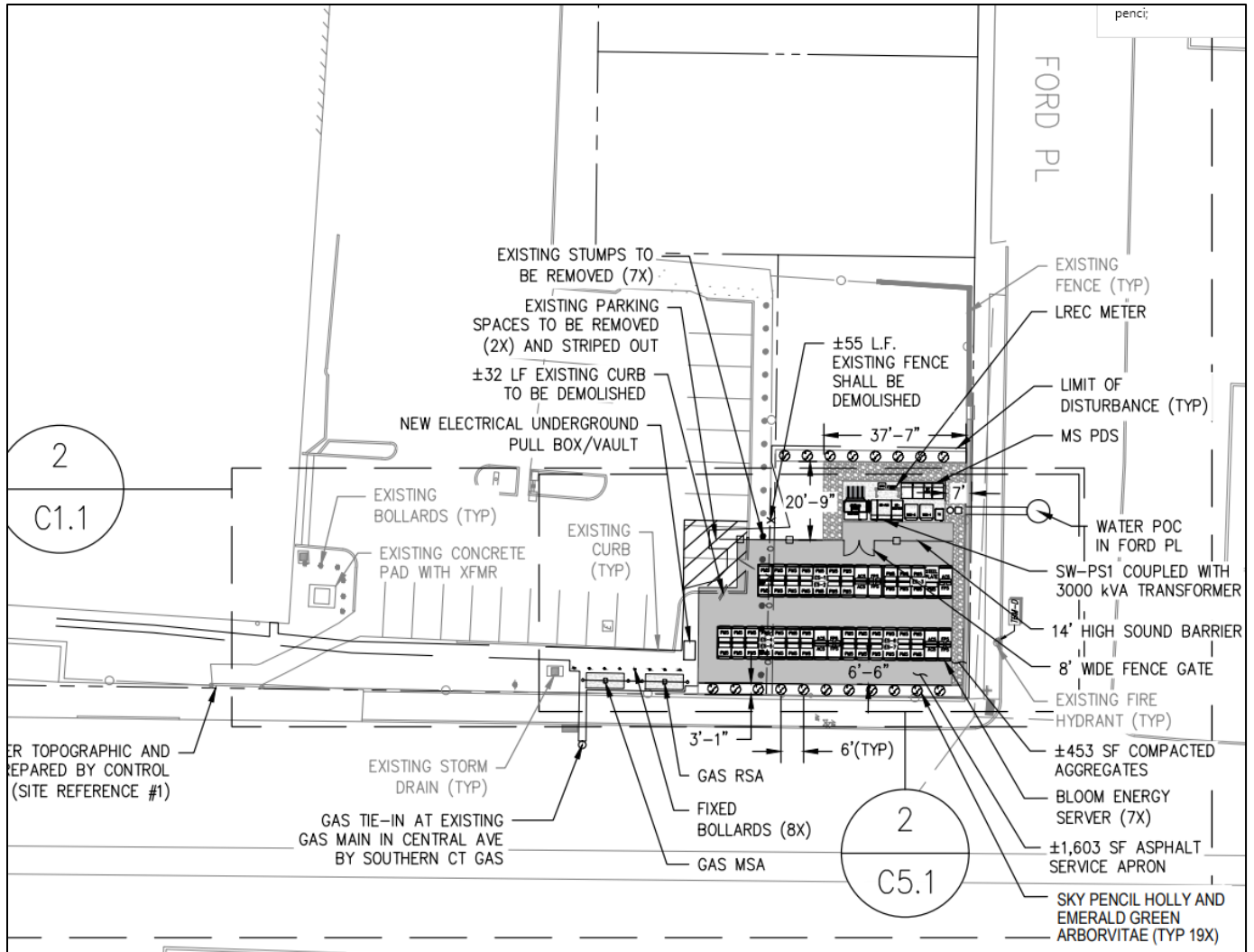


**Exhibit 2
 Site Vicinity**

Proposed Bloom Energy Facility
 Bridgeport Hospital/Yale New Haven
 267 Grant Street
 Bridgeport, Connecticut



Amended Facility Site Plan



Amended Facility - Photo simulation



Landscaping and “Acoustiblock” sound barrier shown.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. Southington, Connecticut

August 18, 2023

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1497A issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

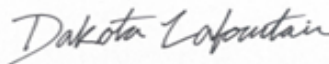
: ss. New Britain, Connecticut

August 18, 2023

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I certify that a copy of the Connecticut Siting Council Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1497A has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail, on August 18, 2023, to each party and intervenor, or its authorized representative, as listed on the attached service list, dated May 1, 2023.

ATTEST:



Dakota LaFountain
Clerk Typist
Connecticut Siting Council

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Petitioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail	Bloom Energy Corporation	Kristen Grillo Bloom Energy Corporation 4353 North First Street San Jose, CA 95134 Phone (917) 803-4511 Kristen.Grillo@bloomenergy.com Nedal Sumrein Bloom Energy Corporation 4353 North First Street San Jose, CA 95134 Phone (408) 543-1500 Nedal.Sumrein@bloomenergy.com