



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 31, 2022

TO: Service List, dated August 1, 2022

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director **MB**

RE: **PETITON NO. 1533** – ReNew Developers, LLC 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 4.99-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 42 Old Amston Road, Colchester, Connecticut.

Comments have been received from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection on August 31, 2022. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/IN/lm

c: Council Members



August 25, 2022

Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

RE: Petition No.1533
ReNew Developers LLC
4.99 MW Fuel Cell
42 Old Amston Road, Colchester

Dear Members of the Siting Council:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has reviewed the above referenced petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4.99MW fuel cell electric generating facility at 42 Old Amston Road, Colchester. The following comments are offered for your consideration.

The project is a 4.99MW fuel cell located on .69 acres of a 1.15-acre lot that was recently subdivided from a larger parcel. The larger parcel, including this site, was formally considered a brownfield due to the potential for contamination from historical use as a salvage yard, prohibiting or limiting development. DEEP strongly encourages utilizing brownfields for renewable development as a way to bring blighted properties back into productive use.

The petition includes Exhibit K on Fire Prevention and Emergency Planning. The Fire or Smoke Procedures section states that a portable fire extinguisher may be used after other measures are taken if a person was trained to do so. The Petitioner and Siting Council should note that Connecticut has a state law in effect since October 1, 2021, banning the use of Class B firefighting foam containing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (Public Act No. 21-191). The developer should review the Act to ensure compliance.

From historical use the site is currently level and cleared with little grading required. There are no wetlands in the project area, the closest is located approximately 87 feet from the proposed fence line for the project. These wetlands are associated with Judd Brook which is approximately 370 ft. west of the project site. Drainage improvements for the project include a grass-lined stormwater management basin with a rip-rap overflow. Calculations included in the petition show a decrease in post-development stormwater discharge compared to the pre-development discharge rates. This project will not require DEEP's General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities due to the project disturbance being under one acre.

DEEP's Natural Diversity Database determination letter was received on May 12, 2022, stating two possible species of concern: the wood turtle and spotted turtle. The determination concluded that no impacts would be anticipated if the work on the site is done during the dormant season, from November 1 through March 15, or that protection measures listed in the determination letter are followed if construction is during the turtles' active season. The petition included the protection measures in the project site plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at Linda.Brunza@ct.gov.

Respectfully yours,

Linda Brunza
Environmental Analyst 3

cc: Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner