



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 4, 2024

Steve Pearson
VFS, LLC
5827 Terex
Clarkstown, MI 48346
spearson@vfsmi.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1620** – VFS, 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 920-kilowatt customer-side fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the York Correctional Institution, 199 West Main Street, East Lyme (Niantic), Connecticut. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Steve Pearson:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than June 25, 2024. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to siting.council@ct.gov. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council's office on or before the June 25, 2024 deadline.

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM

Petition No. 1620
VFS, LLC
York Correctional Institute
199 West Main Street
East Lyme, Connecticut

Interrogatories
June 4, 2024

Notice

1. Referencing Petition p. 14, provide details of consultation with municipal officials including personnel contacted, dates of contact, and municipal comments and how the comments were addressed.
2. Has VFS received any comments since the petition was submitted to the Council? If so, summarize the comments and state how these comments were addressed.

Project Development

3. What is the estimated cost of the proposed project?
4. Is the project, or any portion of the project, proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or to be funded in whole or in part by the state through any contract or grant? If so, did VFS complete the environmental impact evaluation process for state agency actions under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act? If so, did CEQ, DEEP and OPM provide comments on the project as part of this process? Please summarize the comments.
5. Referencing Petition p. 14, the facility was selected as part of the LREC program. Was the facility selected as part of the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES) Program, which is the successor to the LREC program as of June 30, 2021? When was the project selected? What is the duration of the contract?

Proposed Site

6. What is the name and use of the building on the host parcel adjacent to the proposed site?
7. What is the length and width of the proposed driveway?
8. Referencing Petition p. 8, the nearest residence is listed as over 900 feet to the east whereas Petition Attachment 9 states there are apartments 172 meters to the southeast.
 - a. What is the distance and direction of the nearest residential property line from the proposed fuel cell facility?
 - b. What is the distance and direction of the nearest residential building from the proposed fuel cell facility?

Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment

9. Referencing Petition p. 3, the proposed facility is described as a combined heat and power installation.
 - a. Is use of the waste heat required by the contract? When will it be used?
 - b. Where and how would the waste heat be used?
 - c. Would the equipment necessary to utilize waste heat be installed at the time of fuel cell installation or at a later date?
10. Referencing Petition Attachment 5, several buildings are located on the property; specify where the generated power and waste heat would be used.
11. Would the proposed fuel cell be able to provide backup emergency power for any structures on the host property in the event of a power outage?

Energy Output

12. Referencing Petition p. 3, provide the percentage of the overall correctional facility baseload that would be supplied by the facility.
13. Referencing Petition p. 3, does the 94% maximum total efficiency include the utilization of waste heat?
14. Does the correctional facility have its own power generator or is power obtained from a connection to the local distribution grid?
15. Would the proposed facility be able to supply power to the local distribution grid if all or a portion of generated power is not used by the correctional facility?

Electrical Interconnection

16. Is the project interconnection required to be reviewed by ISO-NE?
17. Does VFS have an interconnection agreement with Eversource? If yes, when was it finalized? If not, when is the anticipated completion date?
18. What is the distance from the facility to the electrical, water and gas utility interconnection points?
19. Referencing Site Plan GA1.0, provide a code key for items that are abbreviated (e.g. DCW, HX, ...)?

Public Health and Safety

20. Would the project comply with the current Connecticut State Building Code, National Electrical Code and Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code?
21. Site Plan Sheet E.1, indicates nitrogen tanks would be stored on site. What would the nitrogen be used for and what is the frequency of use? Are the canisters explosive if exposed to fire?
22. Referencing Petition p. 4, it states HyAxiom service personnel would be alerted in the event of a fuel cell shutdown. Would HyAxiom personnel be dispatched to the facility in the event of a fire or other emergency? Would emergency responders have to wait for HyAxiom personnel to arrive before taking emergency action?

23. Would the construction or operation of the proposed facility impact or interfere with any existing utilities or infrastructure within the surrounding area? If so, identify any measures that would be employed to protect existing utilities or infrastructure from impact or interference.
24. Would lighting be installed at the facility? If so, for what purpose and what type would be installed (e.g motion activated, preset timer...)?
25. Referencing Petition p. 8, it states the nearest airport is over 20 miles away. Identify this airport.
26. What is the distance from the proposed facility to the New London-Groton Airport?
27. What is the distance from the proposed facility to the nearest heliport?
28. Would a crane be required for construction? If yes, to what height would the crane boom be extended? Would notice to the Federal Aviation Administration be required for the temporary use of a crane?
29. Referencing Petition Attachment 9- Noise Analysis p. 11, it states noise could be reduced to apartments to the east by rearranging the two fuel cell units so that the power modules block the sound cooling module emitting to the easterly direction. Explain.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

30. What is the type and quantity of insulating oil within the proposed transformers? Will the transformers have secondary containment and/or a low-level oil alarm? Would the oil be bio-degradable?
31. Referencing Petition Attachment 16, during overhaul of the desulfurizer, how is it removed, transported, stored and disposed? Are any components reused for other products or purposes?
32. Would construction comply with the Connecticut Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines, effective March 30, 2024?
33. Are any permanent stormwater management controls or measures proposed? If yes, provide detail.
34. Is any portion of the proposed facility site on prime farmland soils? If so, what is the area of prime farmland soils that would be impacted by development of the project?

Facility Construction

35. Since the proposed site is located at a restricted access correctional institution, what security measures are proposed for construction?