



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

June 18, 2024

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1621** – 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 grid-side 4.0-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 1225 Central Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Steve Pearson:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than July 9, 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 July 9, 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/IN/dll

Enclosure: Revised Schedule dated June 18, 2024
c: Service List dated March 14, 2024

Petition No. 1621
VFS LLC
1225 Central Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Interrogatories
June 18, 2024

Notice

1. Referencing Petition p. 8 and Exhibits 9, 10 & 11, has VFS, LLC (VFS) met with municipal officials prior to the submission of the petition to the Council? If so, when were meetings held and what comments were received, if any?
2. Referencing Petition p. 8 and Exhibits 9, 10 & 11, has VFS received any comments from municipal officials and/or abutting property owners since the petition was submitted to the Council? If yes, summarize the comments and state how these comments were addressed.
3. Referencing Petition Exhibit 8, the Notice Letter to Abutters and Officials references two 460-kW fuel cells and equipment proposed to be installed at 401 West Main Street, East Lyme, CT 06347. Provide proof of mailing to the abutters and officials of a corrected letter that references thirteen Bloom 325kW, 300kW, and 275kW fuel cells and equipment proposed to be installed at 1225 Central Avenue, Bridgeport.

Project Development

4. What is the estimated cost of the proposed project?
5. 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?

Proposed Site

6. Submit a map clearly depicting the boundaries of the fuel cell facility site and the boundaries of the host parcel. Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16- 50j-2a(29), "Site" means a contiguous parcel of property with specified boundaries, including, but not limited to, the leased area, right-of-way, access and easements on which a facility and associated equipment is located, shall be located or is proposed to be located.
7. What is the distance and direction of the nearest residential use property line from the proposed fuel cell facility? Provide the address.
8. What is the distance and direction of the nearest residential use building from the proposed fuel cell facility? Provide the address.
9. Provide the distance and direction to the nearest building from the proposed fuel cell facility. What is the use of the building?
10. What is the length and width of the existing driveway?

11. Petition p. 4 references a paved access and the adjacent parking area. Please provide a clear site plan showing the facility, the paved access and the adjacent parking area.
12. What is the distance of the facility to the edge of Central Avenue? What is the distance to the sidewalk?
13. Would the existing fence on the host parcel remain in place?
14. Provide the total limits of disturbance area for the proposed fuel cell facility.

Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment

15. 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?
16. Provide a specification sheet for the proposed fuel cell unit(s).
17. What is the operational life of the facility?
18. Referencing Exhibit 1, sheet GA 1.0, provide details of the stone retaining wall. Is it proposed or existing?

Electrical Interconnection

19. Has an interconnection application been submitted? If so, what is the status?
20. Is the project interconnection required to be reviewed by ISO-NE?
21. Referencing Petition Exhibit 1, sheet GA 1.0 describe the water interconnection point and its distance from the facility.
22. Referencing Petition Exhibit 1, sheet GA 1.0 how many new utility poles would be installed as part of this project? Provide the height above grade of the proposed utility poles and their distance apart.
23. Provide the line voltage of the proposed electrical interconnection.
24. Would the project interconnect to existing electric transmission, distribution or an adjacent substation? Would the project require any line or substation upgrades? If so, describe the nature of these upgrades.
25. Provide the respective distances of the gas and electrical interconnection points from the utility equipment concrete pad on the southeastern corner of the compound.
26. Referencing Petition p. 6, how much water is used for start-up?

Public Health and Safety

27. Please provide an Emergency Response Plan for the proposed facility in accordance with Public Act 11-101, An Act Adopting Certain Safety Recommendations of the Thomas Commission. Does the Petitioner intend to provide on-site training to local emergency responders, if requested?

28. Would the project comply with the current Connecticut State Building Code, National Electrical Code and Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code?
29. What security measures would be employed to protect the fuel cell units/components from vandalism or intrusion?
30. Which National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) or other codes and standards apply to fuel cell construction, installation and/or modifications?
31. Referencing Petition Exhibit 7 -acoustics report- provide the estimated noise levels at the following locations:
 - a) The nearest property boundary;
 - b) The nearest residential structure.
32. Would the construction or operation of the proposed facility impact or interfere with any existing utilities or infrastructure within the project area? If so, identify any measures that would be employed to protect existing utilities or infrastructure from impact or interference.
33. What type of insulating oil is used within the transformer(s)? Is it biodegradable? Do the transformer(s) have a containment system in the event of an insulating oil leak? Would the transformer(s) have a low oil alarm?
34. 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?
35. Would the operation of the fuel cell facility produce any type of vapor plume or cloud? If so, is there a potential for icing in colder temperatures and/or a potential to interfere with air navigation? If so for both, are there any mitigation measures?
36. What is the distance from the proposed facility to the nearest airport? Identify this airport.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

37. Provide the number of trees six inches in diameter or greater that would be removed for installation of the proposed facility.
38. Is the proposed site within the Coastal Boundary? Provide a map.
39. 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?
40. Would construction comply with the Connecticut Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines, effective March 30, 2024?
41. Describe the visibility of the proposed facility from the surrounding area.

Facility Construction

42. What are the expected typical work hours and days of the week that construction would occur?
43. Provide a decommissioning plan for the proposed facility.



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

REVISED SCHEDULE

PETITION NO. 1621 – 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 grid-side 4.0-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 1225 Central Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Petition received	03/14/2024
Council request for more information per Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-39a	03/20/2024
Date Petitioner submitted complete information per Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50 j-39a	03/21/2024
Public Comment Period Deadline	04/13/2024
Council 60-day Action – Set Date for Decision to 09/10/2024	04/25/2024
Deadline for Action	05/13/2024
Council Interrogatories	
• Set-One Issued	06/18/2024
• Set-One Responses Due	07/09/2024
Deadline for Decision	09/10/2024