



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 23, 2024

TO: Service List, dated May 15, 2024

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MB*

RE: **PETITION NO. 1630** – 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 Putnam Dining Hall on the University of Connecticut campus, 2358 Alumni Drive, Storrs (Mansfield), Connecticut.

Comments have been received from the Council on Environmental Quality on May 22, 2024. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/laf

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

May 22, 2024

Christopher Donnelly

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
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David Kalafa

S. Derek Phelps

PETITION NO. 1630 – VFS, LLC (Petitioner) proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 920-kilowatt customer-side fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the Putnam Dining Hall on the University of Connecticut campus, 2358 Alumni Drive, Storrs (Mansfield), Connecticut.

Denise Rodosevich

Charles Vidich

Dear Attorney Bachman,

William Warzecha

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comment regarding Petition 1630.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

Noise

The Petitioner states that “based on the engineering study results conducted by a professional acoustical engineer of the proposed Site dated February 2, 2024 the noise level of the Facility will not exceed local and state noise level ordinance levels”. However, the acoustic study states that “because the fuel cells are to be placed very close to the property line across the street from a residence hall, the fuel cells will require noise mitigation to bring the airborne noise levels below the night time noise requirement at the property line and at Nathan Hale Hall” and “this issue can be mitigated with a noise barrier running along the property line in the vicinity of the two fuel cells”. While the General Arrangement Plan Sheet GA 1.0 indicates the presence of a “10'-0" ACOUSTICAL FENCE - TO BE DETERMINED” on or near the property line, there is no mention of the “Acoustical Fence” in the project narrative and there is no analysis to determine if the proposed “Acoustical Fence” would be sufficient to ensure compliance with applicable noise standards. The Council recommends that the Petitioner provide additional information/analysis regarding the proposed mitigation measures to ensure compliance with all applicable noise regulations at all adjacent property boundaries.

The Council’s comment above addresses only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council’s administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comment.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta, Executive Director