



# 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](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc)

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 28, 2024

Steve Pearson  
VFS, LLC  
5827 Terex  
Clarkstown, MI 48346  
[spearson@vfsmi.com](mailto:spearson@vfsmi.com)

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. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Steve Pearson:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than July 19, 2024. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto: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 19, 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/MP

c: Service List dated May 15, 2024

Enclosure: Revised Schedule, dated June 28, 2024

**Petition No. 1630**  
**VFS, LLC**  
**University of Connecticut**  
**2358 Alumni Drive**  
**Storrs, Connecticut**

**Interrogatories**  
**June 28, 2024**

**Notice**

1. Pages 14 and 15 of the Petition appear to be missing in the hard copy (not electronic) version of the Petition. Provide a copy of the text of pages 14 and 15 of the Petition.
2. Provide details of consultation with municipal officials including personnel contacted, dates of contact, and municipal comments and how the comments were addressed.
3. Has VFS, LLC (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**

4. What is the estimated cost of the proposed project?
5. Referencing pages 1 and 3 and Sheet GA1.0 of the Petition, the proposed facility would be designed for a future Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). What equipment would be necessary to facilitate future interconnection of a BESS? When does VFS anticipate installation of the BESS?

**Proposed Site**

6. Referencing Petition p. 8, the nearest residential property is approximately 80 feet west of the facility. Is the 80-feet to the property line or the residential structure? What is the address of this property?
7. What is the distance and direction of the nearest on-campus residential building from the proposed fuel cell facility? What is the address of this property?
8. Is Alumni Drive an on-campus road? Is there restricted access?
9. Submit photographs of the proposed fuel cell facility site with descriptive captions and/or a map identifying the locations of the photographs.
10. Referencing Petition Attachment 9, p. 7, there appears to be an access drive/path from the residential development to the west that leads to a crosswalk along Alumni Drive. What is the distance from the fuel cell facility to the access drive/path?

**Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment**

11. Referencing Petition pp. 1 and 2, would the proposed facility provide electricity and thermal energy to Puntam Refectory, Nathan Hale Hall, and/or any other buildings at UCONN? Explain.

12. Would the proposed fuel cell be able to provide backup emergency power for the Putnam Refectory, Nathan Hale Hall and/or any other buildings at UCONN? Do Putnam Refectory and Nathan Hale Hall have existing backup power?

### **Energy Output**

13. Referencing page 15 of the Petition, the energy would be sold to UCONN under the Energy Services Agreement. Which entities would purchase the capacity and renewable energy certificates (RECs), if applicable?
14. Referencing Petition p. 3, provide the percentage of baseload of the building(s) that would be supplied by the facility.
15. Referencing Petition p. 3, does the 94% maximum total efficiency include the utilization of waste heat, the future BESS or both? Explain.
16. 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 UCONN buildings?

### **Electrical Interconnection**

17. Is the project interconnection required to be reviewed by ISO-NE?
18. Does VFS have an interconnection agreement with Eversource? If yes, when was it finalized? If not, when is the anticipated completion date?
19. Referencing Site Plan GA1.0, provide a code key for items that are abbreviated (e.g. SAN, FP, etc.).
20. Referencing Petition Drawing GA1.0, would the proposed facility connect to the Eversource #4183 pole, #219 pole, or both? What is the line voltage of the proposed electrical interconnection?
21. Provide a drawing depicting the utility, electrical, water, and gas utility connections for the facility, or, alternatively, include such information on Drawing GA1.0.

### **Public Health and Safety**

22. Would the project comply with the current Connecticut State Building Code, National Electrical Code and Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code?
23. What security measures would be employed to protect the fuel cell units/components from vandalism or intrusion?
24. Would the proposed facility be enclosed by a fence? Provide the design specifications of the proposed fence.
25. Site Plan Sheet GA1.0, 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?
26. 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?
27. 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.
  28. Would lighting be installed at the facility? If so, for what purpose and what type would be installed (e.g motion activated, preset timer...)?
  29. Referencing Petition p. 8, it states the nearest airport is over 5.5 miles away. Identify this airport.
  30. What is the distance from the proposed facility to the nearest heliport?
  31. Would a crane be required for construction? If yes, to what height would the crane boom be extended?
  32. Referencing Petition Attachment 9 – Noise Assessment, p. 3, would noise mitigation measures be installed in accordance with the recommendations for implementation on both the east and west sides? Identify the type of mitigation that would be installed and where it would be located.

#### **Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures**

33. What is the type and quantity of insulating oil within the proposed transformer? Would the transformer have secondary containment and/or a low-level oil alarm? Would the oil be bio-degradable?
34. 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?
35. Would construction comply with the Connecticut Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines, effective March 30, 2024?
36. 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?



# 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](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc)

### REVISED SCHEDULE

**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.

Petition received	05/15/2024
Council request for more information per Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-39a	05/21/2024
Date Petitioner submitted complete information per Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50 j-39a	05/22/2024
Public Comment Period Deadline	06/14/2024
Council 60-day Action – Set Date for Decision to 11/11/2024	06/20/2024
Deadline for Action	07/14/2024
Council Interrogatories	
• Set One Issued	06/28/2024
• Set One Responses due	07/19/2024
<b>Deadline for Decision</b>	<b>11/11/2024</b>