# PETITION BY EAST POINT ENERGY FOR A DECLARATORY RULING, PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §4-176 AND §160-50K, FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 17.3 MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM LOCATED AT NORTH LARKEY ROAD IN OXFORD, CONNECTICUT

Prepared for:

The Connecticut Siting Council

October 23, 2024

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# SECTION 1 Introduction

Pursuant to Section 16-50k and Section 4-176(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes ("CGS") and Section 16-50j-38 et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies ("RCSA"), East Point Energy ("East Point") requests that the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") issue a Declaratory Ruling that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Certificate") is not required for East Point's proposed location, construction, operation and maintenance of an 17.3-megawatt ("MW") Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS"), a 13.8kV electrical interconnection, and associated equipment (together, the "Project") at North Larkey Road, Oxford, Connecticut (the "Property").

As discussed more fully in this Petition for Declaratory Ruling (the "Petition"), the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project satisfy the statutory elements of CGS § 16-50k and will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect. Accordingly, this Petition should be approved by the Council.

## 1.1 East Point Energy

East Point is a standalone, grid-scale energy storage developer, now expanding our construction and asset management scopes. Our projects work to make the electric grid more renewable, resilient, and affordable. Our team is currently developing 3.4 GW of energy storage projects throughout the country and has transacted on multiple projects with some of the largest, most sophisticated energy investors in the country. East Point is a wholly owned subsidiary of Equinor, a broad international energy company committed to long-term value creation in a low-carbon future.

East Point's nimble team is comprised of hard-working, strategic problem solvers who are passionate about sustainability. We are technology and contractor agnostic, allowing us to find the best solution for each project. The firm's executive team founded East Point in 2018, bringing decades of combined energy development experience. Success for East Point is measured by delivering affordable energy storage solutions that benefit the grid, communities, and our environment.

East Point at a Glance.

- 3.4 GW (i.e. dozens) of energy storage projects actively under development
- Management team has developed over 1.8 GW ($1.5B) of operating Distributed Energy Resources around the country
- Developed 88 MWh of projects that are now operated by leading electrical utilities in the Commonwealth of VA to include Dry Bridge Energy Center, the largest operational battery energy storage system in Virginia
- Two Projects underway in Texas, Sunset Ridge Energy Center in construction (19.9 MWh) and Citrus Flatts Energy Center slated to start construction early 2025 (200 MWh) for a total of 219.9 MWh.

## 1.2 Legal Representation

All Correspondence and/or communications regarding this Petition should be addressed to:

Oxford Energy Center, LLC

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A copy of all such correspondence or communications should be sent to East Point's attorney:

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# SECTION 2 Consistency with State Energy Policy

## 2.1 Energy Storage Solutions Program

In June 2021, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act No. 21-53, An Act Concerning Energy Storage. The Act directs the CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("PURA" or the "Authority"), in coordination with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CT DEEP") and the CT Green Bank ("CTGB"), to initiate a proceeding to develop and implement programs and associated funding mechanisms incentivizing electric energy storage resources. When undertaking this proceeding, the Authority was instructed to design and administer a new incentive program that accelerates the adoption of electric energy storage technologies such as battery systems. One of the principal goals of the legislation is to unlock the benefits that energy storage technologies deliver to ratepayers.

Consequently, in connection with Public Act 21-53, An Act Concerning Energy Storage, PURA issued a final decision in Docket No. 13-08-05, PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies – Electric Storage, establishing a statewide energy storage program, known as the "Energy Storage Solutions Program" or "ESS Program". PURA issued a decision establishing an end goal of deploying 580 MW of electric storage by 2030.

## 2.2 Conservation and Load Management Plan

Pursuant to CGS §§ 16-245(m) and 16-32(f), the State of Connecticut's electric and gas distribution utilities published the *2022-2024 Conservation & Load Management Plan: Connecticut's Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Plan* on May 1, 2022 (the "Plan").

The Plan explicitly identifies energy storage projects, such as the project central to this Petition, to be a cornerstone of the Plan: "the Companies will promote the co-delivery of energy efficiency and demand management programs that support decarbonization and carbon neutrality, including …battery storage."[1] The Plan continues, "[t]hese active demand response strategies will significantly reduce peak demand and greenhouse gas emissions,

[1] 2022-2024 Conservation & Load Management Plan: Connecticut's Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Plan: Connecticut's Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Plan, Pg 16, available online 2022-2024 (ct.gov)

helping to mitigate the impact that the state's building sector has on the environment and climate change. The Companies plan to encourage customers to engage with a more modern grid, improving energy affordability and resilience."[2]

The Plan specifically references battery storage throughout the document as being a priority for the state to reach its energy goals for reducing ratepayer costs, hardening the grid's resiliency, and improving the state's environmental footprint.

## 2.3 Connecticut Siting Council "White Paper on the Security of Siting Energy Facilities"

In response to Public Act 07-242, An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency, the Council issued its White Paper on the Security of Siting Energy Facilities to establish the Council's scope of review of energy security for electric transmission and distribution assets on October 8, 2009. Specifically, the White Paper considers the planning, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities of transmission and distribution assets, including generation assets. The "clean energy revolution" is often characterized as a transformation from a fossil-fuel based system to a renewable system. While this is correct, system planners, grid operators, and development practitioners see another more fundamental transformation of the energy system: a shift from a centralized system to a de-centralized system. Just as networked computing and telecommunications have undergone this transformation since the 1970s, the electric grid is following a similar path, trading the "hub-and-spoke" star network of Westinghouse's day, for a more "mesh network," defined by flexibility, interconnectedness, and resiliency.

The result of this transformation is clear: distributed systems and mesh networks are inherently more secure by eliminating single points of failure. Battery energy storage systems are critical components of this security in their ability to maintain the integrity of the grid's 60hz sinusoidal wave form and provide excess electric capacity in the event of a grid outage. They give grid planners flexibility when upgrading distribution systems, allow businesses to be prepared for outage events, offer dynamic millisecond response capability to a variety of systemic needs, and, most importantly, can provide first responders time and options during emergency events. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) helps to smooth out fluctuations in output. During peak hours, there is typically substantial wind and solar available on the grid. The ability to store energy during not peak hours and distribute more electricity back into the grid during peak hours bolsters energy supply for the grid, ensuring that consumers have access to reliable power when and where they need it.[3]

Energy storage solutions capture, and store energy generated from clean sources and deploy it during times of peak demand, maximizing the benefits of clean energy and minimizing outages.

In short, the proposed Project, both as a distributed asset, and as a physically secure and 24/7 remotely monitored asset, is part of Connecticut's evolution towards a more secure and resilient energy system.

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[2] 2022-2024 Conservation & Load Management Plan: Connecticut's Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Plan: Connecticut's Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Plan, Pg 16, available online 2022-2024 (ct.gov)

[3] Grid Reliability 101- ACP Fact Sheet. Available online https://cleanpower.org/resources/grid-reliability-101/

# SECTION 3 Project Description

Designed in accordance and with input and guidance from the Eversource Energy ("Eversource"), the proposed stand-alone front-of-the-meter BESS consists of two interconnections to the Eversource owned distribution system, with a total capacity of 17.3 MW / 69.2 MWh. The 17.3 MW output is based on the point of electrical interconnection but may be adjusted slightly when interconnection is finalized with Eversource. The Project could power approximately 17,300 homes for a four-hour duration. The BESS facility will operate between 0 MW and 17.3 MW. The electricity stored in the batteries will be dispatched according to the needs of the grid, or to the wholesale markets in the form of capacity, voltage regulation and frequency regulation. These functions support grid reliability, stability and affordability. The BESS can dispatch almost instantaneously once called on by the Energy Management System. Typically, this is a matter of milliseconds, which allows the BESS to supply an array of services in the event of an unexpected outage elsewhere on the electrical grid.

Currently, East Point is considering using the Powin Pod battery enclosures in Oxford. East Point will select final equipment suppliers and execute procurement contracts when all the permitting and regulatory obligations have been completed. The timing for final equipment selection will depend on interconnection timelines, completion of all permitting, equipment lead times and equipment availability. The final product selected for use at the Property will adhere to the same strict safety and operating parameters and will be aesthetically very similar to a containerized solution. Any changes from the proposed design will be in accordance with all utility requirements to ensure there are no negative effects on the interconnection of this project to the utility grid. Additionally, any alterations to equipment related to the site layout will be coordinated with the Council and appropriate local permitting authorities.

## 3.1 Project Site

The Project Site is located along the west side of North Larkey Road (Parcel 25/25/1 BB2) in the southeast portion of the Property. The Property is in a primarily undeveloped forested land, zoned industrial. Access to the Projected Site is directly from North Larkey Road to the east. The Property is bisected by the utilities right-of-way (ROW) and is bounded by a public recreational walking path and the Waterbury-Oxford airport to the west, a small residential building and forested area to the north, North Larkey Road to the east and a utility substation and forested area to the south. Other than the existing Eversource ROW, there are no other structures on the Property today. The Project Site is located near the load pockets of Hartford and New Haven and sources of intermittent renewable generation. See Figure 1 Site Location.

## 3.2 Project Purpose

The proposed Project aims to meet the ESS Program goals by benefiting the community through lower electricity costs, enhanced grid resilience, and reduced emissions from fossil-based peaking generation.

## 3.3 Project Benefits

The Project is an enabling technology for the grid's transition to renewable energy. The BESS will charge from the grid at non-peak hours when there may be surplus energy on the grid and prices are lower, and then return or "discharge" that electricity back to the grid at peak demand when electricity prices are high. For instance, surplus energy from wind or solar generation, which would otherwise go unused, is utilized to charge the BESS. This stored energy can then be released back into the grid during periods when wind or solar generation is low or when electricity supply is insufficient to meet demand.

By discharging electricity back on to the grid during peak demand, BESS projects, including the proposed Project, can reduce or eliminate the need for carbon-intensive fossil fuel generation sources, such as coal or natural gas.

At a local level, this "peak-management-focused" operational approach will take stress off the local distribution grid, increasing grid reliability to help reduce the frequency of outages and relieving stress on the local network's infrastructure such that the utility can defer or delay expensive system upgrades. Put simply, the Project will be a critical part of a larger strategy to reduce costs, reduce outages, and improve the reliability of energy for the community's businesses and residents.

The Project will be one of the first strategic assets to participate in the ESS Program and, as part of that program's target for a large, distributed portfolio, the Project will deliver the following benefits recognized by the Authority in Docket No. 23-08-05:

> (1) Economic Benefits: The Project will support the ESS Program's economic goals by reducing peak grid demand, lowering ratepayer costs, and adding capacity to help utilities avoid costly infrastructure upgrades. Revenue from local taxes can fund infrastructure projects and increase support for schools and community initiatives. Additionally, it will enhance business uptime by preventing outages, facilitate the integration of cheaper renewable resources like solar and wind, and mitigate the healthcare and economic costs linked to higher-polluting energy sources.
>
> (2) Resiliency Benefits: The Project will, in the long-term, assist in maintaining the stability and efficient operation of the electric grid by providing peaking capacity and balancing services including reserve capacity, frequency regulation, voltage, and support. Stress relief also means improved system reliability. BESS' modern power electronics systems allow grid balancing and stabilization services within milliseconds, preserving the safe, efficient operation of the grid. As a larger portion of the grid's energy is composed of intermittent renewable resources (such as solar and wind), distributed energy storage systems can help "smooth" the surge and lull of voltage, frequency and harmonic distortions that are inherent with the rapid integration of renewable energy systems.
>
> (3) Environmental Benefits: BESS are used as localized peaking power suppliers. As such, BESS will help reduce air quality impacts of high emitting Peaker plants which are called-on as resources of last resort during peak demand. Further, to achieve its renewable energy goals, Connecticut is relying in part on the installation of a substantial amount of energy storage to balance the grid and "smooth" the intermittent output of solar and wind generation resources. The adoption of renewable power can only happen effectively with energy storage to assist the grid in accommodating the added resources. Locally, the host Site's environmental

footprint will improve since the BESS will charge at night when the ISO-NE's power supply is comprised of a higher percentage of non-carbon-based resources, and then discharge that energy to serve the facility and grid during peak demand hours when the high emitting, least efficient, fossil fuel-based Peaker plants are typically used. The result is overall positive net value to the host and all ratepayers as sought in the PURA and CTGB's ESS Program.

## 3.4 Project Equipment

The major equipment that makes up this facility are the battery enclosures which store the electricity, inverters that change the electricity from Direct Current to Alternating Current, and Transformers that change the electrical voltage between the output of the inverters and the utility grid. The major electrical equipment will be mounted atop concrete pads, piles or another equivalent engineered design. Additionally, the proposed project area consists of a gravel ring road and interior gravel access roads to provide maintenance access to all equipment on site. See Figure 6 – Proposed Project Layout and Appendix A – EPE Oxford Site Plans and Appendix B – Equipment Specifications.

## 3.5 Interconnection

The 17.3 MW Project will consist of two interconnections to the Eversource distribution system. The two interconnection services are a 14.3 MW portion of the Project interconnecting to the existing Oxford 26N Substation to the west of the Project Site and a 3 MW portion of the Project interconnecting at to the existing 26N1 13.8 kV feeder on N. Larkey Rd. The new services will require the installation of up to 16 new utility poles, including disconnects, reclosers, metering, gang operated switches, fused disconnects, etc. The interconnection infrastructure (electrical poles) needed to connect to the distribution grid are based on guidelines and requirements governed by ISO-NE and Eversource CT. The Project is proposing a 10-foot-wide driveway between the existing Eversource transmission lines to serve as access for the utility as depicted in Figure 6 – Proposed Project Layout.

The Project filed an interconnection request on October 22, 2020 with The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource") and has been assigned project number INT-45957. The Project executed a Feasibility Study Agreement with Eversource on January 5th, 2021. The Project received the results of this report March 15th, 2021 and then entered a System Impact Study on July 19th, 2021. The System Impact Study is expected to be finalized in Q4 2024 and the Facility Study will start shortly thereafter.

## 3.6 Public Notice and Outreach

East Point Energy has been in communication with and has engaged state and local officials regarding the development of the project. The Petitioner has been engaging on a consistent basis with the Town of Oxford since June 2020. The Petitioner's most recent engagement with the Town of Oxford was on May 30, 2024, when representatives met with the Town's of Zoning officials, Wetlands Enforcement Officer and Economic Development Coordinator to discuss and provide updates on the Project. The Petitioner also held a BESS Fire Safety Discussion lead by Energy Safety Response Group (ESRG), a 3rd party fire safety consultant. This discussion was attended by,15 members of the Town of Oxford Fire Department

including the Fire Chief, Scott Pelletier. Information summarizing the public outreach effort is included in Appendix L.

In addition, pursuant to the requirements of R.C.S.A. § 16-50j-40(a), the Petitioner sent notice concerning this Petition to all abutters and applicable governmental officials by Certificate of Mailing.

# SECTION 4 No Substantial Adverse Environmental Effect

## 4.1 Air Quality

Because the Project is a battery energy generating facility, no air emissions will be generated during operations and, therefore, an air permit is not required. Temporary, potential construction-related mobile source emissions would include those associated with construction vehicles and equipment. Any potential air quality impacts related to construction activities can be considered *de minimis*.

## 4.2 Water Quality Impacts

### 4.2.1 Wetland and Watercourse Analysis

There are multiple wetland areas that have been delineated near the Project area. to the north, west and south. The Project Area will maintain a minimum 100-foot setback from all wetland areas were outlined during the design process. No impact is expected to the wetland systems and care will be taken during construction to isolate the project area from the surrounding undisturbed environment.

### 4.2.2 FEMA Flood Zone

The entire Property lies within Flood Zone X (an area of minimal flood hazard) per FEMA map No. 09009C0234H dated 12/17/2010.

### 4.2.3 Aquifer protection areas

The proposed Project Site is not located within an Aquifer Protection Area based on available current CTDEEP mapping. Please see Figure 10 - Aquifer Protection Area Map.

### 4.2.4 Stormwater

Under existing conditions, the Property is entirely forested. Drainage currently flows from the highest point along the east side of the Project Area (North Larkey Rd) to the west to a low point near the Eversource transmission line. Most terrain slopes range from 3% to approximately 10%. Information and computations regarding existing conditions hydrology area contained in the Stormwater Management Report, attached in Appendix E.

The stormwater management system for the Project has been designed to ensure it meets State standards found within the 2024 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual and the CTDEEP Stormwater General Permit effective November 25, 2022, or as amended. The system consists of a stormwater management basin to the west of the BESS. A seed mix of permanent turf forming grasses will be used on all non-gravel areas to help stabilize the

topsoil from erosion, sequester nutrients and pollutants, and lower runoff rates. Access roads that are proposed will be constructed using compacted stone that will be permeable.

Post-construction stormwater runoff will be collected and conveyed to the stormwater basin via an overland sheet flow, and then subsequently discharged from the spillway offsite. Water quality treatment is provided in the basin and infiltration of stormwater runoff into the ground has been promoted to the maximum extent practicable. Information and computations regarding proposed conditions hydrology are contained in the Stormwater Management Report, included in Appendix E.

## 4.4 Hazardous Materials

A site-specific construction health and safety plan is typically developed prior to initiation of any construction related activities. During the construction phase of development, all contractors, subcontractors and personnel will be appropriately trained and briefed on any potential site health and safety issues. There will always be a designated construction manager, site safety officer, and/or similar representative present during construction, and that individual will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the site construction health and safety plan. Some hazardous substances may be used or stored on the Property during construction or operation of the Project. These include but are not limited to the following: Refrigerant Gas, Rechargeable Li-ion Battery System, Rechargeable Lithium-ion Battery Module, Rechargeable Prismatic Lithium-ion Cell, and Ultra Long-Life Coolant. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure ("SPCC") Plan, and an Operations and Maintenance ("O&M") Plan will be developed for the Project. See Appendix M Powin Pod Product Manual and Appendix N Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

## 4.5 Wildlife and Habitat

A Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review was completed and distributed to the CTDEEP Wildlife Division for review. In return, a Final Determination dated February 5, 2024, was provided by the CTDEEP Wildlife Division. The determination found that no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are known to occur within the project area Oxford Energy Center. See Appendix O NDDB Determination Letter

## 4.6 Prime Farmland and Core Forest Resources

Currently the entirety of the proposed Project Site is undeveloped woodland. A review of the public CTDEEP Forestland Habitat Impact Area mapping system indicates that the Project site does not lie within a forestland habitat impact area or core forest. A review of the United States Department of Agriculture's ("USDA") soil mapping for the area indicates that portions of the developed area Project are in areas designated as prime farmland. A review of historic aerial photographs indicates that the Property has not been used for agricultural purposes within the last 100 years. Accordingly, the Petitioner's submits that the Project will not have a significant adverse effect on prime farmland. See Figure 7 – Farmland Soils Map, Figure 9 – Core Forest Map and Appendix H – Environmental Resource Evaluation.

## 4.7 Noise Assessment

The Petitioner investigated and prepared a noise study which aimed to quantify the noise impacts from the Project on surrounding areas. Existing uses around the perimeter of the Project Site include woodlands to the north, west and south and North Larkey Rd to the east. The noise study results for the south side of the Project Site show that sound levels, from the Powin Pod equipment, will comply with State noise standards at the Property boundary, even without a sound barrier or other type of mitigation. However, we have included a depiction of the sound barrier in our Petition to ensure that, if the equipment type for the Project changes in the future, noise mitigation measures, in this case a sound wall, could be added as a part of the Council's review process. The Noise Assessment can be found in Appendix K.

## 4.8 Visual Impact

The Petitioner expects that the proposed Project's location and design will significantly limit, if not eliminate, potential views from public viewsheds or private properties. The Project Site is situated on a heavily wooded parcel (see Section 3.1) and will be naturally screened. The surrounding area is used primarily for commercial and industrial uses. The nearest residence is at 88 Jacks Hill Rd, which is 1,150 feet from the edge of the battery array. It is anticipated that the tree clearing, grading, construction activities, and noise barrier will not be visible from the residences on Jacks Hill Rd. For visual references, please see Appendix I for photo renderings of the proposed Project.

## 4.9 Cultural and Historical Resources

Heritage Consultants prepared a 1A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey Report in December 2021. This report discovered that areas of the Project contained moderate/high archaeological sensitivity for resources and recommended a Phase 1B Cultural Reconnaissance Survey be conducted. Heritage followed up by preparing a 1B Cultural Reconnaissance Survey Report in January 2022. The Phase 1B determined that no further investigation was required as there would be no anticipated impacts to any areas of cultural significance within the project area. The State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") agreed with the findings of the Phase 1B Cultural Reconnaissance Survey Report via a letter dated May 10, 2022. A copy of the Phase 1A and Phase 1B reports and SHPO concurrence letters are included in Appendix F Cultural Resources Assessment Documentation.

# SECTION 5 Project Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning

## 5.1 Permits Required

Permits required for the proposed Project outside of this Connecticut Siting Council Petition include the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (the "CTDEEP") General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters. For Construction Activities (the "General Permit"), as well as building and electrical permits from the Town of Oxford. It is currently anticipated that East Point will hold the General Permit, and the Project's contractor will hold the building and electrical permits.

## 5.2 Construction

The Petitioner anticipates that construction of the Project will begin in summer 2026 and will take approximately twelve (12) months to complete. Construction activities within the Project Site will include erosion and sedimentation ("E&S") control measures, racking and module(s) electrical trenching; the installation of interconnection infrastructure; and new access road construction. Existing grades throughout the Project Site will remain largely unchanged, except in areas of long-term stormwater management or where the Project's erosion and sediment control measures are proposed. For those areas, some temporary regrading (i.e., cuts/fills) will be required.

Initial work would involve the installation of erosion and sediment control measures, including installation of sediment traps, and construction of access roads. It is anticipated that temporary staging areas would be in open areas to the south of the Project Site, between the Project Site and North Larkey Road, adjacent to each access point. Final site stabilization, testing, and commissioning would be expected to be completed towards the end of 2026. Construction activities would be expected to occur 7:00AM to 6:00PM Monday through Friday and Saturday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. but may occur outside of these hours to meet Project needs

## 5.3 Traffic

Construction traffic relative to the Project Site includes standard construction trucks, small earth moving equipment, and all-terrain forklift equipment. Vehicle trips would be relative to scheduled deliveries of the major materials such as battery housing or electrical equipment and fencing materials to be installed around the perimeter of the Facility. Once construction is complete and the facility is operational, there will be routine inspections and maintenance of the Project Site. Limited deliveries of spare parts and unplanned maintenance may also take place.

## 5.4 FAA Determinations

The Petitioner used the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") Notice Criteria Tool to screen the Project Site to assess if the Project triggers the FAA Notice Criteria. The result of the initial screening on June 20, 2024, indicated the Project exceeded the Notice Criteria and required the Project be filed with the FAA. The Petitioner has submitted FAA Study #s 2024-ANE-3541 and 2024-ANE-3542-OE for review. The application will be supplemented with the FAA DNH letters in Appendix J once received.

## 5.5 Operations and Maintenance

The required maintenance of the Project will be minimal. Vegetation management will be conducted as needed based on visual inspections of the growth on site. Routine maintenance of the electrical equipment will typically occur two to three (2-3) times per year and will typically involve two (2) technicians. The Facility will be monitored remotely 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Repairs to the BESS Facility components will be made on an as-needed basis as outlined in the O&M Plan that will be shaped in large part by the standard original equipment manufacturer's Operation & Maintenance Documentation included in Appendix C.

## 5.6 Decommissioning Plan

At the end of its useful life, the Project will be decommissioned in accordance with the Project's Decommissioning and Restoration Plan which will be shaped in large part by the standard decommissioning plan provided by the battery's original equipment manufacturer. The Project's Decommissioning and Restoration Plan and Powin's Standard Decommissioning Plan are included in Appendix D.

## 5.7 Safety

### 5.7.1 Site Security and Safety

The Project is not expected to create any adverse impact on public health or safety issues. The Project will meet or exceed all appropriate health and safety standards and requirements. During construction and post-construction operations and maintenance, workers and personnel will follow relevant health and safety standards applicable to battery energy storage facilities.

A site-specific construction health and safety plan will be developed prior to initiation of any on-site construction activities. During the construction phase of development, all contractors, subcontractors and personnel will be appropriately trained and briefed on any potential site health and safety issues. There will always be a designated construction manager and/or site safety officer or representative present during construction, and that individual will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the site construction health and safety plan.

Some hazardous substances may be used or stored on the Property during construction or operation of the Project such as Coolant for the HVAC units or for cooling the battery modules.. The MSDS for these substances can be found in Appendix N Material Safety Data Seets (MSDS). A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure ("SPCC") Plan and an Operations and Maintenance ("O&M") Plan will be developed for the Project. Lastly, the Project once operational will contain remote monitoring of the facility and a 7-foot-tall (minimum) security fence.

### 5.7.2 Electric and Magnetic Fields

Electric and magnetic fields ("EMF") from storage facilities are not a cause of concern to the industry, since static fields are produced by battery banks and DC cabling.

During operation, EMF from the Project will derive from: 1) the DC battery banks; 2) the DC cables connecting the battery banks to the power inverters; 3) the AC power inverters that convert the DC power to AC power; and 4) the 13.8-kV AC above ground and underground lines connecting Project to the existing service in the customer's electrical room. There will be no additional EMF from the existing utility interconnection.

The battery banks and DC cables on site will produce static fields (i.e., at 0 Hertz). These sources will not be expected to produce any significant disturbance to the existing levels of static magnetic field produced by natural sources within the earth (i.e., the earth's geomagnetic field) away from the Project location. The existing level of the earth's static geomagnetic field is about 8,000 times lower than the standard for exposure of the general public to static magnetic fields recommended by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP, 2009).

The power inverters, above ground and underground AC lines on site will produce AC fields at frequencies greater than 60 Hz on site. These higher-frequency fields from the inverters, like the DC fields from the battery banks, decrease rapidly to low levels within a few tens of feet or less. These components are located significantly far from any potentially affected receptors and thus will not be an important contributor to AC fields outside the Project boundaries. Additionally, electric fields are blocked (i.e., shielded) by most grounded conducting objects, including buildings, walls, trees, and fences.

### 5.7.3 Fire Safety

The Petitioner has met with local fire departments and emergency responders to discuss incident protocols for the Project Site. Before construction begins, the Petitioner will arrange for the Energy Safety Resource Group (ESRG) to provide technology-specific training for local first responders and develop a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan tailored to the Facility. Site access for emergency responders will be ensured, and the entire facility can be safely shut down in case of a fire or emergency. For more details, please see Appendix P Draft Emergency Response Plan.

### 5.7.4 Fire Response

The entrance to the Facility will be gated—limiting access to authorized personnel only—and all Town emergency response personnel will be provided access to the Facility via a Knox Pad lock. Importantly, the Petitioner notes that the Facility will be monitored from off-site and will have the ability to remotely de-energize in the event of an emergency. See Appendix A – Permit Plan / Drawing Set.

## SECTION 6 Conclusion

As demonstrated by this Petition, the Project will comply with the standards set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50k(a). Specifically,

- The Project meets CTDEEP's air and water quality standards, with no material emissions associated with construction or operation, and water quality standards associated with construction and operational stormwater management are a primary focus of the Project's design.

- The Project has been configured to avoid any substantial environmental impacts by largely utilizing land adjacent to existing utility corridors and outside of any contamination/remediation areas; and
- The Project will not materially alter areas of core forest or active prime farmland.

Further, the Project would not be visible from any public viewsheds and would be largely screened from surrounding residential properties. There will not be any undue impact from noise. The Project will not affect scenic or historic resources in the vicinity of the Project.

Given the benefits this Project will provide to the State of Connecticut, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Council approve this Project as currently designed and issue a declaratory ruling that a Certificate is not required.

# List of Figures, Tables and Appendices

## List of Figures



## Appendices

Appendix N – Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
Appendix O – NDDB Determination Letter