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 & CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 6, 2026

Bruce L. McDermott, Esq.
Harris Beach Murtha
265 Church Street, 9th Floor
New Haven, CT 06510
bmcdermott@harrisbeachmurtha.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1699** – SMS CT MG02A, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.93-megawatt AC battery energy storage facility and associated equipment to be located at Guilford High School, 605 New England Road, Guilford, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. **Final Decision.**

Dear Attorney McDermott:

At a regular meeting held on April 2, 2026, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) determined that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50k,the above-referenced facility would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and issued a Declaratory Ruling, with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any changes be delegated to Council staff;

2. Provide a copy of the final Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that includes an itemized list of necessary fire suppression equipment to local emergency responders prior to facility operation, and provide emergency response training;

3. Provide a signed certification by the Fire Chief that training has been completed and the ERP is approved prior to commencement of operation;

4. Provide written notification to the Council if a different type of Lithium-ion battery than what is proposed will be installed at the site;

5. Submit a copy of the building permit prior to commencement of operation;

6. Submit a post-construction operational noise study that documents compliance with state standards and the identification of any noise mitigation measures that are employed to adhere to the standards, if necessary;

7. Consider shifting the facility site an additional 10 feet or more from publicly accessible areas, if feasible, and installation of additional plantings, if necessary;

8. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities;

9. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;

10. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the Town of Guilford;

11. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed **along with a representative photograph of the facility**;

12. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;

13. The facility owner/operator shall file an annual report on a forecast of loads and resources pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50r;

14. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred or partially transferred, provided both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under CGS §16-50v. The Council and the Town of Guilford shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer. Both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council with a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under CGS §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility, including contact information for the individual acting on behalf of the transferee; and

15. This Declaratory Ruling may be surrendered by the facility owner/operator upon written notification to the Council.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition dated December 5, 2025 and additional information dated December 24 and 30, 2025 and March 18, 2026.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this facility.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/dll

Enclosure: Staff Report dated April 2, 2026

c: The Honorable Matthew T. Hoey III, First Selectperson, Town of Guilford (hoeym@ci.guilford.ct.us)
Charles Herrschaft, Fire Marshal, Town of Guilford (gfd10@guilfordfire.com)
Service List, dated December 8, 2025
CGS §16-50j(i) State Agency Comment List

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. Southington, Connecticut April 6, 2026

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1699 issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council

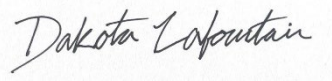
STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. New Britain, Connecticut April 6, 2026

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I certify that a copy of the Connecticut Siting Council Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1699 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail, on April 6, 2026 to each party and intervenor, or its authorized representative, as listed on the attached service list, dated December 8, 2025.

ATTEST:



Dakota LaFountain
Office Assistant
Connecticut Siting Council

L IST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Petitioner	☒ E-mail	SMS CT MG02A, LLC	Bruce L. McDermott, Esq. Harris Beach Murtha 265 Church Street, 9th Floor New Haven, CT 06510 (203) 772-7787 bmcdermott@harrisbeachmurtha.com Karen Jenkins Project Manager SMS CT MG02A c/o Scale Microgrid Solutions Operating, LLC 51-53 South Broad Street Ridgewood, NJ 07450 (908) 219-1185 kjenkins@scalemicrogrids.com

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Petition No. 1699
SMS CT MG02A, LLC
Guilford High School
605 New England Road
Guilford, Connecticut

Staff Report
April 2, 2026

Notice

On December 5, 2025, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from SMS CT MG02A, LLC (SMS) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k for the construction, operation and maintenance of a 1.93 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) battery energy storage facility (BESF)[1] and associated equipment located at Guilford High School (GHS), 605 New England Road, Guilford, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection (Petition).

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40 on or about December 5, 2025, SMS notified abutting property owners, Town of Guilford (Town) officials, state officials and agencies of the proposed facility. No comments were received.

On December 8, 2025, the Council sent correspondence to the Town stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the Town to contact the Council with any questions or comments by January 4, 2026. No comments were received.

On December 30, 2025, SMS submitted supplemental information including an updated site plan and visual analysis.

The Council issued interrogatories to SMS on March 11, 2026. SMS submitted responses to the Council's interrogatories on March 18, 2026.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take an action on a petition for a declaratory ruling within 60 days of receipt. During a regular meeting held on January 22, 2026, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than June 3, 2026, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Jurisdiction

Under CGS §16-50x, the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over electric generating facilities and energy storage facilities. CGS §16-50i(a)(3)(C) specifically exempts facilities with a capacity of one megawatt of electricity or less utilizing ***renewable energy sources***. Under CGS §16-1, renewable energy sources include, but are not limited to, wind, solar, ***fuel cells***, geothermal or biogas (emphasis added). The definition of renewable energy sources does not include BESF.

Pursuant to CGS §16-50k, the Council shall in the exercise of its jurisdiction over the siting of electric generating facilities and energy storage facilities, approve by declaratory ruling any distributed resources facility with a capacity of not more than 65 MW unless the Council finds a substantial adverse environmental effect.

[1] CGS §16-50i(a)(3)(2025) (the Council has jurisdiction over energy storage facilities using any fuel in the state.)

The capacity of a BESF is determined by the amount of stored energy that could be injected into the grid as electricity, or alternatively, when the BESF acts like a generating facility during discharge. CGS §16-50k(a)(B) directs the Council to approve by declaratory ruling, the construction of any customer-side distributed resources facility or grid-side distributed resources facility with a capacity of not more than 65 MW. This includes BESF with output capacities of 1 MW or less. Therefore, pursuant to CGS §16-50i(a)(3)(C) and §16-50k(a)(B), BESF of any output capacity are under the Council's jurisdiction, including the BESF proposed in this Petition.[2]

Community Outreach

SMS met with the Town on October 25, 2025 to discuss battery location, tree impacts, locations of fence and bollards, emergency shutoff and remote monitoring capability. GHS is also used as an emergency shelter, which requires backup power. SMS continues to consult with the Town.

SMS has not received any comments since the Petition was submitted to the Council.

During the extended public and state agency comment period for the Petition, on January 11, 2026, the Council received correspondence from the Long Hill Farm Association, a residential condominium complex that abuts the GHS campus to the east, expressing concerns related to noise, emergency response and stormwater runoff. These concerns, among others, are addressed in the Public Health and Safety and Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures sections of this document, pursuant to CGS §16-50p.

State Agency Comments

On December 8, 2025, pursuant to RCSA §16-50j-40, the Council sent correspondence requesting comments on the proposed facility from the following state agencies by January 4, 2026: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); Department of Agriculture (DOAG); Department of Public Health (DPH); Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA); Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP); Department of Labor (DOL); Department of Administrative Services (DAS); Department of Transportation (DOT); the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA); State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); and Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC).

On December 18, 2025, DEEP requested an extension of time until January 15, 2026 to submit state agency comments. On December 18, 2025, the Council granted an extension of time for any interested person regarding the Petition.

On December 18, 2025, the Council received comments from CEQ related to noise.[3] These concerns, among others, are addressed in the Public Health and Safety section of this document, pursuant to CGS §16-50p.

On December 24, 2025, SMS submitted a response to CEQ comments and committed to conducting a post-construction operational noise study.

On January 14, 2026, the Council received comments from DEEP related to noise, visual impacts and site security.[4] These concerns, among others, are addressed in the Proposed Site, Public Health and Safety and Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures sections of this document, pursuant to CGS §16-50p.

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[2] See Council Declaratory Ruling for Petition No. 1646 available at pe1646_dcltr_022125_a.pdf

[3] https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/csc/3_petitions-medialibrary/petitions_medialibrary/mediapetitionnos1601-1700/pe1699/sac_municipal_official-comments/pe1699_ceq-commentsrecd_a.pdf?rev=7c008aa2afb0499f8605276afc21fe1d&hash=54384B7396E6D5B51F3610FA13430350

[4] https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/csc/3_petitions-medialibrary/petitions_medialibrary/mediapetitionnos1601-1700/pe1699/sac_municipal_official-comments/pe1699_deep-commentsrecd_a.pdf?rev=7dec6018c92f4abc8d8df111f7321526&hash=935B0EE93E17EF7A4E079B6CEF8D2D5D

No other state agencies provided written comments on the Project.

While the Council is obligated to consult with and solicit comments from state agencies by statute, the Council is not required to abide by the comments from state agencies.[5]

Public Act 21-53

Public Act 21-53 "An Act Concerning Energy Storage" established a statewide goal to deploy 1,000 MW of energy storage in Connecticut by the end of 2030. It requires PURA to develop programs for customer-side and grid-side energy storage systems connected to the electric distribution system and enables DEEP to issue requests for proposals for energy storage systems paired with renewable energy sources and stand-alone energy storage systems connected to the electric transmission or distribution system.[6]

On July 28, 2021, PURA developed a nine-year electric storage program, the Energy Storage Solutions (ESS) program[7], that is administered by the Connecticut Green Bank, Eversource Energy (Eversource) and the United Illuminating Company (UI). It offers performance incentive payments to residential, commercial, and industrial customers who host on-site battery energy storage systems as follows:

1. Behind the Meter (BTM): customer-side distributed resource that serves on-site load (paired or stand-alone) behind a customer meter; and
2. Front of the Meter (FTM): grid-side distributed resource that does not serve on-site load behind a customer meter.[8]

A paired BTM or FTM storage system has a separate input and output source. For example, a paired system could have a solar facility-generated input and a 23-kV electric distribution line output. A stand-alone BTM storage system has the same input and output source, such as a 23-kV electric distribution line. Among the technical requirements for storage systems in the ESS program is the capability of the system to provide backup power or island from the grid during outage events.

The proposed BESF is a stand-alone BTM system. It was selected as part of the ESS Program in June 2024.

Public Benefit

The state Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) examines future energy needs and identifies opportunities to reduce ratepayer costs, ensure reliable energy availability, and mitigate public health and environmental impacts. CES Strategy No. 8(B) is "Integrate efficiency, storage, and renewables to meet peak demand." The state Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) assesses the state's future electric needs and a plan to meet those future needs. IRP No. 13 is "Support the development of energy storage resources that can support the reliable integration of variable renewables and avoid fossil peaking generation."

The proposed BESF is a customer-side distributed resource facility. It would benefit the electric power supply of the state by drawing energy from generation resources at times of low demand and subsequently injecting that energy back into the system at times of high demand. as well as improve emergency management capabilities. The proposed facility is designed to achieve the goals of the state Conservation and Load Management Plan, including, but not limited to, shifting energy demand and servicing system load.

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[5] *Corcoran v. Conn. Siting Council*, 284 Conn. 455 (2007)
[6] The interim goal of the program are 650 MW by year-end 2027.
[7] https://energystoragect.com/
[8] Energy Storage Solutions Program Manual, CT Green Bank, Eversource and UI, dated January 20, 2023, *available at* https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/dockcurr.nsf/8e6fc37a54110e3e852576190052b64d/a3ee00544b1b1fc285258940006564b7/$FILE/ESS%20Program%20Manual_Updated%201.20.2023_CLEAN.pdf

The BESF is designed to provide backup power to the GHS campus to support a Town emergency shelter and to allow GHS to operate on battery power during peak demand times unless it is called upon by the ESS Program Administrator, which would have priority access to dispatch. The BESF would also provide backup power during utility grid outages and act as a microgrid. When the BESF is depleted, existing on-site backup generators would continue supplying backup power if necessary. The BESF would also reduce GHS electricity costs, improve grid resiliency and reduce emissions associated with fossil-fueled peaking generation.

Proposed Site

Pursuant to CGS §16-50x, the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over the BESF "site." Under 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. The Council does not have jurisdiction or authority over any portion of the host parcel beyond the boundaries of the facility "site." This includes portions of the host parcel retained by the property owner and portions of the host parcel the property owner may lease to third parties. Once a facility is decommissioned, the Council no longer has jurisdiction or authority over the "site."

SMS proposes to construct the BESF on an approximately 0.18-acre site within the approximately 30-acre host parcel owned by the Town. The host parcel is zoned residential (R-5) and is developed with the GHS building, parking areas, lawn areas, and athletic fields.

The proposed BESF would be located adjacent to the northeastern portion of the host parcel within an existing lawn area east of the paved access drive for GHS' main entrance and west of a small parking area and secondary access drive near the tennis courts.

The surrounding areas generally consist of residential properties to the north, south, east and west.

The nearest residential property line from the proposed facility compound is approximately 153 feet to the east at 54 Long Hill Farm. The nearest residential building from the proposed facility fence is approximately 250 feet to the southwest at 54 Long Hill Farm.

Visibility of the facility would be limited to the GHS campus.

Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment

The proposed customer-side BESF would consist of one Tesla Megapack 2XL lithium iron phosphate battery storage unit with a maximum export capacity of 1.93 MW AC. The battery storage unit has a maximum storage capacity of approximately 3.85 MWh. The BESF would be capable of providing approximately 3.85 MWh of electrical energy based on an approximately 2-hour duration. Its recharge cycle would require a minimum of 2 hours based on 1.93 MW at the point of interconnection; however, recharging would occur during off-peak hours based on GHS energy demand. Other equipment within the compound includes a pad-mounted transformer, a line reactor, and main switch board with utility meter.

Lithium iron phosphate batteries utilize an iron-based chemistry that does not contain toxic heavy metals, such as cobalt or nickel, which can be found in other battery chemistries. Lithium iron phosphate batteries are less prone to thermal runaway and have a higher tolerance for extreme temperatures and a lower self-discharge rate. Capacity losses are negligible during below freezing temperatures.

The battery storage unit is self-contained and measures approximately 28.9 feet long by 5.4 feet wide by 9.2 feet high. Each unit includes, but is not limited to, batteries, thermal management system, battery management system, and electrical equipment. The thermal management system includes a liquid coolant system for battery cells and an air-cooling system for electrical components.

Development of the BESF site would disturb an approximate 0.18-acre area. It would be enclosed by a seven-foot tall chain-link fence. A 17-foot wide by 20-foot tall noise wall would be installed within the southeastern portion of the fenced compound.

The facility would be accessed from an existing paved driveway and parking area off of New England Road. SMS would construct an approximately 8-foot wide by 29-foot long gravel access extension to reach the proposed BESF compound.

The facility would have two underground 480-Volt electrical connections to the southeast. One would connect to a proposed pad-mounted utility transformer, which would raise the voltage to the distribution system voltage of 13.8-kV. The second connection would be a secondary line interception point. No new utility poles would be required. The pad-mounted utility transformer would be protected by bollards.

The System Impact Study was completed on December 31, 2025. The Interconnection Agreement is currently under review by Eversource.

The estimated cost of the facility is approximately $2.2 million.

The proposed facility is not proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, and is not to be funded in whole or in part by the state through any contract or grant. SMS is a private entity.

Public Health and Safety

Noise

The primary source of equipment noise is the battery storage unit.

A noise analysis determined the facility would meet noise control standards with the installation of a galvanized metal sound barrier inside the BESF compound. Without mitigation, the projected noise level at the nearest residential property boundary would be 43 dBA. The nighttime state noise standard for a commercial noise emitter that produces a prominent discrete tone, such as the proposed BESF, to a residential noise receptor is 40 dBA per RCSA §22a-69-3.3. With mitigation, the projected noise level at the nearest residential property boundary would be no more than 40 dBA. Thus, the operation of the proposed BESF would meet state noise control standards with the installation of the proposed sound mitigation barrier.

Construction noise and noise created as a result of, or relating to, an emergency, such as an emergency backup generator, is exempt from the DEEP Noise Control Regulations.

Operation of the BESF would not cause discernible vibrations at off-site locations.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

During operation of the facility, electric and magnetic fields (EMF) would be produced by the underground connections to the pad-mounted utility transformer and to the secondary line interception point. EMF levels from these sources would dissipate quickly with distance, and these 480 Volt connections are not subject to the Council's Best Management Practices for EMF.

Security

The proposed facility would be monitored on a 24/7 basis by a third-party operator to detect abnormalities in operations. The facility can be automatically and remotely shut down if abnormalities are detected. Additionally, the facility would have an emergency shut-off switch within the enclosure.

The proposed site would comply with the Council's White Paper on the Security of Siting Energy Facilities. Security measures include, but are not limited to, a locked security fence, locked enclosure, 24/7 remote monitoring, and safety signage.

The 7-foot tall chain link fence would comply with the National Electrical Code.[9] The site will have a locked gate, limiting access to authorized personnel only. Safety signage would be posted at the site. Switch controlled LED lighting would be installed and used for security purposes and maintenance after dark.

The minimum recommended distance from the BESF to a publicly accessible area is 10 feet. The nearest part/corner of the battery container would be located approximately 22 feet south of the walkway to the north; approximately 19 feet west of the existing access drive turnaround to the east; and approximately 100 feet northeast of the GHS building to the southwest.

Fire Protection

The BESF would be designed in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association 855 – Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems (NFPA 855) and the 2022 Connecticut State Fire Code Chapter 52- Energy Storage Systems. Section 4.1.3 of NFPA 855 relates to *Emergency Planning and Training.*

The battery storage unit would contain heat, smoke and gas detectors connected to the site's fire alarm panel. In the event of fire detection via the sensors, the fire alarm panel would alert the BESF system operator which would then be relayed to the local fire department. The battery storage unit can be shut down manually or remotely. A system shutdown would result in electrical isolation of the batteries and cessation of battery charging or discharging.

In accordance with NFPA 855, the battery storage unit is equipped with a liquid cooling system and integrated ventilation and overpressure vent system to mitigate potential flammable/explosive gases.

The proposed BESF top-mounted deflagration vents are designed to direct smoke and flames vertically to mitigate ground-level impacts. Notwithstanding, smoke from a BESF fire may still require downwind evacuation or shelter in place if required by the local Fire Marshal or Incident Commander, as applicable.

The emergency evacuation zone for all persons downwind of a BESF is 150 feet, which may be extended to a 300-foot isolation zone if local emergency responders determine smoke is drifting beyond the emergency evacuation zone.

Current IAFC guidance suggests that fire events should be allowed to burn out in a controlled, contained manner while nearby resources are monitored and protected using water as a proactive cooling agent exterior to the battery containers.[10] The nearest fire hydrant is located approximately 40 feet to the west of the proposed BESF fence.

SMS has developed an Emergency Response Plan and will provide training to local emergency responders prior to facility operation.

Aviation Safety

The nearest airport is Tweed New Haven Airport, located approximately 9.84 miles west-southwest of the proposed facility. Based on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Obstruction Evaluation Tool, the

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[9] Section 110.31 of the National Electrical Code (NEC), 2020 Edition notes that for over 1,000 Volts, "…a wall, screen, or fence shall be used…A fence shall not be less than 7 feet in height or a combination of 6 feet or more of fence fabric and a 1 foot or more…utilizing barbed wire or equivalent."

[10] https://www.safetystanddown.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Training-Sheet-Day-2-Firefighting-Operations.pdf

proposed facility would not require notice to the FAA. Construction of the facility would require a crane approximately 150 feet tall, but notice to the FAA is not required.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Air and Water Quality

The BESF would not require a DEEP Air Permit. No hazardous air emissions would be produced during the operation of the BESF.

The proposed facility would not consume or discharge water under normal operation conditions.

There are no wells located at the site. Notwithstanding, SMS developed and would implement a Fuel Storage and Spill Prevention Plan to protect groundwater.

The proposed transformer within the BESF compound would likely utilize a biodegradable insulating oil.

The BESF includes a secondary containment basin for the ethylene glycol coolant solution.

The site is located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated unshaded Zone X, an area outside of the 100-year and 500-year flood zones. The proposed facility would not be located within a DEEP-designated Aquifer Protection Area.

The nearest wetland is located on another parcel, approximately 800 feet to the southeast of the site. The proposed facility is not likely to result in adverse impacts to wetlands due to the distance and use of erosion and sediment (E&S) controls. E&S controls for the proposed facility would comply with the applicable *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.

Pursuant to CGS §22a-430b, a DEEP Stormwater Permit is required for any disturbance greater than 1 acre. The construction limit of disturbance for the proposed facility is approximately 0.18-acre; therefore, the proposed facility would not require a DEEP Stormwater Permit.

Construction of the facility would comply with the 2024 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual. SMS would implement a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan. Stormwater management would maintain existing drainage patterns to the extent possible. Post-construction stormwater runoff from the concrete pads would be collected within the gravel surface and infiltrate the soil.

Development of the proposed facility would result in approximately 22 cubic yards of net cut material that would be removed from the site and used by a landscaping company.

Forests and Parks

Development of the site would require the clearing of approximately eight trees. Six of these trees are Eastern white pine trees. SMS would consider relocation of trees to reduce visibility, if feasible, prior to removal.

Long Hill Park (LHP), a Town-owned park, is located approximately 0.30-mile to the southeast. The proposed facility is not expected to physically or visually impact LHP.

Cockaponset State Forest is located approximately 1.6-mile to the south. The proposed facility is not expected to be visible from this forest due to distance.

Fish, Aquaculture and Wildlife

The site is not located within a DEEP Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) buffer area.

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB), a state and federal-listed Endangered Species, may occur at the site. By letter dated October 1, 2025, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated development of the proposed facility would not likely adversely affect, the NLEB contingent upon tree clearing outside of the active April 15 through October 31 time period. Accordingly, SMS has developed a Bat Protection Plan that includes, but is not limited to, a seasonal restriction for tree removal.

The perimeter fence would be secured to the ground to deter small wildlife from entering the proposed BESF compound. Also, all battery enclosure openings and ventilation louvers are screened or sealed to deter wildlife entry.

Agriculture

Portions of the GHS campus are located on mapped portions of prime farmland soils. The proposed site is located outside of the areas that contain prime farmland soils.

Scenic, Historic and Recreational Values

A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment Survey (Phase 1 Survey) was performed and indicated that there are no known resources listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places within 500 feet of the host parcel. The Phase 1A Survey also indicated that the proposed site possesses little, if any, archaeological sensitivity. By letter dated December 4, 2025, SHPO concurred with the Phase 1A Survey results and determined that the proposed facility would not affect historic properties.

No scenic or recreational resources would be impacted by the proposed facility.

The nearest scenic road is a portion of State Route 77, approximately 0.73 miles northeast of the site. The BESF would not be visible from this scenic road.

Facility Construction

The site would be temporarily fenced off during construction and would also serve as the staging/laydown area. Construction vehicles and gear (stored within a Conex container) would utilize up to 8 parking spaces located near the tennis courts.

SMS would begin construction with marking trees for removal; installing the access drive for construction; installing erosion and sediment controls; performing tree removal; performing electrical conduit trenching; installing concrete pads; setting BESF unit and other equipment in place via a crane; completing electrical work; and energizing, testing and commissioning the BESF.

Construction of the BESF is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2026 and would take approximately five to nine weeks. Construction hours would generally be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some limited work outside these hours (e.g. from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) may be necessary for certain portions of construction such as off-loading the containerized batteries from a flatbed truck via a crane.

SMS will coordinate the work schedule with GHS. The school year ends on June 18, 2026, and the new school year begins on September 3, 2026.

Operation and Maintenance

Once operational, the facility would require annual maintenance of the BESF including, but not limited to, a general walkaround, inspecting electrical components and inspecting the cooling system. Additional maintenance would occur after 5 and 10 years of operation.

The minimum snow depth that would require removal within the compound is 12 to 18 inches to ensure proper airflow to the cooling system and electronic components. GHS would be responsible for snow removal on the access drive to ensure emergency and regular maintenance access.

Decommissioning

SMS would replace the cooling system components, e.g. coolant pumps, radiator fans, as well as replenish the coolant and perform comprehensive testing after approximately 10 years of operation.

The batteries would degrade annually by approximately 1.5 percent on average. The anticipated life of a battery before replacement/replenishment is 10 years. At the end of the BESF service life, all components would be dismantled and removed.

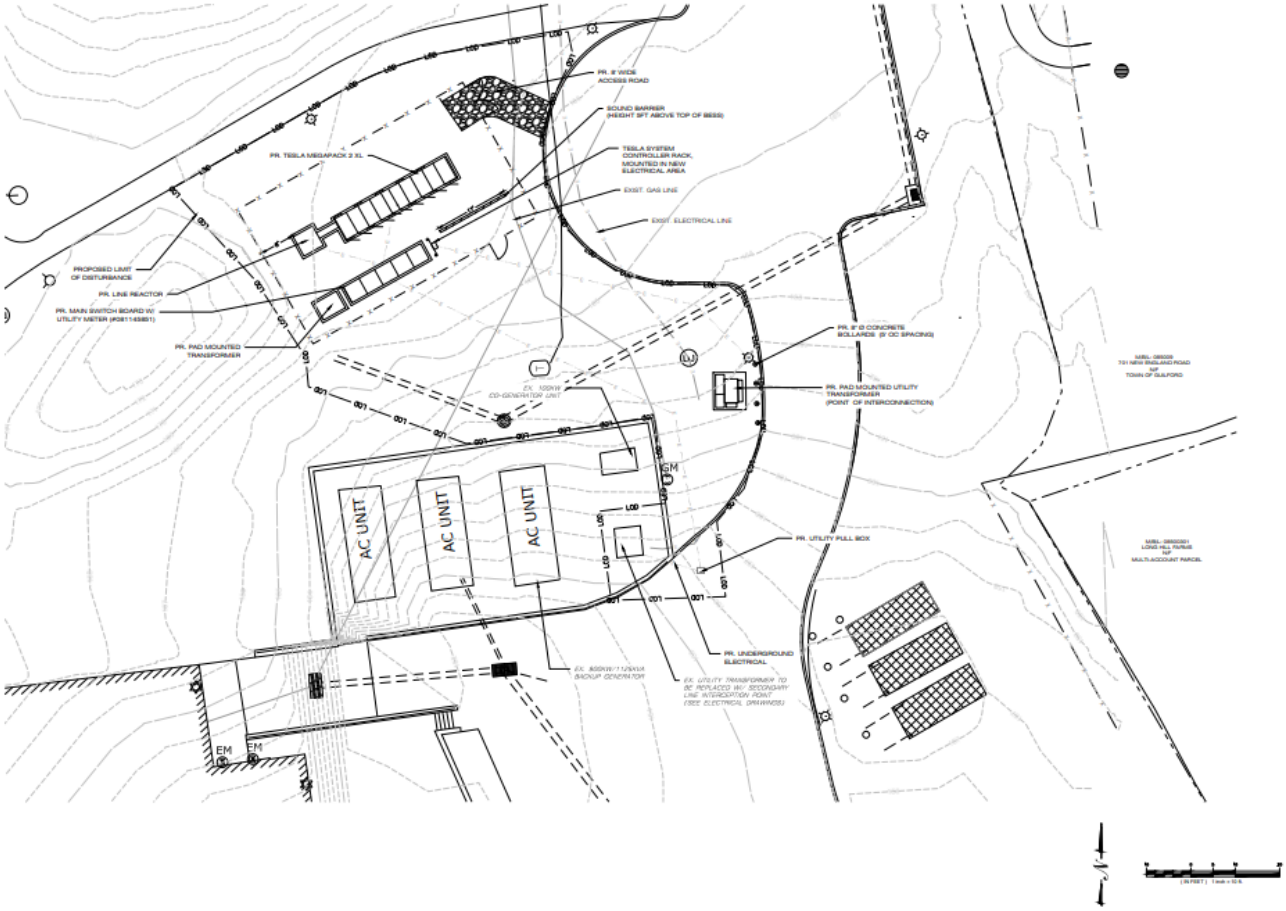
Conclusion

The BESF is a customer-side distributed energy resource with an output capacity of not more than sixty-five megawatts, and would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect. The proposed facility would further the State's energy policy by integrating storage to meet peak demand and improve emergency management capabilities. Furthermore, the facility was selected under the state's ESS Program.

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Provide a copy of the final Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that includes an itemized list of necessary fire suppression equipment to local emergency responders prior to facility operation, and provide emergency response training;
3. Provide a signed certification by the Fire Chief that training has been completed and the ERP is approved prior to commencement of operation;
4. Provide written notification to the Council if a different type of Lithium-ion battery than what is proposed will be installed at the site;
5. Submit a copy of the building permit prior to commencement of operation; and
6. Submit a post-construction operational noise study that documents compliance with state standards and the identification of any noise mitigation measures that are employed to adhere to the standards, if necessary.

Site Location

Existing Site conditions

Proposed Site Layout