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

October 29, 2026

TO: Service List, dated October 8, 2026

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director MAB

RE: **PETITION NO. 1722** – DE Suffield FC LLC (Dispatch Energy/Renewables, LLC) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a grid-side 4.975-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment located at 2 Bennett Road, Suffield, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Comments have been received from the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality on October 29, 2026. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MAB/IN/cj

c: Council Members
CGS §16-50j(i) State Agency Comment List (via electronic mail)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 29, 2026

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov

PETITION NO. 1722 – DE Suffield FC LLC (Dispatch Energy/Renewables, LLC) (Petitioner) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a grid-side 4.975-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment located at 2 Bennett Road, Suffield, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Attorney Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) provides the following comments regarding Petition 1722.

Noise

The Petitioner states that "the sound from the simultaneous operation of the fuel cell units was estimated at the closest noise-sensitive receptors surrounding the project area" and "noise from the transformers operations was estimated at the closest noise-sensitive receptors surrounding the project area"; however, it is unclear if the noise analysis included all of the fuel cells and the three transformers operating simultaneously. The Petitioner also states that the closest fuel cell unit is located approximately 150 feet from the nearest Class A land use and "the unmitigated maximum equivalent operational noise levels from the fuel cell site are estimated to be near or below approximately 52 dB(A) at the nearest Class A land use", which would exceed the applicable standard of 51 dBA. However, according to Sheet C-2.1 Enlarged Site Plan, the distance between the closest fuel cell and the Class A land use or residential property, located to the south of the proposed facility, is approximately 83 feet. The potential presence of "prominent discrete tones", which are defined in the RCSA Section 22a-69-1.2 and might be caused by rotating machinery (fans and motors), electrical equipment, and other sources, might reduce the applicable noise limit by 5 dBA. While the "noise analysis indicates that noise mitigation measures along the southern edge of the proposed site are recommended", there is no information in the petition materials indicating what the noise mitigation measures would be or if such mitigation measures would ensure that noise generated by the proposed facility will comply with applicable standards. The Council recommends that the Petitioner 1) confirm the projected noise generated by the proposed facility with all fuel cells and transformers in simultaneous operation, if applicable, at the adjacent noise zones[1]/property lines; 2) assess the potential for the generation of prominent discrete tones associated with operation of the proposed facility; and 3) identify any noise mitigation measures that would be employed on the proposed site to ensure that the projected noise levels at the property lines (adjacent noise zones) will comply with

applicable standards. The Council also recommends that a post construction noise study be completed for the proposed facility when in full operation.

Wildlife and Vegetation
The Petitioner states that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online planning tool indicated that "two (2) species were identified that should be considered in an effects analysis: the Northern Long Eared Bat ("NLEB") and the Monarch Butterfly. For protection of the potential presence of the NLEB, tree trimming or removal will only take place between October 1 and April 14." However, the Petitioner also states that "construction of the Facility will take approximately six (6) months and commence in Summer 2027" with "clearing and grubbing activities" to follow installation of erosion and sediment controls. The Council recommends that the Petitioner retain as much of the existing trees and vegetation on the proposed site as practicable and consult with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Wildlife Division regarding protective measures, such as time of year restrictions on the removal of vegetation, to minimize potential impacts on tricolored bat.

Wetlands
The Petitioner indicates that "based on a review of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) inland wetland soils data, a wetland feature is present within the west portion of the study area" and the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory identified one (1) forested wetland adjacent to the southwest portion of the study area. Attachment C, Figure 4 NWI, NHD, Inland Wetland Soils identifies two areas of wetlands on or proximate to the proposed site; however, it is unclear if the extent and condition of the wetlands were delineated/confirmed in the field. The Council recommends that the wetlands on the proposed site be delineated in the field by a qualified soil scientist and the soil scientist's field delineation should be depicted on the site plans. The Council also recommends that the Petitioner maintain a minimum 100-foot vegetated buffer from the delineated wetlands to the proposed equipment.

The Council's comments above address 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 comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director.

[1] The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-69-1.1 (o) defines noise zone as "an individual unit of land or a group of contiguous parcels under the same ownership as indicated by public land records and, as relates to noise emitters, includes contiguous publicly dedicated street and highway rights-of-way, railroad rights-of-way and waters of the State."