STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 6, 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 Department of Energy & Environmental Protection on November 5, 2026. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MAB/IN/dll

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

November 5, 2026

Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

RE: 4.975-MW Fuel Cells
2 Bennett Road, Suffield, CT 06078
DE Suffield FC LLC
Petition No. 1722

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council:

Staff of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Office of Environmental Review & Strategic Initiatives (ERSI) have reviewed the above-referenced petition by DE Suffield FC LLC (Dispatch Energy/Renewables, LLC), for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a grid-side fuel cell unit totaling 4.975 MW of power at 2 Bennett Road in Suffield.

Staff are providing comments to discuss areas within DEEP's jurisdiction as they relate to the proposed project. DEEP staff may also include observations or discuss potential noise and visual impacts that can be avoided or mitigated through project planning. Staff may conduct site visits as part of the analysis to observe site characteristics that may not be captured in project plans.

Summary of Key Findings

- Project consists of sixteen (16) natural gas-fueled fuel cells located behind the existing warehouse inclusive of a portion of the parking lot and surrounding grounds.
- An Emergency Response Plan was drafted. Fire protection consists of gas sensors with automatic shut down and closing of natural gas supply valves and alarm notification to Bloom Energy's Remote Monitoring Control Center. Manual shutdown is also incorporated. Fuel cells contain a physical barrier separating gases from electrical components.
- Wetlands are present in the project area.
- The facility was selected in year 6 (2026) under the Shared Clean Energy Facility Program.
- Potential visual concerns; project site has the potential to be in public view.
- A preliminary NDDB assessment identified the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) as potentially present in the vicinity of the site.
- Noise levels might exceed local and state noise ordinances.

Site Information

Project Description

The petition describes the location of the sixteen (16) fuel cells on concrete pads within the warehouse property grounds. The proposed project is in Suffield, CT at 2 Bennett Road, on an overall parcel area of 2.62 acres. The facility will be fenced within an area of approximately 0.24 acres. The fuel cell is a fully enclosed contained system. A stormwater detention area is proposed to be located on the southern property line. The fuel cell facility is proposed to consist of fuel cell containers, electrical lines, underground gas lines, a dedicated gravel access road, fencing, and stormwater controls. The bald eagle is a state-listed species of special concern that is noted as potentially being in the vicinity of the site.



Figure 1: Project Location
Map Source: Petitioner Documentation

Project Site Visit

ERSI staff visited the project site on October 16, 2026. The site is currently used for a warehouse, and the existing land cover primarily consists of gravel, brush, and woods. The site is bound by Bennett Road to the north, East Street S to the east, and vacant land to the west and south. ERSI staff observed the proposed project site located in the warehouse parking lot and surrounding brush and wooded area. A

few wooden pallets, two storage trailers, a few areas of brush and excess gravel were located on the premises. The proposed location of the fenced area is in the southern portion of the site. Staff observed one residential property's backyard located at 104 East Street S which is approximately ~150 feet away from the proposed project site, but according to the petitioner, an 8-foot-tall chain-link security fence with slats is proposed to provide additional screening.

DEEP Divisions/Programs

Stormwater Management

The project site is under one acre and will not require a Construction Stormwater permit. Construction-related land disturbances of one (1) acre or larger are regulated under CGS Section 22a-430 and under Section 402(p) of the federal Clean Water Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program.

The fuel cell facility is proposed to include the construction of a sediment forebay and one water detention area to address the site's management of overland runoff.

Natural Diversity Data Base

Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) maps show approximate locations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as important natural communities in Connecticut. These maps are intended to be a tool to show potential impacts to state-listed species. The locations shown on the maps are based on information collected over the years by DEEP staff, scientists, and others.

A preliminary NDDB assessment was conducted and identified the Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) as potentially present in the vicinity of the project area. A September 16, 2026, DEEP Wildlife Division determination letter concluded that the proposed project will not have adverse effect on any of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) that have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project area.

Air Permitting

DEEP's Air Permitting section stated that New Source Review (NSR) Stationary Sources of Air Pollution permit is not required for fuel cells. The fuel cell produces near-zero levels of regulated air pollutants.

Wetlands and Vernal Pools

Wetlands are located in close proximity to the proposed fenced facility. The petitioner did not identify the distance from the delineated wetland areas to the proposed fuel cell locations but according to the petitioner, no negative impact on the wetlands is anticipated throughout the construction or operation of the facility. As described below in Figure 2, the northern wetland is anticipated to be located approximately 240 feet from the fenced in facility and the western wetland is anticipated to be approximately 310 feet away from the fenced in facility.

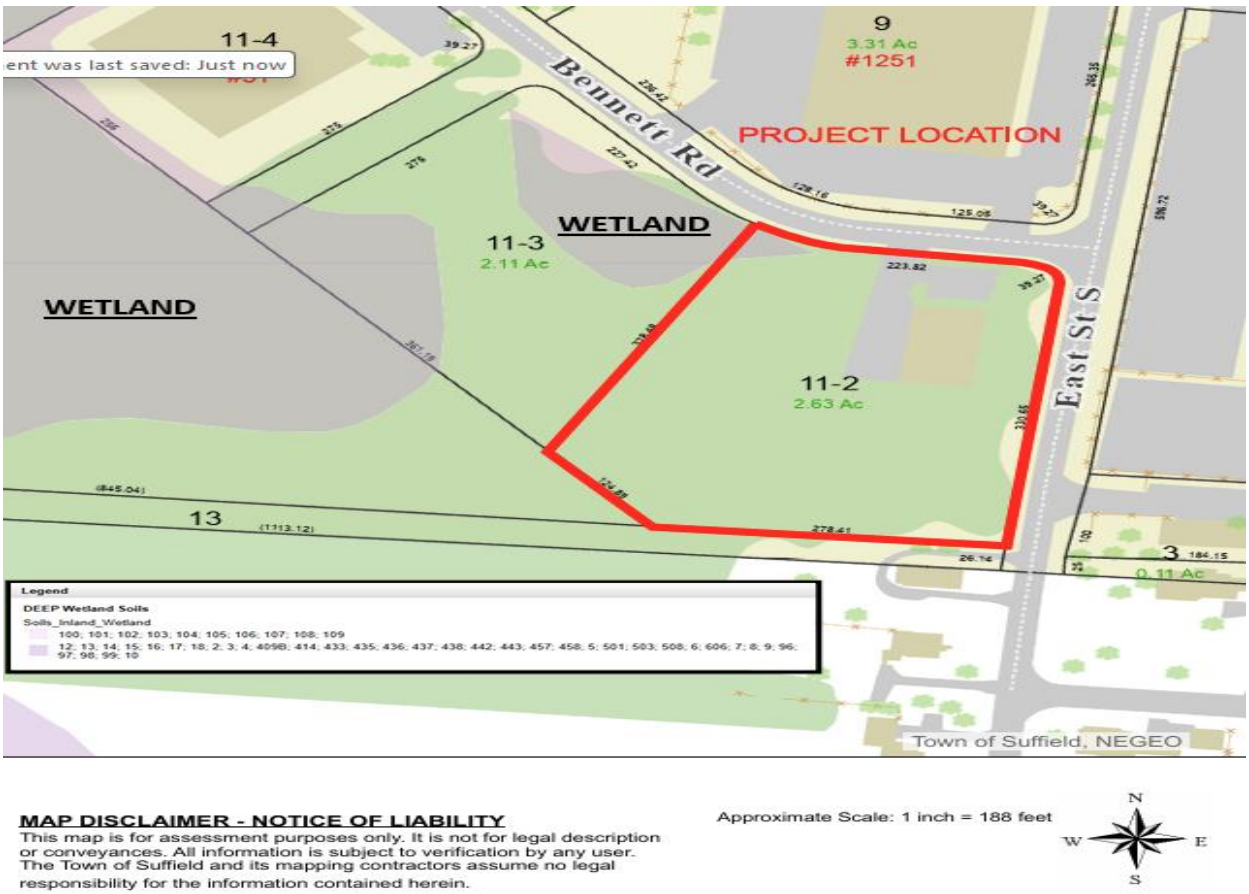


Figure 2: Wetlands Map
Map Source: Petitioner Documentation

Visual Impacts

DEEP staff believe that visual impacts have the potential to be a factor for the project. The proposed project site is located on industrial warehouse grounds situated on a busy main road that connects Windsor Locks to Suffield. The residential property, located at 104 East Street S, has the potential to have a partial seasonal view of the fuel cell facility through the abutting wooded area. The anticipated visual impact will be more prevalent during the seasonal leaf abscission. It is anticipated that the visual impact will be less prevalent during seasonal leaf sprouting due to the camouflage provided by the foliage. The proposed 8' fencing with black slats is anticipated to provide additional screening.

Noise

The transformers at fuel cell facilities create noise which can be intrusive to homes located in close proximity. DEEP staff believe that noise impacts have the potential to be a factor for the Project. According to the Petitioner, a sound evaluation conducted by Tad Hardy, P.E. Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., concluded that the operational noise levels from the fuel cell site are estimated to be near or below 52 dB(A) at the nearest residential land use property boundary. These levels do not comply with DEEP's noise impact criteria which regulates noise from exceeding 61 dBA during the day and 51 dBA at night. The anticipated nighttime noise levels have the potential to be out of compliance with DEEP's noise criteria. If

the facility is approved for development, DEEP suggests that a post-construction noise study be conducted to determine whether additional noise attenuation may be necessary.

Other Considerations

The project was selected for the Shared Clean Energy Facilities ("SCEF") program. The statewide SCEF program seeks the deployment of new or incremental Class 1 renewable generation projects for a 20-year term. Projects are chosen through a competitive bidding procurement process each year. The program provides on-bill credits to lower energy bills for low-income and other eligible subscribers. Bidders provide environmental information as part of their proposal and must confirm acknowledgement of potential permits and other required siting processes, as well as avoidance of core forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this application and to submit these comments to the Connecticut Siting Council. DEEP's comments are based on information available for review as of the date of this letter, which may not fully apply if elements of this petition are modified through the Siting Council's administrative review process. Since this petition may be modified, these comments should not be considered to be a final endorsement or rejection for the public record.

Respectfully yours,

Laschone P. Garrison

Laschone P. Garrison
Environmental Analyst 3