



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of October 22, 2020

A tele-conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, October 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order with a quorum present by Presiding Officer Robert Silvestri at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Robert Silvestri
Presiding Officer
Edward Edelson
Michael Harder
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

Quat Nguyen
(designee for Chairman Gillett)
Robert Hannon
(designee for Commissioner Dykes)
John Morissette

Staff Members Present:

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Fred Cunliffe
Supervising Siting Analyst
Ifeanyichukwu Nwankwo
Siting Analyst

Christina Walsh
Supervising Siting Analyst
Robert Mercier
Siting Analyst
Michael Perrone
Siting Analyst

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

1. Minutes of October 8, 2020.

Mr. Harder moved to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2020; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed with Mr. Nguyen abstaining.

2. PETITION NO. 1347A – GRE GACRUX 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 16.78-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 117 Oil Mill Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's existing substation at 325 Waterford Parkway North in Waterford, Connecticut. Reopening of this petition based on changed conditions pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a(b). Draft Findings of Fact.

Mr. Edelson is recused from this matter.

After reviewing the draft Findings of Fact, Presiding Officer Silvestri conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Morissette, Mr. Hannon and Mr. Silvestri in favor of the proposed project; Mr. Harder voting no; Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Lynch abstaining; and Mr. Edelson recusing.

Presiding Officer Silvestri directed staff to draft a favorable Opinion and Decision and Order to be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. **PETITION NO. 1408 – FairWindCT, Inc., et al petition, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176, for a declaratory ruling that: (a) the January 9, 2020 Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan) Modification submitted by BNE Energy, Inc. in Petition No. 983 conflicts with the Connecticut Siting Council's (Council) June 2, 2011 final decision on Petition No. 983; (b) the Council did not have jurisdiction over the D&M Plan Modification; (c) the Council did not have statutory authority to approve the D&M Plan Modification; (d) the D&M Plan Modification violated due process rights; and (e) the D&M Plan Modification violates the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Morissette moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e), Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and Governor Lamont's March 25, 2020 Executive Order No. 7M, as no later than February 26, 2021; seconded by Mr. Harder. The motion passed with Mr. Lynch recusing.

4. **PETITION NO. 1417 – Watertown Solar One, LLC and VCP, LLC d/b/a Verogy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.975 megawatt AC solar photovoltaic generating facility located at 669 Platt Road, Watertown, Connecticut, and associated electrical connection. Request for Party Status.**

Mr. Hannon moved to grant Party status to Renee Hodge; seconded by Mr. Edelson. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **PETITION NO. 1428 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of an omni-directional antenna on an existing approximately 50-foot wood pole and associated radio communications equipment located at Eversource-owned Branford 11J substation property, 272 East Main Street, Branford, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Harder moved to approve this petition with the condition noted in the staff report and with the recommendation that Eversource consider reducing the size of the 1,000-gallon propane fuel tank

associated with the emergency backup generator; seconded by Mr. Edelson. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **TS-VER-025-200827 - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 1325 Cheshire Street, Cheshire, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Morissette moved to approve this tower share request with the condition that any changes be delegated to Council staff; seconded by Mr. Edelson. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Administrative Matters.**

The following calendar dates were discussed:

- Docket No. 491, Thursday, October 29, 2020, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing
- Energy/Telecommunications telemeeting, Thursday, November 5, 2020, beginning at **1:00 p.m.**
- Petition No. 1410, Tuesday, November 10, 2020, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing
- Docket No. 492, Thursday, November 12, 2020, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing
- Petition No. 1425, Tuesday, November 17, 2020, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing
- Energy/Telecommunications telemeeting, Thursday, November 19, 2020, beginning at **1:00 p.m.**

Adjournment.

Mr. Lynch moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Edelson. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer Silvestri adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf