



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting of April 8, 2021

A tele-conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, April 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order with a quorum present by Presiding Officer John Morissette at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

John Morissette
Presiding Officer
Edward Edelson
Louanne Cooley
Michael Harder
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr. (departed at 2:13 p.m.)

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

Staff Members Present:

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

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

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

Presiding Officer Morissette welcomed Ms. Cooley to the Council.

1. Minutes of March 25, 2021.

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve the Minutes of March 25, 2021; seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion passed with Ms. Cooley abstaining.

2. **DOCKET NO. 495 – Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut. Draft Findings of Fact.**

Mr. Lynch stated that he read the record of the proceeding.

After reviewing the draft Findings of Fact, Mr. Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Silvestri in favor of the proposed project, constructed as a monopine facility with the compound shifted slightly to avoid the removal of a tree and the planting of landscape shrubs; Mr. Edelson and Mr. Nguyen in favor of the project with the compound shift and shrub plantings, and undecided as to a monopine or monopole facility; Mr. Lynch, Mr. Hannon, Mr. Harder and Mr. Morissette in favor of a monopole facility with the compound shift and shrub plantings; and Ms. Cooley abstaining.

Mr. Morissette directed staff to draft a favorable Opinion and Decision and Order to be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. **DOCKET NO. 498 – Diamond Towers V, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 185 Academy Road (Route 68/Route 70), Cheshire, Connecticut. Completeness Review, Schedule, Deposition of the Transcript, Request for Party/Intervenor Status.**

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the schedule per staff recommendations; seconded by Mr. Silvestri. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to grant Intervenor Status to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless; seconded by Mr. Silvestri. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **DOCKET NO. 499 - Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut. Completeness Review, Schedule, Deposition of the Transcript.**

Mr. Edelson moved to approve the schedule per staff recommendations; seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **PETITION NO. 1134A - New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC request to amend its declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on an existing Eversource-owned electric transmission line structure (#935) within an existing Eversource-owned electric transmission line right-of-way located off of Rivergate Drive, Wilton, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Edelson moved to approve this request to amend the declaratory ruling with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Harder. The motion passed with Ms. Cooley abstaining.

6. **PETITION NO. 1422 - Greenskies Clean Energy, 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 4.99-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility to be located at Mulnrite Farms, Inc. off Barber Hill Road west of the intersection with Rockville Road, East Windsor, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection. Draft Findings of Fact.**

Mr. Lynch stated that he read the record of the proceeding.

After reviewing the draft Findings of Fact, Mr. Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Silvestri, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Harder, and Mr. Morissette in favor of the proposed project with the conditions that the solar panels selected pass the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test; Greenskies continue discussions with Eversource Energy to reduce the visual impacts of the riser/meter poles; Greenskies discuss the potential impacts of sheep grazing with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Stormwater Division; the existing farm road access remain unimpeded as a result of development of the project and its stormwater basins; and submission of a Development and Management Plan; Mr. Edelson, Mr. Nguyen, and Mr. Hannon in favor of the project supporting all conditions presented except TCLP testing; and Ms. Cooley abstaining.

Mr. Morissette directed staff to draft a favorable Opinion and Decision and Order to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Lynch departed the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

7. **PETITION NO. 1431 – SunJet Energy, 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 1.99-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated electrical interconnection located at 0, 78 and 84 Thomson Road in Bethlehem, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Edelson moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Silvestri. The motion passed with Mr. Harder voting no and Ms. Cooley abstaining.

8. **PETITION NO. 1443 - SR North Stonington, 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 9.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on five parcels located north and south of Providence New London Turnpike (State Route 184), west of Boombridge Road and north of Interstate 95 in North Stonington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Town of North Stonington Request for Public Hearing.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve the Town of North Stonington's Request for a Public Hearing; seconded by Mr. Edelson. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Administrative Matters.**

The following calendar dates were discussed:

- Docket No. 497, Tuesday, April 13, 2021, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications telemeeting, Thursday, April 22, 2021, beginning at **1:00 p.m.**

Adjournment.

Mr. Silvestri moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Harder. The motion passed unanimously. Presiding Officer Morissette adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf