

<b>PETITION NO. 1592</b> – Santa Fuel, Inc. petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 3.85-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 159 South Road, Somers, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.	} Connecticut
	} Siting
	} Council

March 8, 2024

### **DRAFT Decision and Order**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50k(a), CGS §4-176 and the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 3.85 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated electrical interconnection at 159 South Road, Somers, Connecticut, as proposed, would have a substantial adverse environmental effect, would not meet all applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Water Quality Standards, and therefore, the Council will not issue a declaratory ruling on the petition for the proposed solar photovoltaic electric generating facility.

The Council finds that the proposed Project will have an adverse effect on water quality by not including adequate buffer areas to on-site wetlands and waterbodies with a diverse amphibian population. Additionally, the Council finds there is insufficient information regarding the potential redesign of the site to create buffers to an abutting residential property and South Road, as well as insufficient information regarding a potential redesign of the interconnection route to either eliminate utility poles or place them in an area with less of a visual impact.

We hereby direct that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each party and intervenor or its authorized representative, as listed in the Service List, dated September 19, 2023, and notice of issuance published in the Journal Inquirer in accordance with CGS §4-180(c) and CGS §16-50p(f).

By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party and intervenor named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-17.