



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of October 12, 2023

A Zoom remote conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023. 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
Robert Hannon
Robert Silvestri

Brian Golembiewski
(designee for Commissioner Dykes)
Quat Nguyen
(designee for Chairman Gillett)

Council Members Absent:

Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

Staff Members Present:

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Robert Mercier
Siting Analyst
Ifeanyichukwu Nwankwo
Siting Analyst

Christina Walsh
Supervising Siting Analyst
Michael Perrone
Siting Analyst
Adam N. Morrone
Siting Analyst

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

1. Minutes of September 28, 2023.

Mr. Nguyen moved to approve the Minutes of September 28, 2023; seconded by Mr. Silvestri. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **FORECAST 2023 - Connecticut Siting Council 2023 Review of the Ten-Year Forecast of Connecticut Electric Loads and Resources. Public Comment Session Schedule.**

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

3. **DOCKET NO. 511 – Barrett Outdoor Communications Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 200 East Main Street Rear, Stratford, Connecticut. Development and Management Plan.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve the Development and Management Plan with the condition noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **DOCKET NO. 516 – The United Illuminating Company (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of its existing 115- kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from the railroad catenary structures to new steel monopole structures and related modifications along approximately 7.3 miles of the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Metro-North Railroad corridor between Structure B648S located east of Sasco Creek in Fairfield and UI’s Congress Street Substation in Bridgeport, and the rebuild of two existing 115-kV transmission lines along 0.23 mile of existing UI right-of-way to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI’s existing Ash Creek, Resco, Pequonnock and Congress Street Substations traversing the municipalities of Bridgeport and Fairfield, Connecticut. BJ’s Wholesale Club, Inc. Motion for Protective Order – Proprietary Information.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to grant the Motion for Protective Order, related to disclosure of proprietary information contained in its 90-day log of truck activity and future gas station site plan; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **PETITION NO. 754 - Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields. Annual Review.**

Mr. Silvestri moved that no revisions be made to the Council’s current Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields, dated December 30, 2022; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **PETITION NO. 1278B - Bloom Energy Corporation, as an agent for Medtronic Inc., second request to amend to its declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, operation and maintenance of an additional customer-side 2,000-kilowatt fuel cell facility to be located at the Medtronic campus, 195 McDermott Road, North Haven, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to approve the request to amend this declaratory ruling with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **PETITION NO. 1572 – East Windsor Solar Two, 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 4.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 31 Thrall Road, East Windsor, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, Decision and Order.**

After reviewing the Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order, Presiding Officer Morissette took a final vote of each Council member with Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Mr. Hannon, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting to approve the draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order, as amended, with the additional conditions to submit plans to shift the equipment pads outside of the stormwater basin; conduct soil testing; submit final Vernal Pool Best Management Practices; perform a pre-construction investigation of area wells and provide plans to prevent impacts to such wells; and Mr. Silvestri voting no.

After taking up Item No. 14, the Council returned to this item and Presiding Officer Morissette polled the Council members with Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Mr. Hannon, and Presiding Officer Morissette in favor of removing the condition to conduct soil testing from the Decision and Order because it is unsupported by the record and Mr. Silvestri providing no comment.

8. **PETITION NO. 1580 – CT Solar PDF, 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 1.45-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at two parcels on the Medtronic campus at 86 Quinnipiac Avenue and 195 McDermott Road, North Haven, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Decision.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report and the additional condition to implement the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)-recommended eastern box turtle protective measures in the February 9, 2023, DEEP Natural Diversity Database determination letter, as applicable; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **PETITION NO. 1582 - 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 Pootatuck to West Devon Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 3.3 miles of its existing electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) 1580, 1241, 1483 and 1545 Lines between The United Illuminating Company's (UI) Pootatuck Substation in Shelton, UI's Trap Falls Substation in Shelton and Eversource's West Devon Junction in Stratford, traversing the municipalities of Shelton and Stratford, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. Decision.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report and the additional conditions to implement the Vernal Pool Protection Plan and to submit a Post-Construction Temporary Wetland Impact Restoration Report for project areas where temporary matting is utilized; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **PETITION NO. 1589 – USS Somers Solar, 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Requests for Public Hearing.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to grant the requests for a public hearing; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **PETITION NO. 1590 – TowerNorth Development, LLC and New Cingular Wireless, PCS d/b/a AT&T petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed replacement of an existing municipal communications tower located at 13 Pomeroy Avenue, Meriden, Connecticut. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than February 28, 2024; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **PETITION NO. 1591 - KCE CT 5, 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 5.0-megawatt AC battery energy storage facility located at Village Hill Road, Stafford (Parcel No. 71-6) and Willington (Parcel No. 52-001-00), Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than March 9, 2024; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

13. **Connecticut Siting Council Revised Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Revised Budget.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to present the budget to the energy and telecommunications industries for comment; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

Tower Share Request Consent Calendar - Item No. 14

Presiding Officer Morissette introduced the Tower Share Request Consent Calendar as Item No. 14.

Mr. Silvestri moved to remove this item from the consent calendar; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

14. **TS-DISH-088-230922 - Dish Wireless, LLC request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 0 Clark Hill Road, Naugatuck, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve this tower share request with the additional condition to submit a corrected cover letter for the structure type identified under “E. Public Safety Concerns” prior to construction; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

After taking up Item No. 14, the Council returned to Item No. 7.

15. Administrative Matters

The following energy/telecommunications meeting dates were discussed:

- Docket No. 516, Tuesday, October 17, 2023, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, October 26, 2023, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing. **CANCELLED**
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, November 9, 2023, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Docket No. 516, Thursday, November 16, 2023, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Docket No. 517, Thursday, November 30, 2023, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.

Adjournment.

Mr. Silvestri moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer Morissette adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf