



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of July 18, 2024

A Zoom remote conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, July 18, 2024. 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
Khristine Hall
Bill Syme

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

Council Members Absent:

Chance Carter
Thomas Near, Ph.D.

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 Morrone
Siting Analyst

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

Introduction.

Presiding Officer Morissette welcomed Mr. Bill Syme to the Connecticut Siting Council.

1. Minutes of June 20, 2024.

Mr. Nguyen moved to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2024; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed with Mr. Syme abstaining.

2. **DOCKET NO. 392 - T-Mobile Northeast, LLC Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 387 Shore Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut. Motion to Reopen and Modify the Decision and Order.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to reopen the matter without a hearing to eliminate Condition No. 1 of the Decision and Order that required all wireless antennas to be installed using a T-arm mount design with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed with Mr. Syme abstaining.

3. **DOCKET NO. 509R - 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 1837 Ponus Ridge Road, New Canaan, Connecticut. Court -Ordered Remand Regarding Connecticut Siting Council Membership under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50j(b) - Draft Remand Findings of Fact.**

Ms. Hall stated that she read the record for this proceeding.

After reviewing the Draft Remand Findings of Fact, Presiding Officer Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Ms. Hall, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting in favor of the proposed facility; and Mr. Syme abstaining.

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

4. **DOCKET NO. 519 - 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 11 Chamberlain Road, East Windsor, Connecticut. Draft Findings of Fact.**

Mr. Nguyen stated that he read the record for this proceeding.

After reviewing the Draft Findings of Fact, Presiding Officer Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Ms. Hall, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting in favor of the proposed facility with the condition to permit public or private entities to share space on the proposed tower for fair consideration, or shall provide any requesting entity with specific legal, technical, environmental, or economic reasons precluding such tower sharing and development and management plan conditions to implement the Wetland, Vernal Pool and Aquifer Protection Plan and submit the final FAA determination; and Mr. Syme abstaining.

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

5. **DOCKET NO. 523 – The Towers, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment located at 425 Old Tavern Road, Orange, Connecticut. Completeness Review, Schedule, Deposition of the Transcript, Motion for Protective Order.**

Presiding Officer Morissette moved to approve the schedule per staff recommendations with a September 24, 2024 hearing date; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hall moved to grant the Motion for Protective Order, pursuant to CGS §1-210(b) related to the disclosure of monthly rent and financial terms contained within the lease agreement; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **PETITION NO. 1589R – 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. Court-granted Voluntary Remand Regarding Connecticut Siting Council Vote on Final Decision – Draft Remand Findings of Fact.**

Ms. Hall stated that she read the record for this proceeding.

After reviewing the Draft Remand Findings of Fact, Presiding Officer Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Golembiewski and Ms. Hall voting in favor of the proposed facility with the development and management plan condition to implement DEEP-recommended protective measures for the Savannah sparrow and Eastern box turtle; Mr. Nguyen and Presiding Officer Morissette voting no; and Mr. Syme abstaining.

The straw poll vote was tied. Presiding Officer Morissette directed staff to draft a Remand Opinion and Remand Decision and Order that a declaratory ruling will not be issued for the proposed facility due to a tie vote.

7. **PETITION NO. 1614 - 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 Christian Street Junction to Stevenson Substation Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 5.5 miles of its existing electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) 1580 and 1808 Lines between Christian Street Junction in Oxford and Stevenson Substation in Monroe, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. Decision.**

Ms. Hall moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report and amending Condition No. 6 to include submission of the environmental monitor's contact information and resume prior to the commencement of construction; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed with Mr. Syme abstaining.

8. **PETITION NO. 1615 – C-Tec 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 3.98-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at the former Hartford Landfill at 180 Leibert Road, Hartford, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Decision.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed with Mr. Syme abstaining.

9. **PETITION NO. 1620 - VFS, 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 920-kilowatt customer-side fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the York Correctional Institution, 199 West Main Street, East Lyme (Niantic), Connecticut. Decision.**

Ms. Hall moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed with Mr. Syme abstaining.

10. **PETITION NO. 1630 - VFS, 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 920-kilowatt customer-side fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the Putnam Dining Hall on the University of Connecticut campus, 2358 Alumni Drive, Storrs (Mansfield), Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report and the additional condition to submit a post-construction operational noise study that documents compliance with state standards and the identification of any noise mitigation measures that are

employed to adhere to the standards; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed with Mr. Syme abstaining.

11. **PETITION NO. 1633 - HyAxiom, 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 grid-side 4.939-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 540 Longbrook Avenue, Stratford, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Ms. Hall 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 December 2, 2024; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

Tower Share Request Consent Calendar - Item Nos. 12-13

Presiding Officer Morissette introduced the Tower Share Request Consent Calendar as Item Nos. 12-13. The Consent Calendar was adopted.

12. **TS-DISH-145-240614 – Dish Wireless, LLC request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 107 Stickney Hill Road, Union, Connecticut. Decision.**
13. **TS-VER-112-240628 - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 62 Babbitt Hill Road, Pomfret, Connecticut. Decision.**
14. **Administrative Matters**

The following energy/telecommunications meeting dates were discussed:

- Petition No. 1609, Tuesday, July 23, 2024, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, August 1, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Petition No. 1611, Tuesday, August 6, 2024, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, August 15, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Docket No. 522, Thursday, August 22, 2024, **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 Meeting, Thursday, August 29, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing

Presiding Officer Morissette thanked Mr. Silvestri for his years of dedicated service to the Council.

Adjournment.

Ms. Hall moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer Morissette adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanie A. Bachman', written in a cursive style.

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf