



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of August 1, 2024

A Zoom remote conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, August 1, 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

Michael Perrone
Siting Analyst
Ifenyichukwu Nwankwo
Siting Analyst

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

1. Minutes of July 18, 2024.

Ms. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2024; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **DOCKET NO. 508 – The United Illuminating Company (UI) Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Milvon to West River 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 to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI’s existing Milvon, Woodmont, Allings Crossing, Elmwest and West River substations along approximately 9.5 miles of the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Metro-North Railroad corridor traversing the municipalities of Milford, Orange, West Haven and New Haven, Connecticut. Partial Development and Management Plan IV – Segment 4.**

Ms. Hall moved to approve Partial Development and Management Plan IV; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

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, Opinion, and Decision and Order.**

After reviewing the Draft Remand Findings of Fact, Remand Opinion, and Remand Decision and Order, Presiding Officer Morissette took a final vote of each Council member with Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Ms. Hall, Mr. Syme, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting to approve the Draft Remand Findings of Fact, Remand Opinion, and Remand Decision and Order.

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, Opinion, and 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, Ms. Hall, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting to approve the draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order; and Mr. Syme abstaining.

5. **DOCKET NO. 524 – Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4.625-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at Fawn Meadow Lane (Parcel No. 029-018D), Woodbury, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection. Completeness Review, Schedule, Deposition of the Transcript.**

Ms. Hall moved to approve the schedule per staff recommendations; 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, Opinion, and Decision and Order.**

After reviewing the Draft Remand Findings of Fact, two Draft Remand Opinions, and two Draft Remand Decision and Orders for approval or denial, Presiding Officer Morissette took a final vote of each Council member with Mr. Golembiewski voting for approval; and Mr. Nguyen, Ms. Hall, Mr. Syme, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting for denial due to uncertainty related to the effects of the proposed facility on air navigation and aviation safety.

7. **PETITION NO. 1617 – Woodstock Solar One, LLC and VCP, LLC d/b/a Verogy, 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 and associated equipment located at 11 Castle Rock Road, Woodstock, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Decision.**

Ms. Hall moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report, amending paragraph 6 on page 4 of the staff report to include that WSO has not had any discussion with Eversource regarding the possibility of reducing/minimizing the number of poles required for the electric distribution level interconnection, but has had similar discussions with Eversource for other projects and that pad-mounted equipment should be standard operating procedure for both the customer-side and the utility side of the electric distribution level interconnection for solar facilities; and the additional conditions to shift the location of the eastern inverter bank an additional 100 feet toward the center of the solar array to increase the distance from the nearest residential property line; and to consider the installation of pad-mounted equipment on the customer side of the electric distribution level interconnection; seconded by Mr. Syme. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **PETITION NO. 1627 – LSE Libra LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.5-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 410 Denslow Hill Road, Hamden, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Decision.**

Ms. Hall moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Syme. The motion failed with Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Ms. Hall, Mr. Syme, and Presiding Officer Morissette voting to deny this petition due to the total acreage of forest clearing that is required to develop the proposed facility site.

9. **PETITION NO. 1632 – New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small wireless facility on a new Eversource-owned utility pole that is less than 50 feet in height and is not used principally for electric distribution service and associated equipment within the public right of way adjacent to 650 Main Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut. Decision.**

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

Tower Share Request Consent Calendar - Item No. 10

Presiding Officer Morissette introduced the Tower Share Request Consent Calendar as Item No. 10. The Consent Calendar was adopted.

10. **TS-DISH-057-240712 - Dish Wireless, LLC request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing telecommunications facility located at 5 Perryridge Road, Greenwich, Connecticut. Decision.**

11. Administrative Matters

The following energy/telecommunications meeting dates were discussed:

- 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
- Petition No. 1609, Tuesday, August 27, 2024, **continued evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.

- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, August 29, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing

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,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf