



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of October 24, 2024

A Zoom remote conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, October 24, 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
Chance Carter

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

Council Member Absent:

Daniel P. Lynch, Jr

Staff Members Present:

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Robert Mercier
Siting Analyst 2
Ifeyanichukwu Nwankwo
Siting Analyst 1

Christina Walsh
Supervising Siting Analyst
Michael Perrone
Siting Analyst 2
Adam Morrone
Siting Analyst 1

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

Introduction.

Presiding Officer Morissette welcomed Ms. Elin Swanson Katz to the Connecticut Siting Council.

1. Minutes of October 10, 2024.

Ms. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of October 10, 2024; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed with Mr. Carter and Ms. Katz abstaining.

2. DOCKET NO. 522 – Stafford Solar One, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4.0-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 92 Upper Road, Stafford, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection. Draft Findings of Fact.

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, Mr. Carter, Ms. Hall, Mr. Syme, and Presiding Officer Morissette in favor of approving the facility with the Development and Management Plan conditions to include an agricultural activity plan, if an agricultural activity is implemented, with a document that shall indemnify and hold harmless the Council, its agents, representatives and employees from any and all losses, claims, actions, costs and expenses, judgments, subrogations, or other damages resulting from any injury to a person or to property arising out of the presence of third-parties within the fenced solar facility site; relocation of the transformer/inverter pads approximately 200 feet to the northwest and reorient the inverter layout to increase the distance to the abutting property line; a Whip-poor-will Protection Plan; a report after consultation with Eversource as to the feasibility of relocating the three interconnection poles further north to reduce visibility; and with the Decision and Order conditions to furnish a bond for costs associated with decommissioning the facility and restoration of the prime farmland soils within the boundaries of the site as identified in Application Figure 6 at the end of the solar facility's useful life in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k(a) and the site lease agreement, and consultation with emergency responders regarding control of brush fires at the facility site; and Ms. Katz abstaining.

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

3. DOCKET NO. 526 – Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4.999-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at Lantern Hill Road (Parcel No. 169-1-4), Stonington, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection. Completeness Review, Schedule, Deposition of the Transcript.

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

4. **PETITION NO. 923A - Fuel Cell Energy, Inc. amended petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the installation and operation of a Fuel Cell test facility located at 539 Technology Park Drive, Torrington, Connecticut. Motion for Protective Order – Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-22a(d) – Proprietary Information.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to grant the Motion for Protective Order pursuant to RCSA §16-50j-22a(d) related to the disclosure of trade secrets associated with the Site Infrastructure Location Plan; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **PETITION NO. 1395A – Windham Solar LLC amended declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of one 1.0-megawatt (MW) and one 0.99 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facilities located at 31 Benz Street, Ansonia, Connecticut. Partial Development and Management Plan II.**

Mr. Carter moved to approve Partial Development and Management Plan II with the conditions noted in the staff report and the additional condition to submit an annual maintenance plan for the landscaping that shall be implemented for the life of the facility; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed with Ms. Katz abstaining.

6. **PETITION NO. 1592A – 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. Reopening of this petition based on changed conditions pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a(b). Schedule.**

Mr. Carter moved to table this item; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed with Ms. Katz abstaining.

7. **PETITION NO. 1611 – LSE Scutum LLC and LSE Bootes 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 1.93-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 141 Town Farm Road, and Parcel Nos. 86-326 and 86-164, Abbe Road, Enfield, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. 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, Mr. Carter, Ms. Hall and Presiding Officer Morissette voting to approve the draft Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order; Mr. Syme voting no; and Ms. Katz abstaining.

8. **PETITION NO. 1634 – IPB Fuel Cell 1, LLC and IPB Fuel Cell 2, LLC (FuelCell Energy, 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 customer-side 1-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the Innovation Partnership Building on the University of Connecticut campus, 159 Discovery Drive, Storrs (Mansfield), Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Decision.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report, seconded by Mr. Carter. The motion passed with Ms. Katz abstaining.

9. **PETITION NO. 1635 – 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 195-kilowatt customer-side fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at the Taft School, 110 Woodbury Road, Watertown, Connecticut. Decision.**

Mr. Carter moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Syme. The motion passed with Ms. Hall voting no and Ms. Katz abstaining.

10. **PETITION NO. 1639 – T-Mobile Northeast LLC (T-Mobile) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for proposed modifications to an existing telecommunications facility and associated equipment located at 323 Route 81, Killingworth, 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 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-40(c), as no later than February 2, 2025; seconded by Mr. Syme. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **PETITION NO. 1640 - 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 Towantic Substation to Beacon Falls Junction Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 4.6 miles of two of its existing electric transmission line right-of-ways shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) 1142, 1319, 1403, 1580, 1619, and 1808 Lines between Towantic Substation, Christian Street Junction and Beacon Falls Junction in Oxford, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. 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 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-40(c), as no later than March 4, 2025; seconded by Ms. Katz. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **PETITION NO. 1643 - 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 2.95-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment to be located at 77 Pompeo Road, Thompson, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Request for Hearing.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to approve the requests for a public hearing; seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

13. **Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Biennium Budget.**

Ms. Hall moved to table this item; seconded by Mr. Carter. 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. The Consent Calendar was adopted.

14. **TS-VER-132-240927 - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless request for an order to approve tower sharing at an approved telecommunications facility located at 99 Dart Hill Road, South Windsor, Connecticut. Decision.**

15. **Administrative Matters**

The following energy/telecommunications meeting dates were discussed:

- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, November 7, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Petition No. 1637, Tuesday, November 19, 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, November 21, 2024, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.

Adjournment.

Mr. Carter moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously. Presiding Officer Morissette adjourned the meeting at 1:53 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