FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Energy Policy Advocates,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2020-0267

Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General,

Respondents

July 10, 2024

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on March 1, 2021, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state's response to it, the hearing was conducted through the use of electronic equipment (remotely) pursuant to §149 of Public Act 21-2 (June Special Session).

A Report of Hearing officer, dated January 21, 2022, was considered by the Commission at its regular meeting of February 23, 2022. After deliberations, the Commission unanimously voted to remand the matter to staff for further consideration.²

By email dated and filed June 27, 2024, the complainant informed the Commission that it wished to withdraw the complaint. The Commission takes administrative notice of such email.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

On March 14, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 7B, which suspended the requirement to conduct public meetings in person. In addition, on March 25, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 7M, thereby suspending the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-206(b)(1), which requires the Freedom of Information Commission to hear and decide an appeal within one year after the filing of such appeal. Executive Order 7M is applicable to any appeal pending with the Commission on the issuance date and to any appeal filed on or after such date, through June 30, 2021. Consequently, the Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter.

² After the case was remanded to staff, the undersigned counsel was designated as the hearing officer in this matter, as the hearing officer who presided over the March 1, 2021 contested case hearing was no longer a member of the Commission's staff.

1. Based on the withdrawal of the complaint, the case is hereby dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of July 10, 2024.

Jennifer M. Mayo Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

ENERGY POLICY ADVOCATES, c/o Attorney Margaret A. Little, New Civil Liberties Alliance, 1225 19th Street NW, Suite 450, Washington DC 20036 and Attorney Matthew D. Hardin, 1725 I Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006

ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, c/o Assistant Attorney General Matthew F. Fitzsimmons, Office of the Attorney General, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Jennifer M. Mayo

Acting Clerk of the Commission

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