

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
3

4 Petition No. 1184

5 Petition From Beacon Falls Energy Park, LLC,
6 for a Declaratory Ruling that No Certificate
7 of Environmental Compatibility and Public
8 Need is Required for the Proposed
9 Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
10 63.3 Megawatt Fuel Cell Facility Located at
11 Lopus Road, Beacon Falls, Connecticut
12

13 Siting Council Public Hearing held at
14 the Beacon Falls Firehouse, 35 North Main
15 Street, Beacon Falls, Connecticut, Thursday,
16 November 6, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
17

18 H e l d B e f o r e:

19 ROBIN STEIN, Chairman
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1 A p p e a r a n c e s:

2 Council Members:

3 JAMES J. MURPHY, JR.,
4 Vice Chairperson

5
6 ROBERT HANNON,
7 DEEP Designee

8
9 LARRY LEVESQUE, ESQ.
10 PURA Designee

11
12 PHILIP T. ASHTON
13 DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

14
15 Council Staff:

16 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,
17 Executive Director and
18 Staff Attorney

19
20 ROBERT MERCIER
21 Siting Analyst

22
23
24
25

1 A p p e a r a n c e s : (c o n t ' d)

2

3 For BEACON FALLS ENERGY PARK, LLC:

4 PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC.

5 90 State House Square

6 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3702

7 By: LEE D. HOFFMAN, ESQ.

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening,
2 ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call to
3 order the meeting, please.

4 I'd like to call to order this
5 meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council
6 today Thursday, November 5, 2015, at
7 approximately 7 p.m. My name is Robin Stein.
8 I'm Chairman of the Siting Council.

9 Other members of the Council
10 are Senator Murphy, Vice Chairman;
11 Mr. Hannon, designee from the Department of
12 Energy and Environmental Protection;
13 Mr. Levesque, designee from the Public
14 Utilities Regulatory Authority; Mr. Ashton;
15 Mr. Lynch; and our Staff Executive Director,
16 Staff Attorney Melanie Bachman.

17 This is a continuation of a
18 hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon.
19 Copies of the hearing program and the
20 Citizen's Guide to Siting Council Procedures
21 are available for members of the public.
22 They are, I think, at the podium, podium
23 area.

24 This hearing is held pursuant
25 to the provisions of Title 16 of the

1 Connecticut General Statutes and of the
2 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon a
3 petition from Beacon Falls Energy Park, LLC,
4 for a declaratory ruling that no certificate
5 of environmental compatibility and public
6 need is required for the proposed
7 construction, operation and maintenance of a
8 63.3-megawatt fuel-cell facility located on
9 Lopus Road in Beacon Falls, Connecticut.

10 The petition was received by
11 the Council on August 31, 2015. The
12 Council's legal notice of the date and time
13 of this hearing was published in the
14 Waterbury Republican American on October 6,
15 2015.

16 Upon this Council's request
17 the petitioner erected a sign at the proposed
18 site so as to inform the public of the name
19 of the petitioner, type of facility, hearing
20 date and location, and contact information
21 for the Council.

22 This afternoon members of the
23 Council, staff and public personally
24 conducted a field review of the proposed site
25 in order to observe firsthand the potential

1 effects of the proposal.

2 This hearing session tonight
3 has been reserved for the public to make
4 short statements into the record. These
5 public statements are not subject to
6 questions from the parties or the Council.
7 And members of the public making statements
8 may not ask questions of the petitioner or
9 the Council. These statements will become
10 part of the record for Council consideration.

11 A sign-up sheet is available
12 for those who would like to participate.
13 Again, the sign-up sheet I think is over to
14 where the podium is.

15 As a reminder to all,
16 off-the-record communication with a member of
17 the Council or a member of the Council staff
18 upon the merits of this petition is
19 prohibited by law.

20 I wish to note for those of
21 you who are here and for the benefits of your
22 friends and neighbors who are unable to join
23 us for public comment session, that you or
24 they may send written statements to the
25 Council within 30 days of the date hereof and

1 such written statements will be given the
2 same weight as if spoken at the hearing.

3 We ask each person making a
4 public statement in these proceedings to
5 confine his or her statements to the subject
6 matter before the Council and to avoid
7 unreasonable repetition so that we may hear
8 all of your concerns and your neighbor's
9 concerns. Again, please be advised that the
10 Council cannot specifically answer questions
11 from the public about the proposal.

12 A verbatim transcript will be
13 made of this hearing, and also of this
14 afternoon's hearing, and deposited at the
15 Beacon Falls Town Clerk's office for the
16 convenience of the public.

17 Before I call on members of
18 the public to make statements, I request that
19 the petitioner make a very brief presentation
20 to the public describing the facility, its
21 location, why it's necessary and what
22 alternatives were investigated.

23 MR. CORVO: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 My name is Bill Corvo. I'm

1 the Manager of Beacon Falls Energy Park, LLC.
2 And we're here tonight to present a brief
3 comment and description of what this project
4 is all about.

5 Beacon Falls Energy Park, LLC,
6 is proposing the development of a
7 63.3-megawatt energy generation facility
8 using fuel-cell equipment to be provided by
9 FuelCell Energy and it will be located on
10 property it has under option in the town of
11 Beacon Falls, Connecticut.

12 As you can see, this is a
13 location drawing which shows the location of
14 our property here. It's 25.2 acres off
15 Gruber Road and we have Metro-North on one
16 side and Gruber Road is here.

17 The property in Beacon Falls
18 is a former sand and gravel mine which has
19 not been used for quite some time, except for
20 an occasional motorcycle or off-road vehicle
21 on the property. It's bordered, as I said,
22 by Metro-North on one side and has a limited
23 number of residential neighbors on the
24 eastern border of the property. It is zoned
25 industrial.

1 We selected this site
2 following a review of other potential sites
3 at different locations around Connecticut.
4 At the end of the day the property was
5 selected because O&G is the owner of the
6 property. It's the parent company of Beacon
7 Falls Energy Park, LLC, which is a
8 wholly-owned subsidiary.

9 The property has a combination
10 of good zoning terrain, limited residential
11 impacts and its proximity to the electrical
12 interconnection located at nearby Cold
13 Springs Road. These are all important
14 positive elements that we took into
15 consideration before moving on this project.

16 Finally, the other thing was
17 we took a hard look at the Town of Beacon
18 Falls. O&G has been a taxpayer in Beacon
19 Falls for a number of years and they've
20 always had a wonderful relationship with the
21 Town. We think this is a great town and it
22 provides a great location for us to put this
23 renewable energy project.

24 Let's talk about the
25 technology. Why did we select fuel-cell

1 energy for this location? The reason we
2 selected fuel cells is because we took a look
3 at solar panels, and solar panels require
4 approximately five acres to produce one
5 megawatt of electricity.

6 We also took a look at wind
7 turbines. And wind turbines would have been
8 extremely disruptive because the wind
9 turbines that we were looking at are 2 and
10 half megawatts each and the propellers alone
11 are 300 feet. And I think the Siting Council
12 is aware of the various problems with placing
13 wind turbines in proximity to residential
14 neighborhoods. We did not want to do that.

15 So we opted for fuel-cell
16 technology. It's a class one renewable
17 technology here in Connecticut. It's
18 extremely clean. It uses a chemical process
19 to make electricity and it has very low
20 noise. And the way the project is designed
21 and where it's located will have a very low
22 visibility.

23 Finally, on July 7th, we had
24 an initial meeting with Selectman Bielik to
25 praise him of the fact that we were

1 interested in doing this. And we asked that
2 he put together a meeting for us so that we
3 could make the public aware of our interest.
4 That was back in March of this year.

5 That was followed up on
6 July 7th. A number of you I recognize from
7 attending the meeting that we held at the
8 high school, the regional high school on July
9 7th, where 83 people from the community came
10 down. And we did a two and a half hour
11 presentation where we covered substantially
12 all of the concerns and the engineering
13 designs and other things that go into making
14 the Beacon Falls Energy Park a reality.

15 So at the end of the day what
16 we have is a 63.3-megawatt class one
17 renewable energy facility. As the developers
18 of this facility we have worked hard to
19 provide the Town of Beacon Falls and those
20 charged with the responsibility of reviewing
21 our project with all the technical and
22 engineering information and data required to
23 obtain project approvals for the development.

24 Our relationship with the
25 Siting Council, assuming that we get

1 approval, is a continuous one. It doesn't
2 evaporate after we obtain a permit. It goes
3 on. We have to do what they call a D and M
4 plan, and basically we are responsible to the
5 Siting Council for any promises that get made
6 and any conditions that they want to impose
7 on the project, as the representatives of the
8 State of Connecticut that approve these
9 things.

10 Our philosophy of development
11 has always been to bring forward a
12 first-class project, while attempting to
13 minimize to the best of our ability any
14 potential negative impacts of the development
15 and future operation of this project in the
16 community.

17 And finally on an extremely
18 positive note, the benefits to Beacon Falls
19 for bringing this project forward are that
20 it's going to have a very low noise profile,
21 an extremely low pollution profile, a low
22 visibility, and it's going to be paying
23 substantial tax dollars to the community
24 without having -- with having only an
25 extremely minimal impact of a negative type.

1 That concludes my formal
2 statement, Mr. Chair.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
4 We'll now start with the
5 public and see who else has signed up. The
6 First Selectman, do you want to say anything.

7 CHRIS BIELIK: Yes. Thank you
8 very much. Chris Bielik, the First Selectman
9 of Beacon Falls.

10 I had the opportunity to sit
11 in on the three o'clock session, the matinee,
12 if you will.

13 And I want to express on the
14 Town of Beacon Falls' behalf our appreciation
15 to the members of the Siting Council for the
16 very thorough, I think, job that was done
17 earlier this afternoon where the questions
18 that were put to the development group, I
19 think, really dug down into certain areas
20 that I think have been expressed as concerns
21 by the members of the town in previous
22 forums, including the July 7th session that
23 we had with Beacon Falls Energy Park, LLC.
24 So thank you, again for doing that on our
25 behalf.

1 This is our opportunity now to
2 express from the public's perspective how we
3 feel about it. And I encourage everybody
4 that's here tonight, if you've got something
5 that you would like to say, please take this
6 opportunity to do it. This is a chance to
7 get things on the record before the Siting
8 Council makes any kind of a decision.

9 And you folks, at the head
10 table there, you're acting on behalf of the
11 Town of Beacon Falls. So we appreciate what
12 you're going to be doing for us and we look
13 forward to hearing what the ultimate result
14 is going to be.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very
17 much.

18 And I'll apologize in advance
19 if I mispronounce names, but the first person
20 on the list is Shawn McSherry.

21 SHAWN McSHERRY: Hello. Okay.
22 This is a great idea of bringing it into the
23 town. It is an asset that the town. I just
24 had a couple concerns. I live on Gruber
25 Road. It is in my front yard.

1 The noise survey that they
2 did, I went online. There, their chart
3 comparison for what the plant noise put out
4 and what they actually did as far as a
5 survey, they're calling it a 35 DBA at
6 nighttime and a 50 DBA during the daytime, as
7 far as the noise limits.

8 And from what the information
9 online is saying, the plant runs at 61 all
10 the time. Is this a question and answer? Or
11 just a question and that's it?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: It's a
13 question. If there are not too many
14 questions or too many comments, at the end
15 I'll do one of two things to see if we can
16 get it answered, or what I also suggest since
17 most, if not all of the consultant's team is
18 here present, that once we formally close the
19 meeting I'll ask them to stick around as they
20 have their charts and maps. And maybe they
21 can answer questions specifically.

22 SHAWN McSHERRY: Okay.
23 They're talking about putting a proposed
24 sound wall at the top, on the top of the hill
25 on Gruber road. Is that going to have a

1 negative impact bouncing the traffic noise
2 back at us?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: We're taking
4 now your --

5 SEAN McSHERRY: Yeah,
6 questions that may be answered later.

7 The dark lighting. They said
8 it's 25 foot. I know it's in a hole, but
9 dark lighting. Ansonia is in a hole and I
10 can see that on a good night.

11 Carbon dioxide, the plant has
12 carbon dioxide emissions. I know that
13 they're not hazardous, but how about
14 mosquitoes? How about bugs?

15 And just wasting the rodents.
16 I've lived here for almost 19 years. The
17 birds have a heyday down there with mice,
18 rats. Are they going to be displaced my way?

19 Nobody said anything about a
20 security threat assessment on any of the
21 paperwork I read, any literature. That's a
22 concern of mine. That's a big concern,
23 actually.

24 Ten percent, it fails
25 10 percent over a 30-year period as far as a

1 fuel cell is concerned. At 10 percent do
2 they replace them? Do they fix them? Or do
3 we run it at a 10 percent loss?

4 And your expansion right now,
5 you're looking at 8 acres and it's a 25-acre
6 parcel. Are they going to continue
7 expanding? And if so, is there a timeframe
8 on it?

9 And they said if it drops it
10 takes ten hours to come back up. That is
11 what it is.

12 Any other issues if something
13 foreseeable tragic goes wrong, hopefully it
14 never would, there's not very many ways out.
15 There's no emergency evac unless you're
16 running across the road. And that would be
17 about it.

18 That and there's no
19 groundwater being drilled, so it shouldn't
20 have an impact on our wells. If they're
21 bringing city sewer and water to this plant
22 with natural gas, our street doesn't have it.
23 Will they be able to offer it to us?

24 And I'll let other people ask
25 some questions. The online, as far as the

1 chart comparisons on this, everything that
2 compared the numbers they did on their survey
3 aren't there. It's blank. O&G procedure's
4 after that, about on-site work, and all that
5 picks up after that. That's about it.

6 There's got to be other people
7 with other questions. All right. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very
9 much.

10 The next one is Susan Cable.

11 SUSAN A. CABLE: Yes, I thank
12 all of you coming here who have talked before
13 many siting councils on other issues, as I'm
14 a past first selectman in this community.

15 I attended the July 7th
16 presentation and a lot of those questions
17 that you're going to hear tonight were not
18 answered. And so I know you'll be listening
19 closely and try to find those answers before
20 you make your decision.

21 But one of the questions I
22 asked and I couldn't get an answer -- well, I
23 got an answer and I tell you what it was, was
24 security, and you just heard about that a few
25 minutes ago from the previous speaker.

1 The security I was told, I
2 mean, this is going to be the largest in the
3 country and it's being, you know, glorified
4 as that. So security is an issue in our
5 little suburban town. And their response to
6 me and to the audience that time was there's
7 going to be a chain-link fence and a video
8 camera that was going to be monitored in, I
9 believe, Torrington.

10 Now we only have one police
11 officer on duty. Things can happen. So I
12 would ask in your plans, and their plans that
13 there be a more detailed security program in
14 line with this facility, because let's look
15 at around us in this society. It's not the
16 safest anymore like we used to believe in.

17 So I would hope that the
18 Siting Council really thinks about that and
19 that the developers put a little more --
20 concentrate on that. Instead of trying to
21 tell us of the benefits, help us keep it
22 secure.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 Ken Novak.

1 KEN NOVAK: Good evening,
2 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Ken Novak.
3 I'm a newer resident to this community, so
4 I'm here to ask a few questions.

5 My understanding, this is the
6 largest plant, larger than the one which is
7 in Korea right now. Question one, where is
8 the water coming from that's going to be used
9 for this site to run the plant?

10 Question two, what chemicals
11 are you using for your catalyst? Which
12 system are you using for your fuel cell
13 technology. Alkaline? Phosphoric acid?
14 Molten carbonate? Solid oxide? Proton
15 exchange?

16 What happens to the used fuel
17 cells, the fuel cell stacks, the exchange
18 membranes when they're worn out, which is
19 quite a few years? It's not three to four
20 years, I believe they wear out in. What is
21 produced as far as hazardous agents when
22 these membranes wear out?

23 Other concerns, hydrogen
24 leaks. We get you're using natural gas,
25 which to me is still a fossil fuel to get

1 your hydrogen to run your fuel cells. I
2 don't think there's any real gain by taking a
3 fossil fuel, making -- extracting the
4 hydrogen from it to create electricity.
5 You're still using fossil fuel in my opinion.
6 Natural gas leaks are another concern.

7 The gentleman that was up here
8 first brought up a question about noise and
9 noise pollution. Where is it measured from?
10 Is it measured at the boundaries? Is it
11 measured inside the plant area.

12 Because that all makes a
13 difference on the noise levels, the daily --
14 what do I have? How many decibels of noise
15 do you expect to produce daily? That was the
16 question. And where is it measured from?
17 Some environmental noise regulations limit
18 pure noise tones at property boundaries, not
19 just inside the area.

20 Also I believe you're going to
21 be storing hydrogen and natural gas on the
22 facility. What safety systems are in place
23 for the storage of the natural gas and the
24 hydrogen?

25 The other question is the fire

1 Department. Is the fire department equipped
2 to handle a large catastrophe that can
3 happen? And chances are small, let's say,
4 but the word "if" is in there. Are we
5 equipped as a fire department to handle some
6 type of catastrophic event that may happen?

7 And as I said before, water
8 and CO2 are the main -- no, I didn't say this
9 before. Water and CO2 are the main
10 byproducts of fuel-cell technology. CO2 is a
11 greenhouse gas. What happens to the CO2? Is
12 it vented to the atmosphere? Is it put into
13 a well and back into the earth, and the
14 carbon cycle is gone through again with this
15 carbon dioxide that's emitted?

16 And that's really about it.
17 My main concern is really we're just using
18 fossil fuel to create energy once again, and
19 that's what I see this as. And I hope these
20 questions help you with your decisions.

21 Thank you very much and have a
22 good evening.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

24 Brian Hourigan.

25 BRIAN HOURIGAN: Good evening.

1 I'm Brian Hourigan I live and 38 Gruber Road.
2 And I have several questions about this
3 project.

4 And I understand, after
5 talking to Mr. Corvo previous to this, that
6 these questions will not be answered. My
7 first question after looking at the diagram
8 was, where will the natural gas pipeline feed
9 into the energy park? And I was told that
10 Yankee Gas, I believe it is, would know that,
11 but of course they are not here.

12 Then I wanted to know from
13 them what safety and maintenance measures are
14 in place to ensure the safety of the
15 pipeline, since the National Transportation
16 Board and Safety Administration says that
17 there is an average of 27 serious natural gas
18 pipeline incidents a year resulting in many
19 deaths and millions and millions of dollars
20 of property damage.

21 I also wanted to ask them if
22 this pipeline would be federally regulated by
23 PHMSA, which is Pipeline Hazardous Materials
24 Safety Administration. Because if it is not
25 regulated by PHMSA then that means it is a

1 self-regulated or unregulated pipeline, which
2 is a scary proposition. Because many of the
3 pipeline leaks are the result of corrosion.
4 So that's why I'm so concerned about where
5 the pipeline will go in and what the
6 maintenance and monitoring provisions are,
7 but of course they're not here.

8 Then I wanted to know where
9 the high-tension wires and towers will be
10 placed, but of course Eversource is not here.
11 I asked that months ago at Woodland High
12 School. Eversource was not there. This is
13 troubling to me. I wanted to know what are
14 the levels of electromagnetic emissions that
15 come from these wires, but of course I can't
16 get that answer.

17 Then I guess the last thing, I
18 also am concerned about are the sound levels
19 since I live just really a stone's throw away
20 from the park. Forty-seven decibels emitted
21 from 21 stacks, I don't know what that sounds
22 like and I'm afraid to find out.

23 And the last comment I'd like
24 to make is to the fuel cell company. I've
25 been doing some research on the stock market.

1 I would like to know how do you explain fuel
2 cells' lackluster, albeit poor performance on
3 the stock market.

4 NASDAQ gives it a street
5 rating of D minus, citing poor profit
6 margins, weak operating cash flow,
7 disappointing historical performance, decades
8 of losses and limited market potential. Now
9 the tax dollars, what's going to happen when
10 the tax bill comes due and it's not there?

11 So these are some of the
12 concerns that I have. Thank you for
13 listening to me.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: The Fire Chief,
15 Jim Trzaski. I guess he's doing double duty
16 tonight.

17 JAMES TRZASKI: Good evening.
18 Jim Trzaski, the Fire Chief here at Beacon
19 Falls Company. Thank you for this
20 opportunity.

21 I know that it was probably
22 mentioned sometime this afternoon, but when
23 we first started talking about the energy
24 plant my main concern was the use of water.

25 Was there anything that was

1 addressed as to the plan for the use of water
2 and the amount? All right. So I'm sorry. I
3 missed the beginning. I was having another
4 meeting.

5 So again, I know in the
6 afternoon they were talking a little bit
7 about it, but still of the fire department
8 side of it, our concern is the amount that's
9 being used. We've calculated it out to be
10 about 200 gallons a minute, so we're looking
11 for the finalization with the alternative
12 method for the use of water.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: That completes
15 the list of people who have signed up. Is
16 there anybody else? Then you need to come
17 up, give your name, spell your name please.

18 SHAWN McSHERRY: Can we have
19 repeat questions?

20 BRIAN HORGAN: Hi. My name is
21 Brian Horgan. I live up at 490 Burton Road,
22 just up the road here. I've only been in
23 town here for about nine years, but I grew up
24 just the road in Naugatuck.

25 And we need changes like this

1 that are going to bring tax dollars to our
2 Town. I'm sure there's a lot of unanswered
3 questions, things are going to have to be
4 worked out along the way, but this is a great
5 opportunity to produce electricity when rates
6 are rising. And maybe we can save some money
7 here and to produce tax dollars for our Town.

8 I don't have any questions,
9 but just that statement that I think that
10 this is a positive thing even though we have
11 some questions to have been answered. That's
12 it.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 I don't know who -- I don't
15 have the sheet, so if you just go up and
16 again, give us your name?

17 BILL PARCELL: Good evening,
18 Mr. Chairman, members of the Siting Council.
19 My name is Bill Parcell. I'm the president
20 of the Greater Valley Regional Chamber of
21 Commerce, which is a business association,
22 voluntary business association serving Beacon
23 Falls and the entire valley community down to
24 Shelton along the Route 8 corridor. I just
25 want to make a couple of comments.

1 One, is I want to echo the
2 comments of the First Selectman about the
3 rigorous nature of, if I can say it
4 correctly, the interrogatory hearing this
5 afternoon.

6 I tried to arrive here in time
7 to hear some of that, but having recently
8 gone through that experience and sitting for
9 about three and half hours in Oxford as the
10 proponents answered many thoughtful and
11 difficult questions from this panel, I was
12 very impressed then. And I'm sure I would
13 have been impressed today if I was able to
14 get up here for that hearing this afternoon.

15 There's obviously a lot of
16 talent on this Siting Council, and
17 experience. And I'm sure as with the team
18 with CPV, there's a lot of talent on the team
19 of the proponents.

20 One suggestion I would make is
21 I think there's a disconnect and I wanted to
22 go on record with this at the last time, to
23 have a public hearing not include giving the
24 public -- I suppose they're welcome to come,
25 but by having a hearing or a site walk at two

1 in the afternoon and a very intense dialogue
2 where a lot of the questions that were raised
3 by the public this evening probably were
4 raised during that discussion.

5 But the public doesn't have
6 the benefit of that expertise. Those
7 responses that should be forthcoming were
8 probably forthcoming at three this afternoon,
9 but like me, they were working and they
10 weren't able to hear it. I would strongly
11 urge the Council to think about that with
12 respect to future hearings.

13 Having said that, I do agree
14 with Mr. Corvo and certainly with Mr. Bielik
15 that the public outreach has been strong.
16 And I have invited the proponents back on
17 September 17th to a forum with the local
18 business committee. And we heard a pretty
19 thorough vision.

20 And I've invited the
21 proponents back again for a regional
22 presentation before a larger business
23 audience on the 19th of this month and
24 they've agreed to do that as well. So I
25 credit them with their openness, their

1 transparency with respect to articulating the
2 benefits, and in addition the impacts that
3 this project will have.

4 Two more points. One is I
5 believe Connecticut views fuel-cell
6 technology as a renewable, as a renewable
7 energy. You may want to define that for the
8 audience, what that means and how this is --
9 and the gentleman correctly pointed out, of
10 course, there is natural gas in the process.
11 But I think that would be important for the
12 community to know.

13 And then in that context in a
14 larger scheme, certainly you have
15 responsibility to understand the big picture,
16 the New England grid picture. And today's
17 headline on the business page of the
18 Connecticut's Post is about a forum tomorrow
19 to discuss the future of Bridgeport's
20 coal-fired plant and how long it will be
21 online. And these are the sort of macro
22 issues that this Siting Council is charged
23 with as we move off of fossil fuels and into
24 these renewables.

25 So those are my comments. I

1 thank you for coming out this evening. I
2 thank the public for their thoughtful
3 questions. I'm sure those responses will be
4 forthcoming. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Michael
6 Opuszynski, if I'm close.

7 MICHAEL OPUSZYNSKI: That
8 wasn't too bad. I've been called worse, so
9 don't worry about. Michael Opuszynski,
10 resident at 132 Back Rimmon Road, Beacon
11 Falls. Also a member of multiple commissions
12 in town and the regional planner.

13 I also would like to thank the
14 Siting Council for being the voice of the
15 people and questioning. And I also was not
16 able to attend today, so I'm sure that a lot
17 of the answers are available and will also be
18 forthcoming.

19 But just a couple of
20 additional questions that I didn't hear yet
21 tonight. The first was in response to the
22 fire department. Yes, so if there's a
23 catastrophic event, can we handle that? But
24 even in a minor event if there's a fire at
25 the site, can the standard tools that the

1 fire department uses to put out, say, a
2 regular house fire, something along those
3 lines, are those still functional for a
4 fuel-cell fire?

5 Are there tools they can't
6 use? Are there chemicals? Are there agents
7 that they're not allowed to use with a
8 fuel-cell burn?

9 In addition, I'm curious to
10 know still some of the technical details
11 about the plant and how they are planning on
12 operating it. One of which is there's a lot
13 of excess heat that comes from the fuel
14 cells. And I was curious to know what the
15 long-term plan was for that heat. Are they
16 just planning on dispersing it into the
17 environment? Or will they actually try to
18 recoup that somehow, increase the efficiency?

19 Which brings me to another
20 point. One of the great things about
21 fuel-cell technology is there's potential for
22 a lot of high efficiency in terms of the
23 power that's generated, just for public
24 knowledge. So that's one of the key things
25 to try to balance out.

1 Yes, there are fossil fuels
2 that are used in these particular fuel cells,
3 but it's a matter of how efficient can we
4 make this process? And that's where we
5 really get back to the environment with this
6 type energy generation.

7 And one other thing I was
8 curious to know, and the question already
9 came up was, what is the long-term plan in
10 terms of further developing the site? Again,
11 I believe it's 8 acres now and there's 20
12 some odd acres at the site. Are they
13 planning on doing anything else there besides
14 fuel cells? Or will it be additional fuel
15 cells?

16 Thank you very much.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18 Bill Jilio or GiGlio, if
19 that's better.

20 BILL GiGLIO: That actually
21 wasn't very good, and I have been called
22 worse. But anyway my name is Bill GiGlio and
23 I'm a member -- a resident here in Beacon
24 Falls. I also happen to be a partner in a
25 renewable energy company.

1 And my comment is twofold.
2 One, I was at the July 7 meeting and I kind
3 of took it upon myself after that meeting to
4 randomly talk to people in town. And
5 overwhelmingly I think that the people in
6 Beacon Falls want this project.

7 The only comment that I would
8 make is, is that the members of the LLC and
9 the energy park need to get ahead of the
10 curve, because I'm hearing many of the same
11 concerns that came up in the July 7 meeting,
12 come up here tonight. And if you guys can
13 get ahead of the curve then I think it would
14 assuage some or many of the concerns that
15 were voiced here tonight.

16 That's it. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Again, that's
18 the last person that I have who signed up.
19 So unless there's anybody else, what I want
20 to do is --

21 SHAWN McSHERRY: Is there any
22 way we could direct our questions to get
23 direct answers instead of waiting?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: If you let me
25 finish, I'm not sure I can give you all the

1 answers you want, but let me at least -- hear
2 me out.

3 First of all, I want to also
4 thank everybody. A couple of things. All of
5 the material that -- including the transcript
6 from this afternoon's hearing, and for the
7 gentleman who suggested we somehow manage to
8 have all the testimony in the evening unless
9 people are willing to stay until, you know,
10 one at night, I'm not sure how that's
11 practical.

12 But everything will be -- one
13 is, on our Siting Council's website,
14 including this document, if you haven't
15 looked at it, has a number of the answers.
16 In addition, as I said, the transcript both
17 of this afternoon and this evening will be,
18 as soon as -- and you can see there's a
19 gentleman here. I'm not sure how he does it,
20 but he's doing it, so we all have an accurate
21 transcript of everything that's been said,
22 which will also answer some of your
23 questions.

24 Again I'm not going to answer
25 them all except to say just a couple of

1 things. One is, as I think somebody
2 mentioned, this, this is a process that
3 doesn't -- well, if the Siting Council
4 determines in its wisdom when we ultimately
5 deliberate to not approve this project, other
6 than perhaps legal action, that's the end of
7 it.

8 But if the Siting Council --
9 and I'm using with big letters -- if we were
10 to approve it, normally -- well, I can say
11 without doubt it would be approved with
12 conditions. And then there's a requirement
13 that's what's called a D and M plan, which is
14 a detailed plan which has to answer all of
15 these questions.

16 The applicant has been candid
17 that they're not a hundred percent designed.
18 They said they're 75 percent. Some of these
19 questions asked that about the
20 interrelationship with Yankee Gas and
21 Eversource that are still being worked on. I
22 mean, that's what we've heard. But those
23 answers to those questions will be
24 forthcoming. They may not have them all
25 tonight.

1 I can say that it would be --
2 we would not be doing our service, nor would
3 the applicant, again if it were to be
4 approved that if there was not a very
5 detailed plan relating to safety relating to
6 working very closely with the fire department
7 to make sure that there is a plan, should --
8 hopefully not, but should some something
9 happen. So those, those details will have to
10 be worked out. They will have to be.

11 We're all cognizant that we
12 live in this day and age, that there has to
13 be a security plan. It has to be something
14 that I'm sure will be -- the proper officials
15 in the Town as well as the Siting Council
16 will, you know, take a close look at to make
17 sure that that, to the best, the best that
18 everybody can, that this is a -- if, again,
19 if it were to be approved, that this is a
20 secure site and also a safe site.

21 And again, I think some of the
22 answers, specific answers as far as noise, as
23 far as the actual process that's going to be
24 used in the fuel cells, they are -- and the
25 impact on visibility that are in the material

1 and also in some of the, what was what we
2 heard this afternoon.

3 In addition, thanks to
4 everybody here, the Council, I can assure you
5 before making a final decision we'll be
6 exploring further if at least we, in our
7 wisdom, feel that some of these questions
8 you've asked have not been fully answered.

9 I know it doesn't give you
10 direct answers. I'll leave this up to the
11 applicant. I am going to close this hearing,
12 but since they have their whole team there,
13 if they want to, you know, have some of their
14 professionals come up after the hearing and,
15 you know, with the maps and charts and maybe,
16 you know, can give you some additional
17 information.

18 So with that, I am going to
19 close the public portion of the hearing.
20 Just again to tell you a little bit about our
21 process. Once we get all the material and
22 have reviewed all the transcripts, the staff,
23 we have a professional staff, the Siting
24 Council does, we'll be preparing what we call
25 draft findings of fact which will list the

1 facts of this, of this case and the
2 information and where it is found to be
3 reviewed by the Council.

4 And again, all our meetings,
5 even though, it's not meeting for public
6 input at the meeting, but they're all open,
7 open to the public. They will be held in New
8 Britain at which time the Council will review
9 the draft findings of fact, make comments.
10 And also we have what we call a staw
11 nonbinding vote to give the staff some
12 direction. And then at a subsequent meeting
13 we'll review finalized documents and come up
14 with a final decision.

15 Again, if and only if it's an
16 affirmative decision then the Council will
17 charge the applicant with providing -- and
18 this is a, you know, hundred percent, not
19 75 percent, but a hundred percent, a final
20 plan. So the details, many of which are not
21 available because they haven't completed the
22 work, will have to be completed at that time.

23 And that will be, again the
24 Council with its expertise and staff
25 expertise, and the Town will also have access

1 to the D and M plan so we can elicit comments
2 from the town including your, for example,
3 your fire department and whatever other
4 officials that the First Selectman, you know,
5 judges should have input.

6 And then again, if the process
7 is moving in that direction then, you know,
8 there will be final. It will be finalized.
9 There are also some state and federal
10 agencies that also get involved and have to
11 get permits, including air and water permits.
12 So it's not just the Council.

13 So the question for example
14 about air and possible CO2 will get a review
15 by the Department, by DEEP, Department of
16 Energy and Environment Protection, and also
17 there's a water permit. So the process is --
18 maybe not for you, but for us it's just
19 beginning and it still has quite a ways to
20 go.

21 So with that, as I said we're
22 going to close the hearing. Again, the
23 transcripts will be filed with the Beacon
24 Falls Town Clerk's office and I declare the
25 meeting adjourned. And thank you all for

1 your participation.

2 And all, any written comments
3 must be in by December 4th. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the above
5 proceedings were concluded at 7:48 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

1
2 I hereby certify that the foregoing 41
3 pages are a complete and accurate
4 computer-aided transcription of my original
5 verbatim notes taken of the Siting Council
6 Public Hearing in Re: PETITION NO. 1184,
7 PETITION FROM BEACON FALLS ENERGY PARK, LLC,
8 FOR A DECLARATORY RULING THAT NO CERTIFICATE
9 OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC
10 NEED IS REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED
11 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A
12 63.3 MEGAWATT FUEL CELL FACILITY LOCATED AT
13 LOPUS ROAD, BEACON FALLS, CONNECTICUT, which
14 was held before ROBIN STEIN, Chairman, at the
15 Beacon Falls Firehouse, 35 North Main Street,
16 Beacon Falls, Connecticut, on November 5,
17 2015.

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My Commission Expires: 6/30/2020