



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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April 6, 2015

Bruce L. McDermott
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06506

RE: **PETITION NO. 1104** – The United Illuminating Company declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 2.2 MW AC solar photovoltaic facility and a 2.8 MW AC Fuel Cell facility on approximately 22 acres of the former Seaside Landfill located at 350 Waldemere Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney McDermott:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on April 2, 2015, the Council considered and approved the solar field component of the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on February 5, 2015.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on February 5, 2015, and supplemental information dated March 9, 2015 and March 20, 2015. Requests for any changes to the D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance RCSA §16-50j-62(b). Furthermore, the Petitioner is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-62.

Please be advised that changes and deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated April 2, 2015.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RM/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated April 2, 2015

c: Parties and Intervenors
The Honorable Bill Finch, Mayor, City of Bridgeport
David Kooris, Planning Director, City of Bridgeport

PETITION NO. 1104 – The United Illuminating Company } declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility } and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, } maintenance and operation of a 2.2 MW AC solar photovoltaic } facility and a 2.8 MW AC Fuel Cell facility on approximately 22 acres } of the former Seaside Landfill located at 350 Waldemere Avenue, } Bridgeport, Connecticut. Development and Management Plan	Connecticut Siting Council April 2, 2015
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STAFF REPORT – Solar Field Component

On November 12, 2014, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling to The United Illuminating Company (UI) that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 2.2 megawatt (MW) AC solar photovoltaic facility and a 2.8 MW AC Fuel Cell facility located at 350 Waldemere Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut. As required in the Council's Decision and Order, UI submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this project on February 5, 2015. The Council approved the D&M Plan for the fuel cell component of the project on March 5, 2015. Additional information regarding the solar field component was submitted on March 9, 2015 and March 20, 2015.

The D&M Plan details the construction of the solar photovoltaic facility on a 19.1-acre portion of the former City-owned Seaside Landfill. Approximately 8,550 JA Solar 310W photovoltaic panels will be installed along the crest of the landfill.

Site preparation will include the removal of existing brush and small trees within the solar field area by hand cutting and low pressure ground equipment. Stumps will be removed by chainsaw or a stump grinder to below grade. UI will deploy erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* around the perimeter of the construction area. Perimeter E&S controls will consist of straw wattles staked into the vegetative layer of the landfill using pre-marked stakes to ensure the low permeability layer of the landfill cap is not disturbed.

The solar field area contains a small wetland (approximately 540 square feet) that formed in a depressed area above the low permeability layer. UI will remove the vegetative layer of the wetland and fill the depressed area with low permeability soil. After filling, the organic layer will be spread on the filled area and seeded.

Access to the solar field will be from an existing dirt road that climbs the northeast side of the landfill. UI will install a gravel based anti-tracking pad at the base of the road. The access road will be widened to a 12-foot travel surface and resurfaced with the addition of a minimum 12 inches of crushed stone. If heavy equipment is used on the landfill, an additional 12 inches of crushed stone will be installed. The access road will extend along the crest of the landfill to access the solar field inverter pads. Five culverts featuring 12-inch diameter iron piping will be installed along the access road. Culverts will be installed within the 12-inch existing vegetative layer and above of the low permeability layer. Gravel will be installed above the culverts to provide a sufficient road surface.

Staging areas for equipment storage will be located along the sides of the road. UI specified that stored equipment shall not remain in place for more than one week. Heavy equipment will be stored along the road at the base of the landfill and not on the landfill cap.

The solar panel racking system will be set on concrete ballasts installed on top of the landfill. The concrete ballasts will be constructed by pouring concrete into a plastic tub (approximately 6.5' x 2' x 1.2') set on top of a gravel pad. Two vertical rack supports will be set into the concrete. The remaining framing will be attached to the supports.

The solar field will include three inverter/transformer pads and one additional transformer pad. Electrical wiring connecting the panels to the inverters will be installed within conduits attached to the panel racking system and on ballast mounted conduits leading to the inverters. Above ground conduits will extend from the inverter/transformer pads along the edge of the access road to a utility pole at the base of the landfill. An overhead line will extend past the City's mulch processing area to electrical distribution switchgear located at the fuel cell facility.

Excavation of portions of the landfill vegetative layer may be required to create a level surface for the various types of concrete ballasts and the inverter/transformer pads. The vegetative layer is estimated to be approximately 12 inches deep. Excavation will be conducted in accordance with a contractor site-specific excavation plan that will include an on-site monitor to ensure excavation does not disturb the landfill low permeability layer beneath the vegetative layer.

Any exposed soil areas in the construction area will be hydro-mulched with a grass seed mixture. Existing ground cover in the solar field area is dominated by mugwort, an invasive species. UI intends to leave the mugwort in place, mowing it as necessary to maintain a height below the solar panels. Existing vegetation outside the lease area will remain undistributed except for trimming as necessary to prevent shading. Although landscaping cannot be planted on the landfill cap to prevent disturbance, a row of evergreen trees will be planted at the park entrance area.

UI will enclose the solar field area with an eight-foot high chain link fence of two inch mesh installed on concrete ballasts. An access gate will be located at the base of the landfill. No solar field night lighting is proposed.

Typical construction hours are between 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Advance notice of construction will be provided to the Council, City and abutting property owners. UI will coordinate with the City for the locations of laydown areas and construction traffic routes to the site. Once the site is operational, UI will provide a final report to the Council listing any modifications to the D&M Plan as a result of infield conditions. The D&M Plan contains a solar field decommissioning plan.

Copies of the D&M Plan were provided to all Parties and Intervenors and the City of Bridgeport. No comments were received.

Council staff recommends approval of the solar field portion of the D&M Plan with the condition that approval of requested significant changes to the approved D&M Plan be delegated to Council staff in accordance with Section 16-50j-62(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. In accordance with that section, if advance written notice is impractical, the Petitioner shall provide verbal notice of the changes and shall submit written specifications to the Council within 48 hours after the verbal notice.