



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 28, 2025

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
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PETITION NO. 1666 – VFS, LLC (Petitioner) petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a customer-side 2.76-megawatt fuel cell facility collocated with a 1.99-megawatt AC battery energy storage facility and associated equipment located at the Quinnipiac University Mount Carmel Campus, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Attorney Bachman,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding Petition 1666.

Environmental Information

The Council notes that the materials submitted in connection with the subject Petition failed to include certain information that would assist the Council and the Siting Council to review the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. For example, the Petitioner states that “wetlands are within some 60’ of the proposed Facility”; however, it is unclear if the wetlands are downgradient from the proposed facility and what measures would be employed to ensure that the construction and operation of the proposed facility would have no adverse impacts on the wetlands. And while the petition materials include some information for the proposed fuel cells, there is limited information regarding the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) equipment. The Council recommends that the Petitioner provide more information regarding the potential environmental impacts of the entire project (fuel cell and BESS), and the environmental protection measures for the proposed project including, but not limited to, erosion and sedimentation control; spill prevention; and emergency response for the proposed facility.

Noise

The Petitioner states that “the noise level of the Facility will not exceed local and state noise level ordinance levels at neighboring properties. However some noise control measures will be included in the final design drawings to curtail noise at some University buildings.” The Council notes the noise study performed by the Petitioner included the six proposed fuel cells, but there is no mention of the proposed BESS equipment, which, according to the proposed site plan, would be located approximately 25 feet from the proposed fuel cells. It is also unclear what noise mitigation measures, if any, would be employed for the university buildings. The Council recommends that the Petitioner provide additional information regarding 1) the total projected noise from the proposed facility (BESS equipment and fuel cells) at full operation at all

adjacent noise zones, and 2) the noise mitigation measures that could be employed to ensure compliance with applicable noise standards

Public Water Supply

The Petitioner states that “the Facility will be located in an Aquifer Protection Area as is the majority of the campus.” The Council notes that the proposed site is also within a public water supply watershed of the Regional Water Authority.¹ The Council recommends that the Petitioner 1) review and implement the protective measures identified in the Department of Public Health’s “General Construction Best Management Practices for Sites within a Public Drinking Water Supply Area”² guidance document, 2) provide a spill prevention and response plan (as noted above), and 3) notify the Regional Water Authority and Quinnipiac Valley Health District prior to the commencement of construction.

The Council’s comments above address only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council’s administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Aresta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

¹ Connecticut Department of Public Health, Public Drinking Water Map Viewer, accessed 5-7-2025;
<https://maps.ct.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=1a8bf90b37b24affaeb41a41d71c9417&draft=true>
²Connecticut Department of Public Health; https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/BMPFactSheetpdf.pdf