



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

September 28, 2022

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Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

PETITION NO. 1540 - ReNew Developers, LLC (Petitioner) proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a customer-side 4.0-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 234 Riverside Avenue, Bristol, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding Petition 1540.

1. Wetlands

The Petitioner notes that wetlands, located at the rear or south end of the property, would be two feet away from the proposed site and approximately 43 feet away from the fenced compound. The Petitioner also notes that the area nearest to the wetland will be used for temporary soil staging during construction. This proposed staging area could be a source sediment and its location would be inconsistent with the Resource Protection Plan that states that “no equipment, vehicles or construction materials shall be stored within 100 feet of wetland resources.” The Council recommends that the Petitioner utilize a minimum 100-foot buffer around all identified wetlands proximate to the proposed facility.

2. Inspections and Education

The Petitioner states that an “environmental monitor will provide periodic inspections of the sedimentation and erosion controls throughout the duration of construction activities only as it pertains to their function to protect nearby wetlands” and that “such inspections will generally occur once per month. The Council supports the presence of an environmental inspector who would be available onsite during the construction; however, the proposed scope and frequency of the inspections might not be adequate to protect wetland resources located proximate to the proposed facility. The Council recommends that an environmental inspector inspect the project area for consistency with all elements of the Resource Protection Plan, including but not limited to erosion and sedimentation controls/isolation barriers; petroleum materials storage and spill prevention; and herbicide, pesticide, and salt restrictions, at least once per week during construction and within 24 hours following significant precipitation events ($\geq 1/2$ inch).

The Council also supports the Petitioner’s efforts to provide education and training to construction personnel on the identification of wetland resources proximate to work areas; information on typical herpetofauna that may be encountered, typical species behavior, and proper procedures if species are encountered; and the environmentally sensitive nature of the development site. The Council recommends that the proposed education efforts be a condition of approval, if approved.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Aresta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director