Connecticut Siting Council

Presentation to the
Joint Committee on

Energy & Technology

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Informational Forum

Connecticut Siting Council Legislative Finding and Purpose

"To provide for the balancing of the need for adequate and reliable public utility services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values; to provide environmental quality standards and criteria for the location, design, construction and operation of facilities for the furnishing of public utility services at least as stringent as the federal environmental quality standards and criteria, and technically sufficient to assure the welfare and protection of the people of the state;"

Connecticut Siting Council Jurisdiction and Responsibilities

The Connecticut Legislature has given the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) jurisdiction to objectively balance the statewide public need for adequate and reliable services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state.

Connecticut Siting Council Jurisdiction and Responsibilities

The Council has the responsibility to permit the following energy facilities:

- Electric transmission lines 69-kV or above.
- Fuel transmission lines of 200 PSIG or above.
- Electric generating or storage facilities excluding emergency generating devices, cogeneration facilities of 25 MW or less, and facilities fueled by renewable energy sources of 1 MW or less.
- Electric substation or switchyards of 69-kV or above.

Process and Procedures for Energy Facilities

- Pre-Application Process
  (General Statutes § 16-50*l* (e))
- Application to Municipal Agencies
  (General Statutes § 16-50x (d))
- Proof of Service and Notice
  (General Statutes § 16-50l (b))
- Contents of Application
  (General Statutes § 16-50l (a) (2))

Security of Energy Facilities

Pursuant to Public Act 07-242, An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency, the Council initiated a proceeding to investigate energy security with regard to the siting of electric generating and transmission facilities. The Council consulted with DPUC and DEMHS.

Security of Energy Facilities

On October 8, 2009 the Council adopted a document titled *White Paper on the Security of Siting Energy Facilities*. The main topics addressed in this paper are planning, preparedness, response , and recovery.

- Energy security is a broad area of review, one that, grows ever more complex as the nation's energy system becomes more integrated. Security remains a broad concept even when limited to the Council's task of siting—that is, determining the particular locations in Connecticut where electric generating or transmission structures should be placed.

Security of Energy Facilities

- The Council will focus mainly on physical threats, as opposed to cyber threats, to electric generating and transmission facilities and on threats that are intentional, ranging from simple trespassing to vandalism to dedicated acts of sabotage.
- Siting security does not relate to operational, reliability, and maintenance procedures affecting electric facilities, asset connection requirements, or naturally-caused calamities (for example, hurricanes or ice storms).

Process and Procedures for Energy Facilities

- The Council will review and may reject the application within 30 days if it fails to comply with specific data or exhibit requirements or if the applicant fails to promptly correct deficiencies. (Regs., Conn. State Agencies §§ 16-50l-4 through 16-50l-5)
- The Council and any party or intervenor to the proceeding may file exhibits and interrogatories requesting supplemental or explanatory materials. All filings are subject to cross-examination and the Council's discretion for admission into the record. (General Statutes § 16-50o)

Process and Procedures for Energy Facilities (Cont'd)

- A public hearing must be held in the site county, usually in the site municipality, with one session held after 6:30 p.m. for the convenience of the public. The Council's record must remain open for 30 days after the close of the hearing. (General Statutes § 16-50m)
- The Council must render a decision within 180 days of receipt of the application, extendible by 180 days upon consent of the applicant. (General Statutes § 16-50p)

Process and Procedures for Energy Facilities (Cont'd)

Upon issuing a Certificate the Council often requires a Development and Management (D&M) Plan.

- A D&M Plan consists of such items as a detailed site layout, protection of sensitive resources (i.e. wetlands, animal and plant species, historic, archeological, scenic, and recreation), best management of construction methods, and submittal of other necessary permits (i.e. DEP, FAA, and Army Core).
- Periodic field inspections are conducted by staff to confirm consistency with the D&M Plan.