
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: Z-0168.1/19

ATTY/TYPIST: ML:lel

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Concerning updating and streamlining energy
facility site evaluation council operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to updating and streamlining the energy facility
2 site evaluation council operations; amending RCW 80.50.010,
3 80.50.040, 80.50.060, 80.50.100, and 80.50.175; and reenacting and
4 amending RCW 80.50.030 and 80.50.090.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 80.50.010 and 2001 c 214 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The legislature finds that (~~the present and predicted growth in~~
9 ~~energy demands in~~) the state of Washington requires (~~the~~
10 ~~development of~~) a procedure for the selection and (~~utilization~~)
11 use of sites for energy facilities and the identification of a state
12 position with respect to each proposed site. The legislature
13 recognizes that the selection of sites will have a significant impact
14 upon the welfare of the population, the location and growth of
15 industry and the use of the natural resources of the state.

16 It is the policy of the state of Washington to (~~recognize the~~
17 ~~pressing need for increased energy facilities, and to~~) ensure
18 through available and reasonable methods(~~(r)~~) that the location and
19 operation of (~~such~~) energy facilities will produce minimal adverse
20 effects on the environment, ecology of the land and its wildlife, and
21 the ecology of state waters and their aquatic life.

1 It is the policy of the state of Washington to reduce dependence
2 on fossil fuels and promote the transition to a clean energy economy
3 in order to strengthen the state's economy, meet the state's
4 greenhouse gas reduction obligations, and mitigate the significant
5 near-term and long-term impacts from climate change.

6 It is the intent to seek courses of action that will balance
7 ~~((the increasing))~~ demands for energy facility location and operation
8 in conjunction with the broad interests of the public. In addition,
9 it is the intent of the legislature to streamline application review
10 for energy facilities that use alternative energy resources to meet
11 the state's energy goals. Such action will be based on these
12 premises:

13 (1) To assure Washington state citizens that, where applicable,
14 operational safeguards are at least as stringent as the criteria
15 established by the federal government and are technically sufficient
16 for their welfare and protection.

17 (2) To preserve and protect the quality of the environment; to
18 enhance the public's opportunity to enjoy the esthetic and
19 recreational benefits of the air, water and land resources; to
20 promote air cleanliness; ~~((and))~~ to pursue beneficial changes in the
21 environment; and to promote environmental justice.

22 (3) To encourage the development and integration of cleaner
23 energy sources.

24 (4) To provide abundant clean energy at reasonable cost.

25 ~~((+4))~~ (5) To avoid costs of complete site restoration and
26 demolition of improvements and infrastructure at unfinished nuclear
27 energy sites, and to use unfinished nuclear energy facilities for
28 public uses, including economic development, under the regulatory and
29 management control of local governments and port districts.

30 ~~((+5))~~ (6) To avoid costly duplication in the siting process and
31 ensure that decisions are made timely and without unnecessary delay.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 80.50.030 and 2010 c 271 s 601 and 2010 c 152 s 2
33 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

34 (1) There is created and established the energy facility site
35 evaluation council.

36 (2)(a) The chair of the council shall be appointed by the
37 governor with the advice and consent of the senate, shall have a vote
38 on matters before the council, shall serve for a term coextensive
39 with the term of the governor, and is removable for cause. The chair

1 may designate a member of the council to serve as acting chair in the
2 event of the chair's absence. The salary of the chair shall be
3 determined under RCW 43.03.040. The chair is a "state employee" for
4 the purposes of chapter 42.52 RCW. As applicable, when attending
5 meetings of the council, members may receive reimbursement for travel
6 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and are
7 eligible for compensation under RCW 43.03.250.

8 (b) The chair or a designee shall execute all official documents,
9 contracts, and other materials on behalf of the council. ~~((The~~
10 ~~Washington utilities and transportation commission shall provide all~~
11 ~~administrative and staff support for the council.))~~ The
12 ~~((commission))~~ chair is the appointing authority and has supervisory
13 authority over the staff of the council and shall employ such
14 personnel as are necessary to implement this chapter. Not more than
15 three such employees may be exempt from chapter 41.06 RCW. The
16 Washington utilities and transportation commission shall provide
17 administrative support for the council. The council shall
18 ~~((otherwise))~~ retain its independence in exercising its powers,
19 functions, and duties and its supervisory control over
20 ~~((nonadministrative))~~ council staff ~~((support))~~. Membership, powers,
21 functions, and duties of the Washington state utilities and
22 transportation commission and the council shall otherwise remain as
23 provided by law.

24 (3) ~~((a))~~ The council shall consist of the ~~((directors,~~
25 ~~administrators, or their designees, of the following departments,~~
26 ~~agencies, commissions, and committees or their statutory successors:~~

27 ~~(i) Department of ecology;~~

28 ~~(ii) Department of fish and wildlife;~~

29 ~~(iii) Department of commerce;~~

30 ~~(iv) Utilities and transportation commission; and~~

31 ~~(v) Department of natural resources.~~

32 ~~(b) The directors, administrators, or their designees, of the~~
33 ~~following departments, agencies, and commissions, or their statutory~~
34 ~~successors, may participate as councilmembers at their own discretion~~
35 ~~provided they elect to participate no later than sixty days after an~~
36 ~~application is filed:~~

37 ~~(i) Department of agriculture;~~

38 ~~(ii) Department of health;~~

39 ~~(iii) Military department; and~~

40 ~~(iv) Department of transportation.~~

1 ~~(c) Council membership is discretionary for agencies that choose~~
2 ~~to participate under (b) of this subsection only for applications~~
3 ~~that are filed with the council on or after May 8, 2001. For~~
4 ~~applications filed before May 8, 2001, council membership is~~
5 ~~mandatory for those agencies listed in (b) of this subsection.~~

6 ~~(4) The appropriate county legislative authority of every county~~
7 ~~wherein an application for a proposed site is filed shall appoint a~~
8 ~~member or designee as a voting member to the council. The member or~~
9 ~~designee so appointed shall sit with the council only at such times~~
10 ~~as the council considers the proposed site for the county which he or~~
11 ~~she represents, and such member or designee shall serve until there~~
12 ~~has been a final acceptance or rejection of the proposed site.~~

13 ~~(5) The city legislative authority of every city within whose~~
14 ~~corporate limits an energy facility is proposed to be located shall~~
15 ~~appoint a member or designee as a voting member to the council. The~~
16 ~~member or designee so appointed shall sit with the council only at~~
17 ~~such times as the council considers the proposed site for the city~~
18 ~~which he or she represents, and such member or designee shall serve~~
19 ~~until there has been a final acceptance or rejection of the proposed~~
20 ~~site.~~

21 ~~(6) For any port district wherein an application for a proposed~~
22 ~~port facility is filed subject to this chapter, the port district~~
23 ~~shall appoint a member or designee as a nonvoting member to the~~
24 ~~council. The member or designee so appointed shall sit with the~~
25 ~~council only at such times as the council considers the proposed site~~
26 ~~for the port district which he or she represents, and such member or~~
27 ~~designee shall serve until there has been a final acceptance or~~
28 ~~rejection of the proposed site. The provisions of this subsection~~
29 ~~shall not apply if the port district is the applicant, either singly~~
30 ~~or in partnership or association with any other person)) chair and:~~

31 (a) The director of the department of ecology or the director's
32 designee;

33 (b) The director of the department of fish and wildlife or the
34 director's designee;

35 (c) The director of the department of commerce or the director's
36 designee;

37 (d) The chair of the utilities and transportation commission or
38 the chair's designee;

39 (e) The commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's
40 designee;

1 (f) One member designated by the board of directors of the
2 Washington state association of counties or its successor;

3 (g) One member designated by the board of directors of the
4 association of Washington cities or its successor; and

5 (h) One member designated by sovereign tribal governments.

6 (4) A quorum of the council consists of a majority of members. If
7 a member has not been designated for a position set forth in
8 subsection (3)(a) through (h) of this section, that position may not
9 be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 80.50.040 and 2001 c 214 s 6 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The council shall have the following powers:

13 (1) To adopt, promulgate, amend, or rescind suitable rules and
14 regulations, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, to carry out the
15 provisions of this chapter, and the policies and practices of the
16 council in connection therewith;

17 (2) To develop and apply environmental and ecological guidelines
18 in relation to the type, design, location, construction, ~~((and))~~
19 initial operational conditions of certification, and ongoing
20 regulatory oversight of energy facilities subject to this chapter;

21 (3) To establish rules of practice for the conduct of public
22 hearings pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure
23 Act, as found in chapter 34.05 RCW;

24 (4) To prescribe the form, content, and necessary supporting
25 documentation for site certification;

26 (5) To receive applications for energy facility locations and to
27 investigate the sufficiency thereof;

28 (6) To ~~((make and contract, when applicable, for independent~~
29 ~~studies of sites proposed by the applicant))~~ enter into contracts to
30 carry out the provisions of this chapter;

31 (7) To conduct hearings on the proposed location and operational
32 conditions of the energy facilities;

33 (8) To prepare written reports to the governor which shall
34 include: (a) A statement indicating whether the application is in
35 compliance with the council's guidelines, (b) criteria specific to
36 the site and transmission line routing, (c) a council recommendation
37 as to the disposition of the application, and (d) a draft
38 certification agreement when the council recommends approval of the
39 application;

1 (9) To prescribe the means for monitoring of the effects arising
2 from the construction and the operation of energy facilities to
3 assure continued compliance with terms of certification and/or
4 permits issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW or
5 subsection (12) of this section: PROVIDED, That any on-site
6 inspection required by the council shall be performed by other state
7 agencies pursuant to interagency agreement: PROVIDED FURTHER, That
8 the council may retain authority for determining compliance relative
9 to monitoring;

10 (10) To integrate its site evaluation activity with activities of
11 federal agencies having jurisdiction in such matters to avoid
12 unnecessary duplication;

13 (11) To present state concerns and interests to other states,
14 regional organizations, and the federal government on the location,
15 construction, and operation of any energy facility which may affect
16 the environment, health, or safety of the citizens of the state of
17 Washington;

18 (12) To issue permits in compliance with applicable provisions of
19 the federally approved state implementation plan adopted in
20 accordance with the Federal Clean Air Act, as now existing or
21 hereafter amended, for the new construction, reconstruction, or
22 enlargement or operation of energy facilities: PROVIDED, That such
23 permits shall become effective only if the governor approves an
24 application for certification and executes a certification agreement
25 pursuant to this chapter: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That all such permits
26 be conditioned upon compliance with all provisions of the federally
27 approved state implementation plan which apply to energy facilities
28 covered within the provisions of this chapter; and

29 (13) To serve as an interagency coordinating body for energy-
30 related issues.

31 **Sec. 4.** RCW 80.50.060 and 2007 c 325 s 2 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction of
34 energy facilities which includes the new construction of energy
35 facilities and the reconstruction or enlargement of existing energy
36 facilities where the net increase in physical capacity or dimensions
37 resulting from such reconstruction or enlargement meets or exceeds
38 those capacities or dimensions set forth in RCW 80.50.020 (~~((7) and~~
39 ~~(15))~~) (12) and (21). No construction of such energy facilities may

1 be undertaken, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, after
2 July 15, 1977, without first obtaining certification in the manner
3 provided in this chapter.

4 (2) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction,
5 reconstruction, or enlargement of a new or existing energy facility
6 that exclusively uses alternative energy resources and chooses to
7 receive certification under this chapter, regardless of the
8 generating capacity of the project. Such a facility that has applied
9 for and been denied a land use permit from the unit of local
10 government regulating use of land at the facility's location is
11 precluded from later seeking certification from the council.

12 (3)(a) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction,
13 reconstruction, or modification of electrical transmission facilities
14 when:

15 (i) The facilities are located in a national interest electric
16 transmission corridor as specified in RCW 80.50.045;

17 (ii) An applicant chooses to receive certification under this
18 chapter, and the facilities are: (A) Of a nominal voltage of at least
19 one hundred fifteen thousand volts and are located in a completely
20 new corridor, except for the terminus of the new facility or
21 interconnection of the new facility with the existing grid, and the
22 corridor is not otherwise used for electrical transmission
23 facilities; and (B) located in more than one jurisdiction that has
24 promulgated land use plans or zoning ordinances; or

25 (iii) An applicant chooses to receive certification under this
26 chapter, and the facilities are: (A) Of a nominal voltage in excess
27 of one hundred fifteen thousand volts; and (B) located outside an
28 electrical transmission corridor identified in (a)(i) and (ii) of
29 this subsection (3).

30 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "modify" means a
31 significant change to an electrical transmission facility and does
32 not include the following: (i) Minor improvements such as the
33 replacement of existing transmission line facilities or supporting
34 structures with equivalent facilities or structures; (ii) the
35 relocation of existing electrical transmission line facilities; (iii)
36 the conversion of existing overhead lines to underground; or (iv) the
37 placing of new or additional conductors, supporting structures,
38 insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting
39 structures already built.

1 (4) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to normal
2 maintenance and repairs which do not increase the capacity or
3 dimensions beyond those set forth in RCW 80.50.020 (~~((7) and (15))~~)
4 (12) and (21).

5 (5) Applications for certification of energy facilities made
6 prior to July 15, 1977, shall continue to be governed by the
7 applicable provisions of law in effect on the day immediately
8 preceding July 15, 1977, with the exceptions of RCW 80.50.190 and
9 80.50.071 which shall apply to such prior applications and to site
10 certifications prospectively from July 15, 1977.

11 (6) Applications for certification shall be upon forms prescribed
12 by the council and shall be supported by such information and
13 technical studies as the council may require.

14 (7) Upon receipt of an application for certification under this
15 chapter, the chair shall notify:

16 (a) The department of agriculture;

17 (b) The department of health;

18 (c) The military department;

19 (d) The department of transportation;

20 (e) The appropriate county legislative authority where the
21 proposed facility is located;

22 (f) The appropriate city legislative authority where the proposed
23 facility is located; and

24 (g) The appropriate tribal governments affected by the proposed
25 facility.

26 (8) The council shall work with local and tribal governments
27 where a project is proposed to be sited in order to ensure meaningful
28 participation and input during siting review and compliance
29 monitoring.

30 **Sec. 5.** RCW 80.50.090 and 2006 c 205 s 3 and 2006 c 196 s 6 are
31 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

32 (1) The council shall conduct an informational public hearing in
33 the county of the proposed site as soon as practicable but not later
34 than sixty days after receipt of an application for site
35 certification. However, the place of such public hearing shall be as
36 close as practical to the proposed site. (~~((2) Subsequent to the~~
37 ~~informational public)~~) At this hearing, the council ((shall conduct a
38 public hearing to determine)) must take public comment on the
39 application for site certification, as well as whether or not the

1 proposed site is consistent and in compliance with city, county, or
2 regional land use plans or zoning ordinances in effect on the date of
3 the application. (~~(If it is determined that the proposed site does~~
4 ~~conform with existing land use plans or zoning ordinances in effect~~
5 ~~as of the date of the application, the city, county, or regional~~
6 ~~planning authority shall not thereafter change such land use plans or~~
7 ~~zoning ordinances so as to affect the proposed site.))~~)

8 (2) After the completion of its environmental review under
9 chapter 43.21C RCW, the council shall determine whether genuine
10 issues of fact exist on matters the council deems material to its
11 recommendation to the governor. A council determination that such
12 issues do not exist may only be made after holding a hearing to take
13 public comment on the question. If the council determines that such
14 issues do not exist and that under subsection (1) of this section the
15 proposed site is consistent and in compliance with city, county, or
16 regional land use plans or zoning ordinances, the council may waive
17 the adjudicative proceeding required by subsection (3) of this
18 section.

19 (3) Prior to the issuance of a council recommendation to the
20 governor under RCW 80.50.100 public hearing, conducted as an
21 adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative
22 procedure act, shall be held unless previously waived in accordance
23 with subsection (2) of this section. At such public hearing any
24 person shall be entitled to be heard in support of or in opposition
25 to the application for certification.

26 (4) Additional public hearings shall be held as deemed
27 appropriate by the council in the exercise of its functions under
28 this chapter.

29 **Sec. 6.** RCW 80.50.100 and 2011 c 180 s 109 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1)(a) The council shall report to the governor its
32 recommendations as to the approval or rejection of an application for
33 certification within twelve months of receipt by the council of
34 (~~such~~) an application deemed complete by the council, or such later
35 time as is mutually agreed by the council and the applicant.

36 (b) In the case of an application filed prior to December 31,
37 2025, for certification of an energy facility proposed for
38 construction, modification, or expansion for the purpose of providing
39 generating facilities that meet the requirements of RCW 80.80.040 and

1 are located in a county with a coal-fired electric ((~~generating~~
2 ~~[generation]~~)) generation facility subject to RCW 80.80.040(3)(c),
3 the council shall expedite the processing of the application pursuant
4 to RCW 80.50.075 and shall report its recommendations to the governor
5 within one hundred eighty days of receipt by the council of such an
6 application, or a later time as is mutually agreed by the council and
7 the applicant.

8 (2) If the council recommends approval of an application for
9 certification, it shall also submit a draft certification agreement
10 with the report. The council shall include conditions in the draft
11 certification agreement to implement the provisions of this chapter,
12 including, but not limited to, conditions to protect state or local
13 governmental or community interests affected by the construction or
14 operation of the energy facility, and conditions designed to
15 recognize the purpose of laws or ordinances, or rules or regulations
16 promulgated thereunder, that are preempted or superseded pursuant to
17 RCW 80.50.110 as now or hereafter amended.

18 (3)(a) Within sixty days of receipt of the council's report the
19 governor shall take one of the following actions:

20 (i) Approve the application and execute the draft certification
21 agreement; or

22 (ii) Reject the application; or

23 (iii) Direct the council to reconsider certain aspects of the
24 draft certification agreement.

25 (b) The council shall reconsider such aspects of the draft
26 certification agreement by reviewing the existing record of the
27 application or, as necessary, by reopening the adjudicative
28 proceeding for the purposes of receiving additional evidence. Such
29 reconsideration shall be conducted expeditiously. The council shall
30 resubmit the draft certification to the governor incorporating any
31 amendments deemed necessary upon reconsideration. Within sixty days
32 of receipt of such draft certification agreement, the governor shall
33 either approve the application and execute the certification
34 agreement or reject the application. The certification agreement
35 shall be binding upon execution by the governor and the applicant.

36 (4) The rejection of an application for certification by the
37 governor shall be final as to that application but shall not preclude
38 submission of a subsequent application for the same site on the basis
39 of changed conditions or new information.

1 **Sec. 7.** RCW 80.50.175 and 1983 c 3 s 205 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In addition to all other powers conferred on the council
4 under this chapter, the council shall have the powers set forth in
5 this section.

6 (2) ~~(a)~~ The council, upon ~~((request of))~~ agreement with any
7 potential applicant, is authorized, as provided in this section, to
8 conduct a preliminary study of any potential ~~((site))~~ project prior
9 to receipt of an application for site certification. A fee of ten
10 thousand dollars for each potential ~~((site))~~ project, to be applied
11 toward the cost of any study agreed upon pursuant to (b) of this
12 subsection ~~((3) of this section))~~, shall accompany the ~~((request))~~
13 agreement and shall be a condition precedent to any action on the
14 ~~((request))~~ agreement by the council.

15 ~~((3) After receiving a request to study a potential site,))~~ (b)
16 Upon agreement with the potential applicant, the council ~~((shall))~~
17 may commission its own independent consultant to study matters
18 relative to the potential ~~((site))~~ project. The study shall include,
19 but need not be limited to, the preparation and analysis of
20 environmental impact information for the ~~((proposed))~~ potential
21 ~~((site))~~ project and any other matter the council and the potential
22 applicant deem essential to an adequate appraisal of the potential
23 ~~((site))~~ project. In conducting the study, the council is authorized
24 to cooperate and work jointly with the county or counties in which
25 the potential ~~((site))~~ project is located, any federal, state, ~~((or))~~
26 local, or tribal governmental agency that might be requested to
27 comment upon the potential ~~((site))~~ project, and any municipal or
28 public corporation having an interest in the matter. The full cost of
29 the study shall be paid by the potential applicant: PROVIDED, That
30 such costs exceeding a total of ten thousand dollars shall be payable
31 subject to the potential applicant giving prior approval to such
32 excess amount.

33 ~~((4) Any study prepared by the council pursuant to subsection~~
34 ~~(3) of this section may be used in place of the "detailed statement"~~
35 ~~required by RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) by any branch of government except~~
36 ~~the council created pursuant to chapter 80.50 RCW.~~

37 ~~(5))~~ (3) All payments required of the potential applicant under
38 this section are to be ~~((made to the state treasurer, who in turn~~
39 ~~shall pay the consultant as instructed by the council))~~ deposited
40 with the utilities and transportation commission. All such funds

1 shall be subject to state auditing procedures. Any unexpended
2 portions thereof shall be returned to the potential applicant.

3 ~~((6) Nothing in this section shall change the requirements for~~
4 ~~an application for site certification or the requirement of payment~~
5 ~~of a fee as))~~ (4) If a potential applicant subsequently submits a
6 formal application for site certification, payments made under this
7 section may be considered as payment towards the application fee
8 provided in RCW 80.50.071~~((7 or change the time for disposition of an~~
9 ~~application for certification as provided in RCW 80.50.100))~~.

10 ~~((7))~~ (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as
11 preventing a city or county from requiring any information it deems
12 appropriate to make a decision approving a particular location.

--- END ---