HOUSE BILL NO. 803

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Died in Committee

House BILL NO. 803

INTRODUCED BY HARP Smith Spaeth Ramirez Hand Frostad McCormick [illegible] [illegible]

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO SPECIFICALLY REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION TO ADOPT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS THAT APPLICANTS MUST MEET UNDER THE MONTANA MAJOR FACILITY SITING ACT; AND TO MAKE MANDATORY THE ADOPTION OF OTHER RULES UNDER THAT ACT; AMENDING SECTIONS 75-20-105, 75-20-301, AND 75-20-503, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 75-20-105, MCA, is amended to read:

"75-20-105. Adoption of rules. The board ~~may~~ shall adopt rules implementing the provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to:

(1) rules governing the form and content of applications;

(2) rules further defining the terms used in this chapter;

(3) rules establishing standards that applicants for a certificate must meet under the requirements of 75-20-503;

~~(3)~~(4) rules governing the form and content of long-range plans;

~~(4)~~(5) any other rules the board considers necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of this chapter."

Section 2. Section 75-20-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"75-20-301. Decision of board -- findings necessary for certification. (1) Within 60 days after submission of the recommended decision by the hearing examiner, the board shall make complete findings, issue an opinion, and render a decision upon the record, either granting or denying the application as filed or granting it upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility as the board considers appropriate.

(2) The board may not grant a certificate either as proposed by the applicant or as modified by the board unless it shall find and determine:

(a) the basis of the need for the facility;

(b) the nature of the probable environmental impact;

(c) that the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives;

(d) each of the criteria listed in 75-20-503 and whether the standards adopted by rule under 75-20-503 are met;

(e) in the case of an electric, gas, or liquid transmission line or aqueduct:

(i) what part, if any, of the line or aqueduct shall

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be located underground;

(ii) that the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the appropriate grid of the utility systems serving the state and interconnected utility systems; and

(iii) that the facility will serve the interests of utility system economy and reliability;

(f) that the location of the facility as proposed conforms to applicable state and local laws and regulations issued thereunder, except that the board may refuse to apply law or regulation if it finds that, as applied to the proposed facility, the law or regulation is unreasonably restrictive in view of the existing technology, of factors of cost or economics, or of the needs of consumers, whether located inside or outside of the directly affected government subdivisions;

(g) that the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

(h) that the department of health or board of health have issued a decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit as required by 75-20-216(3); and

(i) that the use of public lands for location of the facility was evaluated and public lands were selected whenever their use is as economically practicable as the use of private lands and compatible with the environmental

criteria listed in 75-20-503.

(3) In determining that the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity under subsection (2)(g) of this section, the board shall consider:

(a) the items listed in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) of this section;

(b) the benefits to the applicant and the state resulting from the proposed facility;

(c) the effects of the economic activity resulting from the proposed facility;

(d) the effects of the proposed facility on the public health, welfare, and safety;

(e) any other factors that it considers relevant.

(4) Considerations of need, public need, or public convenience and necessity and demonstration thereof by the applicant shall apply only to utility facilities."

Section 3. Section 75-20-503, MCA, is amended to read:

"75-20-503. Environmental factors evaluated. In evaluating long-range plans, conducting 5-year site reviews, and evaluating applications for certificates, the board and department shall give consideration to the following list of environmental factors and standards adopted thereunder, where applicable, and may by rule add to the categories and standards of this section:

(1) energy needs:

(a) growth in demand and projections of need;

(b) availability and desirability of alternative sources of energy;

(c) availability and desirability of alternative sources of energy in lieu of the proposed facility;

(d) promotional activities of the utility which may have given rise to the need for this facility;

(e) socially beneficial uses of the output of this facility, including its uses to protect or enhance environmental quality;

(f) conservation activities which could reduce the need for more energy;

(g) research activities of the utility of new technology available to it which might minimize environmental impact;

(2) land use impacts:

(a) area of land required and ultimate use;

(b) consistency with areawide state and regional land use plans;

(c) consistency with existing and projected nearby land use;

(d) alternative uses of the site;

(e) impact on population already in the area, population attracted by construction or operation of the facility itself;

(f) impact of availability of energy from this facility on growth patterns and population dispersal;

(g) geologic suitability of the site or route;

(h) seismologic characteristics;

(i) construction practices;

(j) extent of erosion, scouring, wasting of land, both at site and as a result of fossil fuel demands of the facility;

(k) corridor design and construction precautions for transmission lines or aqueducts;

(l) scenic impacts;

(m) effects on natural systems, wildlife, plant life;

(n) impacts on important historic architectural, archeological, and cultural areas and features;

(o) extent of recreation opportunities and related compatible uses;

(p) public recreation plan for the project;

(q) public facilities and accommodation;

(r) opportunities for joint use with energy-intensive industries or other activities to utilize the waste heat from facilities;

(s) opportunities for using public lands for location of facilities whenever as economically practicable as the use of private lands and compatible with the requirements of this section;

(3) water resources impacts:

(a) hydrologic studies of adequacy of water supply and impact of facility on streamflow, lakes, and reservoirs;

(b) hydrologic studies of impact of facilities on groundwater;

(c) cooling system evaluation, including consideration of alternatives;

(d) inventory of effluents, including physical, chemical, biological, and radiological characteristics;

(e) hydrologic studies of effects of effluents on receiving waters, including mixing characteristics of receiving waters, changed evaporation due to temperature differentials, and effect of discharge on bottom sediments;

(f) relationship to water quality standards;

(g) effects of changes in quantity and quality on water use by others, including both withdrawal and in situ uses;

(h) relationship to projected uses;

(i) relationship to water rights;

(j) effects on plant and animal life, including algae, macroinvertebrates, and fish population;

(k) effects on unique or otherwise significant ecosystems, e.g., wetlands;

(l) monitoring programs;

(4) air quality impacts:

(a) meteorology--wind direction and velocity, ambient temperature ranges, precipitation values, inversion occurrence, other effects on dispersion;

(b) topography--factors affecting dispersion;

(c) standards in effect and projected for emissions;

(d) design capability to meet standards;

(e) emissions and controls:

(i) stack design;

(ii) particulates;

(iii) sulfur oxides;

(iv) oxides of nitrogen; and

(v) heavy metals, trace elements, radioactive materials, and other toxic substances;

(f) relationship to present and projected air quality of the area;

(g) monitoring program;

(5) solid wastes impacts:

(a) solid waste inventory;

(b) disposal program;

(c) relationship of disposal practices to environmental quality criteria;

(d) capacity of disposal sites to accept projected waste loadings;

(6) radiation impacts:

(a) land use controls over development and population;

(b) wastes and associated disposal program for solid, liquid, radioactive, and gaseous wastes;

(c) analyses and studies of the adequacy of engineering safeguards and operating procedures;

(d) monitoring--adequacy of devices and sampling techniques;

(7) noise impacts:

(a) construction period levels;

(b) operational levels;

(c) relationship of present and projected noise levels to existing and potential stricter noise standards;

(d) monitoring--adequacy of devices and methods."

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