

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 4 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Girod, Monroe, Thomsen, Beyer

Nays: 0

Exc.: Edwards, Starr

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Energy Facility Siting Council to specify, by rule, criteria by which Council is to make determination that overall public benefit of facility siting outweighs any adverse effects on resource or interest protected by ORS 469.501(1). Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Streamlines siting process
- Weighing public benefits against impacts on resources and interests

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) was established in 1975 to oversee the development of large energy facilities. The Council consists of seven members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, who serve on a volunteer basis. Examples of the types of energy facilities for which the EFSC provides oversight include large electric generating facilities, high voltage transmission lines, gas pipelines, and radioactive waste disposal sites. Proposed facilities must meet EFSC siting standards and undergo a thorough review process prior to receiving a certificate. Once a certificate is issued, the EFSC retains ongoing regulatory authority over the construction and operation of the facility.

Under current law, the Energy Facility Siting Council may issue a site certificate for an energy facility that does not meet one or more of the Council's standards if it determines that the overall public benefit of the proposed facility outweighs the effect of the proposed facility on the resources that the standards were established to protect. House Bill 2106-A directs the EFSC to adopt rules to identify its criteria for making siting determinations based on public benefit.