- (1) Anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding, sites either already owned or purchased in the future by electric companies shall be included in the inventory of possible and proposed sites.
- (2) The Secretary of Natural Resources, upon the advice of the Secretary of Economic and Community Development, shall acquire in the name of the State a sufficient number of sites to satisfy the expected requirements as submitted by the Secretary of State Planning as provided in Section 765 (a) (4). The selection of such sites shall be based on existing research findings that show the site is a desirable one for power plant construction. ANY INVESTIGATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THE SUITABILITY OF A SITE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION SHALL BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS OF THE DATE SUCH SITE HAS BEEN SO IDENTIFIED. BY THE END OF THE TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD, THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL PURCHASE OR REMOVE FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION SUCH SITE AND SHALL MAKE PUBLIC HIS DECISION THERETO.

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall acquire same by agreement, or by condemnation pursuant to the condemnation law, and payment therefor shall be made by the Secretary of Natural Resources from the Environmental Trust Fund. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall hold such property in the name of the State and shall not permit its temporary use for any purpose which might logically be expected to impede its prompt availability for power plant siting as and when needed. The Secretary of Natural Resources may not hold, at any one time, less than four (4) nor more than eight (8) such sites, suitable for either single or multiple power plant siting, provided, however, that one such site shall be acquired by July 1, 1974, within the service area of each utility REASON-ABLY SUITABLE FOR EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY generating more than 1000 MW of electric power and that at least one such site per service area REASONABLY SUITABLE FOR EACH SUCH ELECTRIC COMPANY shall be held as a minimum inventory thereafter.

All revenues obtained by the Secretary of Natural Resources through the temporary use of such sites shall be deposited into the "Fund" except that prior thereto twenty-five (25) percent of the revenues received shall be paid to the county in which the site is situated. If the site lies within two or more counties, the twenty-five (25) percent shall be distributed proportionally as to area within the various counties.

(b) An electric company as defined in Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland may, at any time, request from the Secretary of Natural Resources an appropriate site in his possession under the provisions of this Act and the Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized and directed to make such site available. The electric utility may purchase or lease on a ninety-nine (99) year lease such site. The purchase price shall be determined by the fair market value of the site as determined by a committee of three (3) independent qualified real estate appraisers, one of whom shall be chosen by the Secretary of Natural Resources, one of whom shall be chosen by the electric company making the application, and the third to be chosen by the two appraisers first selected as provided hereinabove.