

parks, forests and beaches, fish and wildlife refuges and other public recreational uses as authorized within this article. The Secretary may not hold, at any one time, [less than four nor] more than eight sites, suitable for either single or multiple power plant siting. [However, a site shall be acquired by July 1, 1974, reasonably suitable for each electric company generating more than 1000 MW of electric power and at least one such site reasonably suitable for such electric company shall be held subsequently as a minimum inventory.] HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SHALL ACQUIRE WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME AT LEAST ONE SUITABLE SITE FOR EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY HAVING A PEAK DEMAND WITHIN THE STATE OF MORE THAN 1000 MW.

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

54B.

(E) FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES WHOSE PEAK DEMAND WITHIN THE STATE IS LESS THAN 1000MW, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL REQUEST THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO PURCHASE A POWER PLANT SITE AS PROVIDED IN SUBTITLE 3 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE UPON A PETITION BY THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLANNING AND A FINDING BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION THAT SUCH A SITE IS NEEDED.

(1) THE FINDING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL BE MADE ONLY AFTER PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING. SAID HEARING SHALL BE HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE SITE OR SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE LOCATED.

(2) IN DETERMINING WHETHER THERE EXISTS A NEED FOR THE STATE TO PURCHASE A POWER PLANT SITE, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF SITES OWNED BY THE UTILITY, WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE STATE, THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH OF ELECTRIC POWER DEMAND AND THE ALTERNATIVE MEANS AND LOCATIONS FOR MEETING THAT DEMAND, WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE STATE, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER FACTORS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1978.

Approved May 29, 1978.

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CHAPTER 879

(House Bill 438)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Small Business Development