

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, any site 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, on 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 § 3-304(4) of this subtitle. Site selection shall be based on [existing] research findings that show the site is desirable for power plant construction. Following site acquisition, the Secretary and the local governing bodies of the areas through which the potential generator lead routes pass shall designate mutually one or more desirable routes. After designation of a route, each county within which the route is located shall designate the proposed public utility corridor by enactment of an ordinance or by incorporation in its appropriate land use plan. Any investigation to ascertain the suitability of a site for the construction of an electric generating station shall be completed within 2 years of the date the site has been identified. By the end of the 2 year period, the Secretary shall purchase or remove from consideration the site and make public his decision.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the Secretary [shall not acquire any site for an electric company whose peak demand within the State is less than 1000 MW until] MAY ACQUIRE A SITE FOR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY IF the Public Service Commission requests the Secretary to purchase a site under Article 78, § 54B(e) of the Code.

(4) If any property acquired by condemnation under this subsection is not requested by an electric company under subsection (d) of this section within 15 years of the date of purchase by the Secretary, the Secretary shall provide the original owner or the heirs of the original owner the opportunity to purchase the property within 90 days from the date the offer is made, at a price not exceeding the amount paid by the State plus 6 percent annual interest. This sale shall be deemed to be for adequate consideration for purposes of § 10-305 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "site" means land which is reasonably necessary for a new site or for the expansion of an existing site owned by a utility. "Site" includes land necessary for such ancillary purposes as disposal of solid wastes produced by an electric generating station operating on the site, transmission or cooling water access, or transportation access.

(b) [(1)] If the other requirements of this subtitle have been satisfied, the Secretary may acquire any site by agreement or condemnation under the condemnation law and pay for them from the Fund. Prior to such acquisition, the Secretary shall hold