

one or more informational meetings and one public hearing in the legislative district where the proposed site or sites are located. The Secretary holds the property in the name of the State and may 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. Temporary uses which the Secretary may authorize may include but are not limited to public recreational facilities, including open space areas, 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, more than eight sites, suitable for either single or multiple power plant siting. [Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, 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.

(2) The Secretary shall not be required to purchase any additional sites on behalf of an electric utility having a peak demand within the State in excess of 1000 MW if:

(i) The utility owns 2 sites in Maryland which may support the construction of electric generating facilities, including any site which is capable of supporting additions to existing electric generating facilities;

(ii) The utility has listed the sites as possible or proposed sites in the long-range plan assembled by the Public Service Commission under Article 78, Section 54B(b);

(iii) The Secretary has submitted a preliminary environmental statement on each site in accordance with Section 3-304(2) of this subtitle and has not stated that either site should be classified as unsuitable; and

(iv) The utility has not obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Public Service Commission for the construction of electric generating facilities which fully utilize the capabilities of either site.]

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(e) [For public service companies whose peak demand within the State is less than 1000mw, the] THE Public Service Commission [shall] MAY request the Secretary of Natural Resources to purchase a power plant site as provided in Subtitle 3 of Title 3 of the Natural Resources Article upon [a petition by the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary of State Planning] ITS OWN MOTION, 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