

3-304.

In cooperation with the Public Service Commission and the Secretary of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT, the Secretary shall implement a long-range environmental evaluation of power plant building sites projected for at least 10 years. To facilitate providing adequate electric power on reasonable schedules at reasonable costs with the least possible depreciation of the quality of Maryland's environment, the following responsibilities and procedures are set forth:

(1) The Public Service Commission shall assemble and evaluate annually the long-range plans of Maryland's public electric companies regarding generating needs and means for meeting those needs. Beginning January 1, 1972, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission shall forward annually to the Secretary a ten-year plan of possible and proposed sites, including associated transmission routes, for the construction of new electric power plants within the State and extensions of existing plants.

(2) Upon receipt of a ten-year plan from the Public Service Commission, the Secretary with the advice of the Secretary of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT and in accordance with paragraph (1) of this section and Article 78, § 54B(b) of the Code, shall prepare and submit, within 180 days a preliminary environmental statement on each possible and proposed site, including associated transmission routes. The statement, on the basis of the environmental research program, shall include but not be limited to the following considerations:

(i) The environmental impact at the proposed site;

(ii) Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the proposed site is accepted;

(iii) Possible alternatives to the proposed site;

(iv) Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved at the proposed site if it is approved;

(v) Where appropriate, a discussion of problems and objections raised by other State and federal agencies and local entities;

(vi) A plan for monitoring environmental effects of the proposed action and provision for remedial actions if the monitoring reveals unanticipated environmental effects of significant adverse consequences; and