

3-304.

In cooperation with the Public Service Commission and the Secretary of 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:

(4) The Secretary, with the advice of the [Secretaries] SECRETARY of the Environment and [State] THE DIRECTOR OF Planning, shall publish on a biennial basis, commencing July 1, 1972, a cumulative environmental impact report on all electric power plants operating in the State. The report shall include a section specifying the changes that can occur as additional electric power plants are constructed in accordance with the ten-year plan. It shall include recommendations to the Governor which delineate State environmental policy and objectives. The [Secretary] DIRECTOR of [State] Planning shall include a section devoted exclusively to the question of growth and the specific growth related factors which necessitate specific additional increments of electric energy by development of a site in the ten-year plan. In preparing this section, he shall consider the projected estimates and recommendations of electric company representatives.

3-305.

(a) The expertise of the electric utilities in the basic requirements, including environmental considerations, of a site for power generation and generator lead route is a needed element in site selection. Therefore, for the purposes of insuring adequate power on reasonable schedules while also protecting the quality of the State's environment, site acquisition and generator lead route designation may occur as follows:

(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 Employment Development, shall acquire in the name of the State a sufficient number of sites to satisfy the expected requirements as submitted by the [Secretary] DIRECTOR of [State] Planning, as provided in § 3-304(4) of this subtitle. Site selection shall be based on 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