

~~(2) The evaluation of investments shall include:~~

~~(i) the electric companies' promotion and conduct of a building audit and weatherization program, including low interest or no interest electric company financing for the installation of energy conservation materials and renewable energy devices;~~

~~(ii) utilization of renewable energy sources;~~

~~(iii) promotion and utilization of electricity from cogeneration and wastes; and~~

~~(iv) widespread public promotion of energy conservation programs.~~

~~7-207.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section and § 7-208 of this subtitle, "construction" means the clearing of land, excavation, or other action that affects the natural environment of a site or route of a bulk power supply facility.~~

~~(2) "Construction" does not include a change that is needed for the temporary use of a site or route for nonutility purposes or for use in securing geological data, including any boring that is necessary to ascertain foundation conditions.~~

~~(b) [An electric company may not begin construction in the State of a generating station or of an overhead transmission line that is designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts, or exercise the right of condemnation in connection with the construction, unless] UNLESS a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction is first obtained from the Commission:~~

~~(1) A PERSON MAY NOT BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN THE STATE OF A GENERATING STATION OR EXERCISE A RIGHT OF CONDEMNATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION; AND~~

~~(2) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY NOT BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE THAT IS DESIGNED TO CARRY A VOLTAGE IN EXCESS OF 69,000 VOLTS OR EXERCISE A RIGHT OF CONDEMNATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION.~~

~~(c) (1) On receipt of an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity under this section, the Commission shall provide notice to the Office of Planning and to all other interested persons.~~

~~(2) The Office of Planning shall forward the application to each appropriate State unit and unit of local government for review, evaluation, and comment regarding the significance of the proposal to State, area wide, and local plans or programs.~~

~~(d) (1) The Commission shall hold a public hearing on the application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in each county and municipal~~