

PSHB 1216 (H-1129.3/23) - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Environment & Energy

1 On page 28, after line 27, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 307.** (1)(a) The department must consult with
3 stakeholders from rural communities, agriculture, natural resource
4 management and conservation, and forestry to gain a better
5 understanding of the benefits and impacts of anticipated changes in
6 the state's energy system, including the siting of facilities under
7 the jurisdiction of the energy facility site evaluation council, and
8 to identify risks and opportunities for rural communities. This
9 consultation must be conducted in compliance with the community
10 engagement plan developed by the department under chapter 70A.02 RCW
11 and with input from the environmental justice council, using the best
12 recommended practices available at the time. The department must
13 collect the best available information and learn from the lived
14 experiences of people in rural communities, with the objective of
15 improving state implementation of clean energy policies, including
16 the siting of energy facilities under the jurisdiction of the energy
17 facility site evaluation council, in ways that protect and improve
18 life in rural Washington. The department must consult with an array
19 of rural community members, including: Low-income community and
20 vulnerable population members or representatives; legislators; local
21 elected officials and staff; those involved with agriculture,
22 forestry, and natural resource management and conservation; renewable
23 energy project property owners; utilities; large energy consumers;
24 and others.

25 (b) The consultation must include stakeholder meetings with at
26 least one in eastern Washington and one in western Washington.

27 (c) The department's consultation with stakeholders may include,
28 but is not limited to, the following topics:

29 (i) Energy facility siting under the jurisdiction of the energy
30 facility site evaluation council, including placement of new
31 renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar generation, pumped

1 storage, and batteries or new nonemitting electric generation
2 resources, and their contribution to resource adequacy;

3 (ii) Production of hydrogen, biofuels, and feedstocks for clean
4 fuels;

5 (iii) Programs to reduce energy cost burdens on rural families
6 and farm operations;

7 (iv) Electric vehicles, farm and warehouse equipment, and
8 charging infrastructure suitable for rural use;

9 (v) Efforts to capture carbon or produce energy on agricultural,
10 forest, and other rural lands, including dual use solar projects that
11 ensure ongoing agricultural operations;

12 (vi) The use of wood products and forest practices that provide
13 low-carbon building materials and renewable fuel supplies; and

14 (vii) The development of clean manufacturing facilities, such as
15 solar panels, vehicles, and carbon fiber.

16 (2) (a) The department must complete a report on rural clean
17 energy and resilience that takes into consideration the consultation
18 with rural stakeholders as described in subsection (1) of this
19 section. The report must include recommendations for how policies,
20 projects, and investment programs, including energy facility siting
21 through the energy facility site evaluation council, can be developed
22 or amended to more equitably distribute costs and benefits to rural
23 communities. The report must include an assessment of how to improve
24 the total benefits to rural areas overall, as well as the equitable
25 distribution of benefits and costs within rural communities.

26 (b) The report must include a baseline understanding of rural
27 energy production and consumption, and collect data on their economic
28 impacts. Specifically, the report must examine:

29 (i) Direct, indirect, and induced jobs in construction and
30 operations;

31 (ii) Financial returns to property owners;

32 (iii) Effects on local tax revenues and public services, which
33 must include whether any school districts had a net loss of resources
34 from diminished local effort assistance payments required under
35 chapter 28A.500 RCW;

36 (iv) Effects on other rural land uses, such as agriculture,
37 natural resource management and conservation, and tourism;

38 (v) Geographic distribution of large energy projects previously
39 sited or forecast to be sited in Washington;

1 (vi) Potential forms of economic development assistance and
2 impact mitigation payments; and

3 (vii) Relevant information from the least-conflict priority solar
4 siting pilot project in the Columbia basin of eastern and central
5 Washington required under section 607, chapter 334, Laws of 2021.

6 (c) The report must include a forecast of what Washington's clean
7 energy transition will require for siting energy projects in rural
8 Washington. The department must gather and analyze the best available
9 information to produce forecast scenarios.

10 (d) By December 1, 2023, the department must submit an interim
11 report on rural clean energy and resilience to the joint committee on
12 energy supply, energy conservation, and energy resilience created in
13 RCW 44.39.010, the energy facility site evaluation council, and the
14 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature.

15 (e) By December 1, 2024, the department must submit a final
16 report on rural clean energy and resilience to the joint committee on
17 energy supply, energy conservation, and energy resilience created in
18 RCW 44.39.010, the energy facility site evaluation council, and the
19 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section, "department" means the
21 department of commerce.

22 **Sec. 308.** RCW 44.39.010 and 2005 c 299 s 1 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 There is hereby created the joint committee on energy supply
25 ~~((and)),~~ energy conservation, and energy resilience.

26 **Sec. 309.** RCW 44.39.012 and 2005 c 299 s 4 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
29 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

30 (1) "Committee" means the joint committee on energy supply
31 ~~((and)),~~ energy conservation, and energy resilience.

32 (2) "Conservation" means reduced energy consumption or energy
33 cost, or increased efficiency in the use of energy, and activities,
34 measures, or equipment designed to achieve such results.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 310.** (1)(a) The committee shall review the
36 following issues:

1 (i) Inequities in where large alternative energy projects,
2 including projects under the jurisdiction of the energy facility site
3 evaluation council, have been sited in Washington;

4 (ii) Inequities in where large alternative energy projects,
5 including projects under the jurisdiction of the energy facility site
6 evaluation council, are forecast to be sited in Washington; and

7 (iii) Forms of economic development assistance, mitigation
8 payments, and viewshed impairment payments that counties not hosting
9 their per capita share of alternative energy resources should provide
10 to counties that host more than their per capita share.

11 (b) In support of its obligations under (a) of this subsection,
12 the committee must review the report produced by the department of
13 commerce under section 307 of this act.

14 (2) The committee must hold at least four meetings, at least two
15 of which must be in eastern Washington. The first meeting of the
16 committee must occur by September 30, 2023.

17 (3) Relevant state agencies, departments, and commissions,
18 including the energy facility site evaluation council, shall
19 cooperate with the committee and provide information as the chair
20 reasonably requests.

21 (4) The committee shall report its findings and any
22 recommendations to the energy facility site evaluation council and
23 the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over environment
24 and energy laws by December 1, 2024. Recommendations of the committee
25 may be made by a simple majority of committee members. In the event
26 that the committee does not reach majority-supported recommendations,
27 the committee may report minority findings supported by at least two
28 members of the committee.

29 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
30 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

31 (a) "Alternative energy" means energy derived from an alternative
32 energy resource specified in RCW 80.50.020(1).

33 (b) "Committee" means the joint committee on energy supply,
34 energy conservation, and energy resilience created in RCW 44.39.010.

35 (6) This section expires June 30, 2025."

36 Correct the title.

communities. Requires commerce to complete an interim report on rural clean energy and resilience that examines the impact of energy projects in rural areas and considers input from the stakeholder consultation by December 1, 2023, and a final report by December 1, 2024. Changes the name of the joint committee on energy supply and energy conservation to the joint committee on energy supply, energy conservation, and energy resilience (JCESECER). Requires the JCESECER to review inequities in the historic and anticipated siting of large alternative energy facilities, and to provide an interim report to the legislature by December 2023, and a final report by December 2024.

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