
SENATE BILL 6353

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

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By Senator Ranker

Read first time 01/19/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to the application of chapter 80.50 RCW to the
2 construction, reconstruction, or modification of certain electrical
3 transmission facilities; and amending RCW 80.50.060.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 80.50.060 and 2007 c 325 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction of
8 energy facilities which includes the new construction of energy
9 facilities and the reconstruction or enlargement of existing energy
10 facilities where the net increase in physical capacity or dimensions
11 resulting from such reconstruction or enlargement meets or exceeds
12 those capacities or dimensions set forth in RCW 80.50.020 (~~((+7))~~) (12)
13 and (~~((+15))~~) (21). No construction of such energy facilities may be
14 undertaken, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, after July
15 15, 1977, without first obtaining certification in the manner provided
16 in this chapter.

17 (2) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction,
18 reconstruction, or enlargement of a new or existing energy facility

1 that exclusively uses alternative energy resources and chooses to
2 receive certification under this chapter, regardless of the generating
3 capacity of the project.

4 (3)(a) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction,
5 reconstruction, or modification of electrical transmission facilities
6 when:

7 (i) The facilities are located in a national interest electric
8 transmission corridor as specified in RCW 80.50.045; or

9 (ii) An applicant chooses to receive certification under this
10 chapter, and the facilities are(~~(A)~~) of a nominal voltage of at
11 least one hundred fifteen thousand volts (~~and are located in a~~
12 ~~completely new corridor, except for the terminus of the new facility or~~
13 ~~interconnection of the new facility with the existing grid, and the~~
14 ~~corridor is not otherwise used for electrical transmission facilities;~~
15 ~~and (B) located in more than one jurisdiction that has promulgated land~~
16 ~~use plans or zoning ordinances; or~~

17 ~~(iii) An applicant chooses to receive certification under this~~
18 ~~chapter, and the facilities are: (A) Of a nominal voltage in excess of~~
19 ~~one hundred fifteen thousand volts; and (B) located outside an~~
20 ~~electrical transmission corridor identified in (a)(i) and (ii) of this~~
21 ~~subsection (3)).~~

22 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "modify" means a
23 significant change to an electrical transmission facility and does not
24 include the following: (i) Minor improvements such as the replacement
25 of existing transmission line facilities or supporting structures with
26 equivalent facilities or structures; (ii) the relocation of existing
27 electrical transmission line facilities; (iii) the conversion of
28 existing overhead lines to underground; or (iv) the placing of new or
29 additional conductors, supporting structures, insulators, or their
30 accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.

31 (4) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to normal
32 maintenance and repairs which do not increase the capacity or
33 dimensions beyond those set forth in RCW 80.50.020 (~~(7)~~) (12) and
34 (~~(15)~~) (21).

35 (5) Applications for certification of energy facilities made prior
36 to July 15, 1977, shall continue to be governed by the applicable
37 provisions of law in effect on the day immediately preceding July 15,

1 1977, with the exceptions of RCW 80.50.190 and 80.50.071 which shall
2 apply to such prior applications and to site certifications
3 prospectively from July 15, 1977.

4 (6) Applications for certification shall be upon forms prescribed
5 by the council and shall be supported by such information and technical
6 studies as the council may require.

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