

**OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 34 – ENERGY FACILITY SITING**

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND SITING OF MAJOR ELECTRIC ENERGY GENERATING AND TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN THE COASTAL AREA, AND TO REGULATE THE SITING OF THESE FACILITIES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF OHIO'S CITIZENS AND THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE BY:

- A. REQUIRING CERTIFICATION OF ANY MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY THROUGH THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD IN A PROCESS WHICH ENSURES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (O.R.C. CHAPTER 4906 AND O.A.C. 4906) AND**
- B. REQUIRING 10-YEAR DEMAND, RESOURCE AND SITE INVENTORY FORECASTS FOR ALL ENERGY GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ACTIVITY IN THE STATE (O.R.C. 4935.04).**

Authorities and Administration

- A. O.R.C. Chapter 4906 establishes the Ohio Power Siting Board (PSB), within the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO), as the lead agency to implement a "one-stop" process for all permits involving the construction, operation and maintenance of a major utility facility. The PSB is composed of the Directors of Ohio Department of Health (ODH), ODNR, the Department of Development, Ohio EPA, Department of Agriculture (ODA) and PUCO; a public member; and four legislators (nonvoting) (O.R.C. 4906.02). PSB decisions and actions relate to any "major utility facility" including:
1. An electric generating plant and associated facilities designed for, or capable of, operation at a capacity of 50 megawatts or more;
 2. An electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of 125 kilowatts or more; and
 3. A gas or natural gas transmission line and associated facilities designed for, or capable of, transporting gas or natural gas at pressures in excess of 125 pounds per square inch.

The PSB shall not issue a certificate unless it finds and determines that "the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives, and other pertinent considerations" (O.R.C. 4906.10(A)(3)). Under this authority, the PSB conditions all permits upon compliance with all applicable state and federal permits.

Other coastal-related concerns considered by the PSB include degree of coastal dependency, impact on environmentally sensitive areas and Special Management Areas (SMAs), compatibility with adjacent uses and activities, coastal access, visual impact upon adjacent areas (mainly in regard to alignment of transmission lines), and degree of erosion and flood hazard involved (O.A.C. 4906).

- B. All owners and operators of major utility facilities within the state are required to annually provide PUCO with a long-term forecast report pursuant to O.R.C. 4935.04. These annual reports, which must provide a 10-year year-by-year forecast, are reviewed by PUCO and made available to the public. Criteria for evaluating these long-term forecasts are contained in O.A.C. 4901:5-1, 5-3, 5-5, and 5-7. Complete details regarding Ohio's energy facility planning process are provided in Chapter 10.