



Comprehensive Energy Planning for the State

Section 51 of Public Act 11-80 (Act) requires that, “On or before July 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board shall prepare a Comprehensive Energy Plan.”

Some highlights of plan requirements under the Act include: an assessment of current and future energy supplies, demand and costs; a statement of energy policies and long-range energy planning objectives; specific assessments concerning ratepayer benefits from carbon dioxide emissions reductions or joint ventures to repower some or all of the state’s coal- and oil-fired generation facilities built before 1990, and an assessment of expansion, use and availability of natural gas in the state.

Some of the key goals for the plan include: development of strategies to achieve a sound economy, the least-cost mix of energy supply sources and measures that reduce energy demand, that give regard to consumer price impacts, security and diversity of fuel supplies and energy generation methods, protection of public health and safety, environmental standards, energy conservation and the state’s ability to compete economically.

Pursuant to the Act, The Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy (BETP), which is part of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), is developing the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES). The CES looks at energy uses including electricity, heating, cooling, and transportation. The CES is divided into sections on: transportation, buildings, industry, electricity and cross-cutting issues, such as natural gas use. So far, stakeholders, including the OCC, have attended two presentations by BETP. In addition, there have been two opportunities for plan scoping comments.

For further information, visit the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep. In the left-hand column, click on: Energy. Under the Energy Proceedings heading, click on: Comprehensive Energy Plan, and follow the links to the web filings.