DOCKET NO. 60

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| AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY FLAGG ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A 10,000 KW COGENERATION FACILITY LOCATED IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT. | : | CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL |
| | : | May 7, 1986 |

# O P I N I O N

Flagg Energy Development Corporation (FEDCO) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need to construct a cogeneration facility known as the Hartford Hospital Cogeneration Facility to generate steam and electricity.

The facility would take advantage of technical advancements to produce and make efficient use of two forms of usable energy: electricity from the combustion of natural gas or oil, and steam and electricity from the recovery of waste heat. The facility would promote the declared energy policy of the state by encouraging energy efficiency, conserving fuel, and reducing the consumption of foreign oil.

The project would add approximately 10 MW of capacity to the utility grid. The additional capacity would provide diversity, increased reliability of electric service, and time for utilites and regulators to assess developing technologies for future baseload generating facilities.

The incremental addition of private cogeneration capacity would reduce utility capital requirements to meet the demand for electricity and thereby reduce the risks and costs to ratepayers associated with construction overruns, abandonment, premature retirement, and capital improvements. By reducing the utility's need to invest in electrical generation, this cogeneration facility would provide benefits to both the utility company and its ratepayers.

The proven design of the facility and coordination guaranteed by contract with the Northeast Utilities Company (NU) lend confidence that the facility would be highly reliable and compatible with the NU grid for customer use. The facility would meet all necessary design, construction, and operation codes and standards for safety, thus minimizing risks due to fire, explosion, or facility failure.

Although the relative size of this facility is small, environmental effects associated with electrical generation cannot be overlooked. The key environmental issues before the Council include noise, air pollution, visual impacts, and to a lesser extent, water pollution, traffic congestion, and waste disposal.

The Council recognizes that the existing ambient noise levels are typical of a noisy urban area but believes that the proposed facility would not significantly increase ambient noise levels. Although the Council is satisfied with the noise modeling and proposed noise mitigation features of the facility, the Council will order a final sound level survey and additional noise control measures as necessary to ensure that existing ambient noise levels will not be significantly exceeded.

While the Council recognizes that carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides emissions will increase over current levels, it notes also that particulate matter and sulfur dioxide emissions will decrease. A permit to construct, issued by the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and operational permits and emission monitoring, to be set by the DEP upon project completion, provide additional assurance to the Council that the facility will operate within state and federal air quality standards and will not be a source of unacceptable air pollution.

The low, unobtrusive cooling towers and exhaust stacks and the integration of the facility into the existing hospital structure will be compatible with the existing hospital and surrounding land uses. Other effects such as water pollution, traffic congestion, and waste disposal are not of significance.

The project represents a contribution to efficient, diversified electric generation. The Council finds that the need for this project outweighs the environmental effects associated with its development and operation. The Council therefore directs that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need be issued subject to the conditions of the Decision and Order that accompanies this Opinion.