

## **BRIEFING – CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL STUDY**

(P.A. 24-144, SEC 12)

AUGUST 28, 2024

### **AGENDA**

## Introduction to CSC Study

- 1. Review of Timeline for Study
- 2. Overview of DRAFT Table of Contents
- 3. Update on initial meetings with state agencies
- 4. Coming opportunities to participate

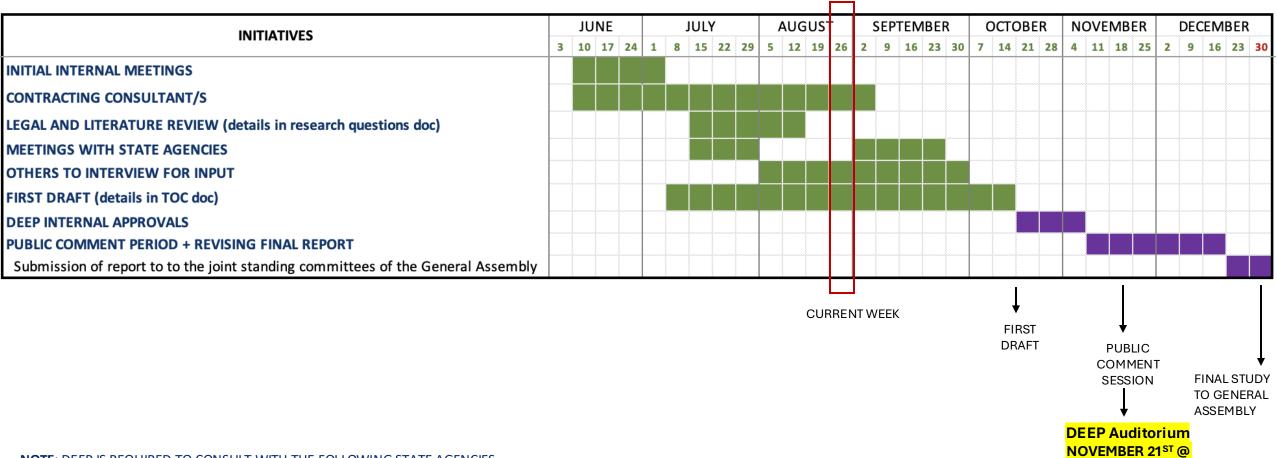


### INTRODUCTION TO CSC STUDY

Pursuant to P.A. 24-144, Section 12, DEEP is required to conduct a study and report to the General Assembly on various aspects of the CT Siting Council's work.

- As part of an initial phase of writing the study, DEEP has engaged with a group of state agencies it was specifically required to consult and has been studying other siting authorities across New England.
- A second phase, which will span September and October, will involve collecting input through a broad stakeholder survey and additional interviews with other stakeholders, including: utilities, developers, farmland protection organizations, and community organizations, among others.
- By late October, a first draft of the study will be made public, and a public comment session will take place at DEEP Auditorium on November 21st @ 6:00 p.m., with online access also available.

### 1. CSC STUDY – TIMELINE



6:00 p.m.

#### NOTE: DEEP IS REQUIRED TO CONSULT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATE AGENCIES

► Office of the Governor ► Office of Policy and Management ► Connecticut Siting Council ► Department of Agriculture ► Department of Economic and Community Development > Department of Housing > Department of Public Health > Department of Transportation > Council on Environmental Quality > Public Utilities Regulatory Authority > Office of Consumer Counsel

# 2. CSC STUDY - TABLE OF CONTENTS (BASED ON P.A. 24-144, SEC 12)

#### **Executive Summary**

#### **Chapter 1: CT Siting Council History, Jurisdiction & Responsibilities**

- The scope of the Council's jurisdiction, the composition of the Council's membership, and the Council's powers, duties, roles, and responsibilities, as compared to those of other state agencies
- The Council's relationship with municipalities and other governmental bodies.

#### **Chapter 2: CSC Structure**

- The effectiveness of the Council's structure, with consideration of other structures based on best practices in other states,
- Any statutory or administrative changes that may be needed to implement such recommendations.

#### **Chapter 3: CSC Internal Processes & Procedures**

 1) Issuing a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need, 2) Approving a petition for a declaratory ruling, 3) Potential uses of new technologies to improve processes, 4) Efficacy of processes for developing evidence, 5) Efficacy of the Council's processes for engaging in deliberations



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# 2. CSC STUDY - TABLE OF CONTENTS (BASED ON P.A. 24-144, SEC 12)

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#### **Chapter 4: CSC External/Outreach Processes & Procedures**

- Policies, procedures and processes for inclusive public engagement in Council decision-making, including increasing transparency and encourage public participation, especially in environmental justice communities, as defined in section 22a-20a.
- Equitable practices and processes in Council decision-making for considering community compensation.

#### **Chapter 5: CT Siting Council Project Evaluation and Selection**

- Criteria used by the Council in evaluating applications.
- How the Council evaluates any economic, conservation and development impacts of projects.
- How the Council addresses common public concerns related to siting, such as noise, visual and other community impacts.

#### **Chapter 6: CT Siting Council Project Oversight post-selection**

The Council's oversight of completed projects



#### 3. STATE AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED (PHASE 1 OF STUDY) OCC required to be a consulted agency in 2024 legislation. OFFICE OF CONSUMER **COUNSEL** OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND **GOVERNOR MANAGEMENT** Comprehensive Energy Strategy & Appoints 5 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). members Reviews potentially significant Many DOH projects environmental impacts and nowith solar but too small **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** material-effect letter for core Appoints 1 for CSC (under 1MW). **DEPARTMENT OF** AND ENVIRONMENTAL member forest on projects over 2 MW. HOUSING PROTECTION CT SITING COUNCIL Appoints 1 Mostly hears from Regulates Utilities and member petitioners/utilities looks at impact of CSC about public right of **PUBLIC UTILITIES** DEPARTMENT OF decisions on ratepayers way and property **REGULATORY** TRANSPORTATION and grid modernization. **AUTHORITY** management issues. **DPH** Review potential CEQ impacts on drinking CONNECTICUT **DEPARTMENT OF** DEPARTMENT OF epartment of Economic and Community Development water watersheds. **AGRICULTURE PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL ON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL** No-material-effect letter for **ECONOMIC AND** QUALITY **COMMUNITY** solar projects over 2 MW Review petitions and applications DEVELOPMENT that impact prime farmland for potential environmental soils. Historic structures/sites where there impacts **DIRECT CONNECTION**

**WEAKER CONNECTION** 

is a federal nexus with CSC projects.

#### 3. HIGH-LEVEL EARLY COMMENTS ABOUT CSC OUTREACH FROM STATE AGENCIES

- CSC processes and opportunities for public input could be more "user friendly" (e.g. flow charts)
- "Good communications" with communities are mostly reliant on project proponents
- All CSC public meetings are held remotely (no local site visit, evidentiary hearing, or Council meeting to facilitate community engagement)
- Ombudsman and/or funding for EJ community involvement could be helpful (similar to PURA)

#### 4. COMING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

- **1. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**: DEEP Auditorium, November 21st @ 6:00 p.m. + online access.
- 2. ONLINE SURVEY: Opportunity to provide written comments prior to the Public Comment Session.

## **DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS?**

