



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.

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

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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)

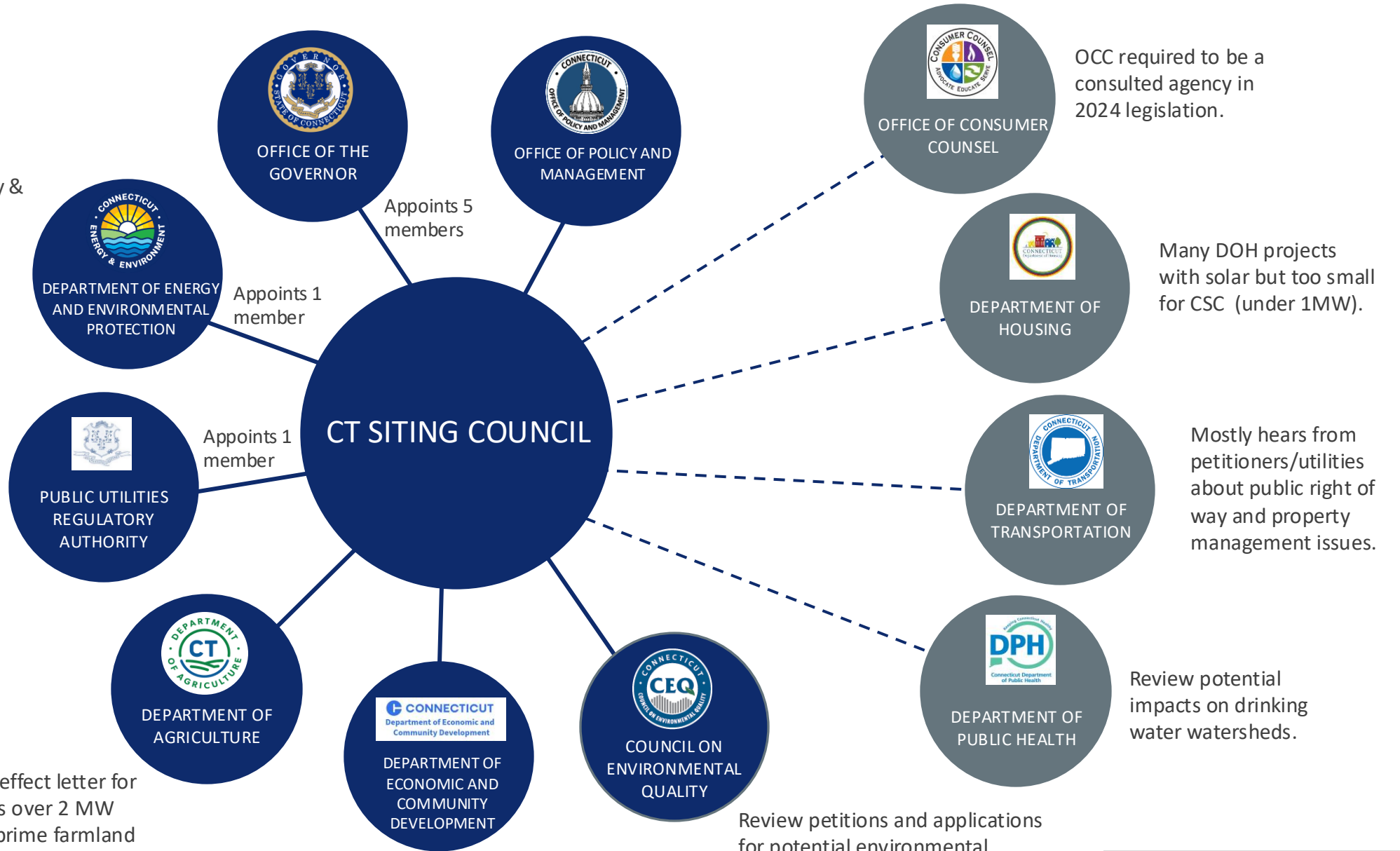
Comprehensive Energy Strategy & Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Reviews potentially significant environmental impacts and no-material-effect letter for core forest on projects over 2 MW.

Regulates Utilities and looks at impact of CSC decisions on ratepayers and grid modernization.

No-material-effect letter for solar projects over 2 MW that impact prime farmland soils.

Historic structures/sites where there is a federal nexus with CSC projects.

Review petitions and applications for potential environmental impacts



DIRECT CONNECTION ———
WEAKER CONNECTION - - - -

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?

