

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Commissioner Katie Dykes (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection)
Commissioner Michelle Gilman (Department of Administrative Services)
Commissioner Ronnell Higgins (Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection)

Testimony Regarding [House Bill 5472](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF ENERGY GENERATION SOURCES AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

Senator Needleman, Representative Steinberg, Senator Fazio, Representative Marra, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee, We appreciate this opportunity to provide information relative to [House Bill 5472](#), *An Act Concerning the Safety of Energy Generation Sources and Energy Storage Systems*.

While the number and scope of incidents caused by an energy generating facility has been relatively limited, the safety of our communities is our paramount concern. Our outreach with municipalities and legislators identified opportunities for improvement, including the reporting of incidents to the appropriate regulatory authority, identification of an authoritative managing contact responsible for the facility, delivering training opportunities, and clarifying the re-energization process after an incident.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), and Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP) welcome the opportunity to present some additional information regarding the state's role in emergency response, regulation, and energy generation. Our agencies serve different roles relative to this topic.

DAS, Office of the State Fire Marshals Office (OSFM): Oversees and promotes fire codes, standards, and regulations to reduce fires and related dangers.

DAS, Office of the State Building Inspector (OSBI): Oversees and promotes building codes, and has primary jurisdiction over the electrical code. Also supports local building officials who may be collecting permits, reviewing plans, and conducting inspections and acceptance testing.

Local Fire Departments: Provide immediate assistance during emergencies including fires, accidents, and medical emergencies.

DESPP Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS): Provides a coordinated, integrated program for statewide emergency management and homeland security, including coordination of the state response to emergencies, strategic and operational all-hazards planning; community preparedness; exercise and training; and grants planning and program management.

DESPP Commission of Fire Prevention and Control: Collaborate with municipalities, fire departments and regional fire schools for prevention or mitigation of the effects of fire and disasters through delivery of quality consulting services, technical assistance, training, education, and professional competency certification of career and volunteer fire service personnel throughout Connecticut.

DESPP State Fire Administrator: Carries out the requirements of section 7-323n, administers federal funds and grants, develops a centralized information and audiovisual library regarding fire prevention and control; accumulate, disseminate and analyze fire prevention data; recommends specifications of fire service materials and equipment and assist in the purchasing, assists in mutual aid coordination, and reviews the purchase of fire apparatus or equipment at state institutions, facilities and properties as well as coordinate the training and education of fire service personnel at these locations.

DESPP Fire, Explosive, Investigative Unit (FEIU): Conducts cause and origin of fires and arson investigations; circus, carnival ride and amusement park inspections; hazardous materials and explosives licensing and investigations; licensing and permitting fireworks and special effects displays; and training in all these areas.

In addition to our agencies, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) provide regulatory oversight over distinct portions of energy infrastructure. Generally, the distinction in oversight is near the point of interconnection where an energy generating facility (CSC) joins the transmission and distribution network (PURA).

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the bill proponents and other efforts across the legislature on these important topics to support the safe operation of energy-generating facilities. Thank you for your consideration of this information.