
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5472

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF ENERGY GENERATION SOURCES AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes certain requirements and provisions related to safety incidents at electric generation and storage systems subject to the Connecticut Siting Council's jurisdiction. It generally:

1. requires those electric generation and storage facilities to file reports on certain safety incidents with the council;
2. allows the council to require applicants for these facilities to give local firefighters or other emergency services personnel training specific to the proposed facility;
3. requires the council to require an applicant or certificate holder for these facilities to designate an emergency contact person for the facility; and
4. requires the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to convene a working group to study the process for resuming electric generation services at an electric generation or storage facility after a service shutoff that exceeds five days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

INCIDENT REPORTS

The bill requires any person (including entities) who has a Siting Council certificate to operate an electric generation or storage facility to report any major or minor incident at the facility in a form and way set by the council. Under the bill, they must report a major incident within five days after it occurs, and a minor incident within 30 days after it

occurs.

Under the bill, a “major incident” is any event at an electric generation or storage facility that (1) requires an emergency shutoff of electricity flowing to or from it due to a hazardous condition at the facility, (2) requires local emergency services personnel to respond to the facility, or (3) causes injury requiring someone’s hospitalization. A “minor incident” is an unanticipated or unplanned shutdown of the facility that does not require local emergency services personnel to respond. It does not include a shutdown for scheduled or routine maintenance.

The bill requires the Siting Council, starting on July 1, 2028, to annually give the Energy and Technology Committee a report detailing any reports on major and minor incidents the council received over the prior year.

EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING

The bill allows the Siting Council to require, as a condition of approving an electric generation or storage facility, that the applicant provide emergency services training specific to the proposed facility to local firefighters or other emergency services personnel (those in any municipality where the facility will be located). The applicant must pay for the training.

If the council imposes this requirement, the bill requires the applicant to notify the local chief executive officer and fire marshal, as ordered by the council. The chief executive officer or fire marshal must respond to the notice in writing within 60 days after receiving it, and indicate whether firefighters or other emergency services personnel in the municipality request the training. If so, the applicant must arrange for the training to be given within 60 days after the request.

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON

The bill also requires the Siting Council, as a condition for approving a facility, to require an applicant to (1) designate an emergency contact person for the facility, (2) give the person’s contact information to the

council and the chief executive officer and the local fire official of the municipality where the facility is located, and (3) post a sign displaying the contact person's contact information at each entrance to the facility. Additionally, any current certificate holder must take these steps by January 1, 2027.

Under the bill, an "emergency contact person" is a person (including an entity or an organization), designated by an applicant or certificate holder, who has authority to act on behalf of the applicant or certificate holder in the event of an emergency at an electric generation or storage facility.

If the designated emergency contact person or their contact information changes, the bill requires the applicant or certificate holder, within 30 days after the change, to (1) give written notice about the change to the council and the local chief executive officer and fire official and (2) update each sign displaying the contact information at the facility.

The bill requires the designated emergency contact person to be available to respond to any emergency at the facility within one hour after the emergency occurs. If the person fails to timely respond to an emergency at the facility, any firefighter or other emergency services personnel who tried to contact the emergency contact person must file a written report with the council detailing the lack of response.

PURA WORKING GROUP

The bill requires PURA's chairperson, by November 1, 2026, and in consultation with the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner and Siting Council, to convene a working group within PURA to review and assess any processes on the resumption of electric generation services after a service shutoff at an electric generation or storage facility that exceeds five days. The review and assessment must consider:

1. any existing statutory, regulatory, or contractual processes governing the resumption of electric generation services after an

- extended shutoff;
2. the adequacy of coordination among electric generation facility owners or operators, electric distribution companies, regional transmission organizations, and state agencies;
 3. potential risks to public safety or electric grid reliability associated with extended shutoffs and subsequent service resumption; and
 4. any recommendations for statutory, regulatory, or procedural changes to improve transparency, coordination, and safety when service resumes.

The bill requires the working group to include:

1. PURA's chairperson or his designee;
2. the Siting Council's chairperson or their designee;
3. the DEEP commissioner or her designee;
4. at least one representative from an electric distribution company (Eversource or United Illuminating);
5. at least one owner or operator of an electric generation facility subject to the Siting Council's jurisdiction;
6. an employee of a higher education institution in the state with expertise in electrical engineering or any field related to electricity generation, transmission, or distribution;
7. the consumer counsel or her designee; and
8. any other interested party the chairperson deems appropriate.

The bill requires PURA's chairperson, by February 1, 2027, to submit a report on the working group's efforts and recommendations to the Energy and Technology and Public Safety committees.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

HB 5457, reported favorably by the Public Safety Committee, generally (1) requires local fire marshals to give the Siting Council an incident report for any fire or explosion at a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility under the council’s jurisdiction and (2) sets conditions under which the council (a) must open an amendment proceeding to require these facility owners to adopt a fire mitigation plan and (b) may require other similar facilities to do the same.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 3 (03/19/2026)