



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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DATE: October 4, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Linda Roberts, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 432** – Feasibility study of back-up power requirements for telecommunications towers and antennas pursuant to Public Act 12-148.

I. Introduction

Pursuant to Public Act 12-148 (Act), telecommunications service providers are required to submit a report to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) concerning each provider's ability to provide backup power during an electric service outage for any telecommunications tower or antenna owned, leased or operated by such provider and each provider's plans concerning such backup power on or before October 1, 2012 and annually thereafter. After the initial backup power reports are submitted, in the public interest and necessary for the public health and safety, the Council is required to study the feasibility of backup power requirements for telecommunications towers and antennas in consultation and coordination with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the DESPP and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). On or before January 1, 2013, PURA shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations and a proposed plan for deploying backup power, if such backup power is determined to be feasible, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly related to energy, public safety, and planning and development.

II. Technical

The Act requires the Council, DEEP, DESPP and PURA to consider the following as part of the feasibility study of backup power requirements for telecommunications towers and antennas:

1. Federal, state and local jurisdictional issues of such backup power requirements, including, but not limited to, siting issues;
2. Similar laws or initiatives in other states;
3. The technical and legal feasibility of such backup power requirements;
4. The environmental issues concerning such backup power; and
5. Any other issue concerning backup power that PURA deems relevant to such study.

III. Administrative Review

After the initial backup power reports are submitted, the Council, DESPP, DEEP and PURA shall study the feasibility of requiring backup power for telecommunications towers and antennas in accordance with the considerations referenced above. Any information provided

in the initial backup power reports submitted pursuant to this Act shall be considered confidential, not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and such information shall not be transmitted to any person except as needed to comply with the Act.

IV. Procedural

The Council must schedule a hearing for the proceeding, designate a staff analyst, appoint a custodian of the docket and designate a place for the deposition of the transcript. Staff recommends designating Fred Cunliffe as the staff analyst, Carriann Mulcahy as custodian of the docket, holding the public hearing in New Britain on November 1, 2012, and depositing the transcript in the Council's office. Providers of Mobile Radio Service, as defined in 47 CFR 20.3; DESPP; DEEP; and PURA have been designated by the Act as participants to this proceeding.

V. Proposed Schedule

Deadline for Providers of Mobile Radio Service to submit Backup Power reports to Council and DESPP	10/01/12
Pre-hearing Questions to Providers of Mobile Radio Service	
• Set-One Filed	10/11/12
• Set-One responses due	10/25/12
Final Exchange of Pre-hearing Questions between Participants	10/18/12
Pre-filed testimony/other filings due	10/25/12
Deadline to request Participant status	10/25/12
Hearing 11:00 AM	11/01/12
Draft Study	11/15/12
Final Study	11/29/12
Deadline for Submission of Study to PURA	12/07/12

Supervising Siting Analyst: Fred Cunliffe