West Virginia Legislature

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 141

By Senator Woodrum

[Introduced January 10, 2024; referred

to the Committee on the Judiciary]

A BILL to amend and reenact §64-10-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the Public Energy Authority to promulgate a legislative rule relating to rule to petition the Public Energy Authority for approval of decommissioning or deconstruction activities related to any coal, oil, or natural gas-fueled power plant.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. Authorization for Department of commerce to promulgate legislative rules.

§64-10-1. Public Energy Authority.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 7, 2023, authorized under the authority of §5D-1-5c of this code, relating to the Public Energy Authority (rule to petition the Public Energy Authority for approval of decommissioning or deconstruction activities related to any coal, oil, or natural gas fueled power plant, [53 CSR 05](http://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/rule.aspx?rule=53-05)), is authorized with the amendments set forth below:

On page 3, by striking out subsection 4.3 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection 4.3 to read as follows:

"4.3. One paper copy and one electronic PDF version of the Notice shall be filed with the Authority, in addition to the requirements set forth in 6.1., 6.2., 6.3., and 6.4. of this rule.";

On page 7, subsection 5.3. by striking out the word "five (5)" and inserting in lieu thereof "20";

On page 7, subdivision 5.3.1. by striking out the word "five (5)" and inserting in lieu thereof "20";

On page 7, subdivision 5.3.3. by striking out the word "Eight (8) copies" and inserting in lieu thereof the words: "One paper copy and one electronic PDF version";

On page 7, by striking out subdivision 6.2.1. in its entirety;

On page 7, subsection 6.3., after the word "A", by striking the word "copy" and inserting in lieu thereof the following "paper copy or electronic PDF version";

On page 8, subsection 7.6., by striking out the first comma, the words "not to exceed three (3) pages", and the second comma;

On page 8, subdivision 8.1.3. by striking out "three-page";

On page 8, by inserting a new subdivision, designated 8.1.4, to read as follows:

"The Authority shall make a decision on the Petition within one year after the submission of the Petition.";

On page 9, by striking out subsections 9.2. and 9.2.1. in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the new subsections 9.2. and 9.2.1. to read as follows:

9.2. A Petitioner may redact or withhold any confidential or proprietary information that the Petitioner cannot legally disclose. The Petitioner shall include with the Petition a letter generally describing the nature of the information redacted or withheld and the legal justification for the redaction or withholding of the information.

9.2.1. The Authority may determine in executive session what additional information is exempt from public disclosure under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act and may make any additional redactions prior to publishing the Petition on the Authority’s website.

And,

On page 9, by adding a new section, designated §53-5-10 to read as follows:

"**§53-5-10. Appeals.**

10.1. All proceedings in the appeal of the Authority’s actions concerning a Petition or the proceedings therefore, and any judicial review thereof, shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code and any procedural rules adopted pursuant thereto."

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Public Energy Authority to promulgate a legislative rule relating to rule to petition the Public Energy Authority for approval of decommissioning or deconstruction activities related to any coal, oil, or natural gas fueled power plant.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.