

**Ohio Power Siting Board
Standard Application Process Flowchart
& Associated ORC/OAC Reference Language**

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE POWER SITING BOARD

4906.03 Powers and duties of power siting board.

The power siting board shall:

(A) Require such information from persons subject to its jurisdiction as it considers necessary to assist in the conduct of hearings and any investigations or studies it may undertake;

(B) Conduct any studies or investigations that it considers necessary or appropriate to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter;

(C) Adopt rules establishing criteria for evaluating the effects on environmental values of proposed and alternative sites, and projected needs for electric power, and such other rules as are necessary and convenient to implement this chapter, including rules governing application fees, supplemental application fees, and other reasonable fees to be paid by persons subject to the board's jurisdiction. The board shall make an annual accounting of its collection and use of these fees and shall issue an annual report of its accounting, in the form and manner prescribed by its rules, not later than the last day of June of the year following the calendar year to which the report applies.

(D) Approve , disapprove, or modify and approve applications for certificates;

(E) Notwithstanding sections 4906.06 to 4906.14 of the Revised Code, the board may adopt rules to provide for an accelerated review of an application for a construction certificate for construction of a major utility facility related to a coal research and development project as defined in section 1555.01 of the Revised Code, or to a coal development project as defined in section 1551.30 of the Revised Code, submitted to the Ohio coal development office for review under division (B)(7) of section 1551.33 of the Revised Code. Applications for construction certificates for construction of major utility facilities for Ohio coal research and development shall be filed with the board on the same day as the proposed facility or project is submitted to the Ohio coal development office for review.

The board shall render a decision on an application for a construction certificate within ninety days after receipt of the application and all of the data and information it may require from the applicant. In rendering a decision on an application for a construction certificate, the board shall only consider the criteria and make the findings and determinations set forth in divisions (A)(2), (3), (5), and (7) and division (B) of section 4906.10 of the Revised Code.

(F) Notwithstanding sections 4906.06 to 4906.14 of the Revised Code, the board shall adopt rules to provide for an accelerated review of an application for a construction certificate for any of the following:

(1) An electric transmission line that is:

(a) Not more than two miles in length;

(b) Primarily needed to attract or meet the requirements of a specific customer or specific customers;

(c) Necessary to maintain reliable electric service as a result of the retirement or shutdown of an electric generating facility located within the state; or

(d) A rebuilding of an existing transmission line.

(2) An electric generating facility that uses waste heat or natural gas and is primarily within the current boundary of an existing industrial or electric generating facility;

(3) A gas pipeline that is not more than five miles in length or is primarily needed to meet the requirements of a specific customer or specific customers.

The board shall adopt rules that provide for the automatic certification to any entity described in this division when an application by any such entity is not suspended by the board, an administrative law judge, or the chairperson or executive director of the board for good cause shown, within ninety days of submission of the

application. If an application is suspended, the board shall approve, disapprove, or modify and approve the application not later than ninety days after the date of the suspension.

Amended by 129th General Assembly File No.125, SB 315, §101.01, eff. 9/10/2012.

Effective Date: 09-14-2000 .

**CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY**

4906.04 Certificate required for construction of major utility facility.

No person shall commence to construct a major utility facility in this state without first having obtained a certificate for the facility. The replacement of an existing facility with a like facility, as determined by the power siting board, shall not constitute construction of a major utility facility. Such replacement of a like facility is not exempt from any other requirements of state or local laws or regulations. Any facility, with respect to which such a certificate is required, shall thereafter be constructed, operated, and maintained in conformity with such certificate and any terms, conditions, and modifications contained therein. A certificate may only be issued pursuant to Chapter 4906. of the Revised Code. A certificate may be transferred, subject to the approval of the board, to a person who agrees to comply with the terms, conditions, and modifications contained therein.

Effective Date: 11-15-1981 .

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CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

4906.06 Certificate application.

(A) An applicant for a certificate shall file with the office of the chairperson of the power siting board an application, in such form as the board prescribes, containing the following information:

- (1) A description of the location and of the major utility facility;
- (2) A summary of any studies that have been made by or for the applicant of the environmental impact of the facility;
- (3) A statement explaining the need for the facility;
- (4) A statement of the reasons why the proposed location is best suited for the facility;
- (5) A statement of how the facility fits into the applicant's forecast contained in the report submitted under section 4935.04 of the Revised Code;
- (6) Such other information as the applicant may consider relevant or as the board by rule or order may require. Copies of the studies referred to in division (A)(2) of this section shall be filed with the office of the chairperson, if ordered, and shall be available for public inspection.

The application shall be filed not more than five years prior to the planned date of commencement of construction. The five-year period may be waived by the board for good cause shown.

(B) Each application shall be accompanied by proof of service of a copy of such application on the chief executive officer of each municipal corporation and county, and the head of each public agency charged with the duty of protecting the environment or of planning land use, in the area in which any portion of such facility is to be located.

(C) Each applicant within fifteen days after the date of the filing of the application shall give public notice to persons residing in the municipal corporations and counties entitled to receive notice under division (B) of this section, by the publication of a summary of the application in newspapers of general circulation in such area. Proof of such publication shall be filed with the office of the chairperson.

(D) Inadvertent failure of service on, or notice to, any of the persons identified in divisions (B) and (C) of this section may be cured pursuant to orders of the board designed to afford them adequate notice to enable them to participate effectively in the proceeding. In addition, the board, after filing, may require the applicant to serve notice of the application or copies thereof or both upon such other persons, and file proof thereof, as the board considers appropriate.

(E) An application for an amendment of a certificate shall be in such form and contain such information as the board prescribes. Notice of such an application shall be given as required in divisions (B) and (C) of this section.

(F) Each application for certificate or an amendment shall be accompanied by the application fee prescribed by board rule. All application fees, supplemental application fees, and other fees collected by the board shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the power siting board fund, which is hereby created. The chairperson shall administer and authorize expenditures from the fund for any of the purposes of this chapter. If the chairperson determines that moneys credited to the fund from an applicant's fee are not sufficient to pay the board's expenses associated with its review of the application, the chairperson shall request the approval of the controlling board to assess a supplemental application fee upon an applicant to pay anticipated additional expenses associated with the board's review of the application or an amendment to an application. If the chairperson finds that an application fee exceeds the amount needed to pay the board's expenses for review of the application, the chairperson shall cause a refund of the excess amount to be issued to the applicant from the fund.

12/7/2020

Lawriter - ORC - 4906.06 Certificate application.

Amended by 129th General Assembly File No. 125, SB 315, §101.01, eff. 9/10/2012.

Effective Date: 04-07-2004 .

**BASIS FOR DECISION GRANTING OR DENYING
CERTIFICATE**

4906.10 Basis for decision granting or denying certificate.

(A) The power siting board shall render a decision upon the record either granting or denying the application as filed, or granting it upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance of the major utility facility as the board considers appropriate. The certificate shall be conditioned upon the facility being in compliance with standards and rules adopted under section 4561.32 and Chapters 3704., 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code. An applicant may withdraw an application if the board grants a certificate on terms, conditions, or modifications other than those proposed by the applicant in the application.

The board shall not grant a certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a major utility facility, either as proposed or as modified by the board, unless it finds and determines all of the following:

- (1) The basis of the need for the facility if the facility is an electric transmission line or gas pipeline;
- (2) The nature of the probable environmental impact;
- (3) That the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives, and other pertinent considerations;
- (4) In the case of an electric transmission line or generating facility, that the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric systems serving this state and interconnected utility systems and that the facility will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability;
- (5) That the facility will comply with Chapters 3704., 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code and all rules and standards adopted under those chapters and under section 4561.32 of the Revised Code. In determining whether the facility will comply with all rules and standards adopted under section 4561.32 of the Revised Code, the board shall consult with the office of aviation of the division of multi-modal planning and programs of the department of transportation under section 4561.341 of the Revised Code.
- (6) That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity;
- (7) In addition to the provisions contained in divisions (A)(1) to (6) of this section and rules adopted under those divisions, what its impact will be on the viability as agricultural land of any land in an existing agricultural district established under Chapter 929. of the Revised Code that is located within the site and alternative site of the proposed major utility facility. Rules adopted to evaluate impact under division (A)(7) of this section shall not require the compilation, creation, submission, or production of any information, document, or other data pertaining to land not located within the site and alternative site.
- (8) That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices as determined by the board, considering available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives.

(B) If the board determines that the location of all or a part of the proposed facility should be modified, it may condition its certificate upon that modification, provided that the municipal corporations and counties, and persons residing therein, affected by the modification shall have been given reasonable notice thereof.

(C) A copy of the decision and any opinion issued therewith shall be served upon each party.

Amended by 133rd General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 166, §101.01, eff. 10/17/2019.

Amended by 132nd General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 49, §101.01, eff. 9/29/2017.

Amended by 129th General Assembly File No. 125, SB 315, §101.01, eff. 9/10/2012.

Effective Date: 04-07-2004 .

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NO LOCAL JURISDICTION

4906.13 No local jurisdiction.

(A) As used in this section and sections [4906.20](#) and [4906.98](#) of the Revised Code, "economically significant wind farm" means wind turbines and associated facilities with a single interconnection to the electrical grid and designed for, or capable of, operation at an aggregate capacity of five or more megawatts but less than fifty megawatts. The term excludes any such wind farm in operation on June 24, 2008. The term also excludes one or more wind turbines and associated facilities that are primarily dedicated to providing electricity to a single customer at a single location and that are designed for, or capable of, operation at an aggregate capacity of less than twenty megawatts, as measured at the customer's point of interconnection to the electrical grid.

(B) No public agency or political subdivision of this state may require any approval, consent, permit, certificate, or other condition for the construction or operation of a major utility facility or economically significant wind farm authorized by a certificate issued pursuant to Chapter 4906. of the Revised Code. Nothing herein shall prevent the application of state laws for the protection of employees engaged in the construction of such facility or wind farm nor of municipal regulations that do not pertain to the location or design of, or pollution control and abatement standards for, a major utility facility or economically significant wind farm for which a certificate has been granted under this chapter.

Amended by 133rd General Assembly File No. 22, HB 6, §1, eff. 10/22/2019.

Amended by 132nd General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 49, §101.01, eff. 9/29/2017.

Effective Date: 10-23-1972; 2008 HB562 06-24-2008 .