

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 10/31/2003

LRB Number	03-3582/1	Introduction Number	SB-300	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Revisions to DNR and PSC approvals of utility facilities and electric transmission and generation facilities					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 300 proposes several procedural changes to enhance coordination between the PSC and DNR when utilities propose construction of utility facilities.

To streamline the regulatory process the PSC and DNR have signed a Cooperative Agreement and a Memo of Understanding to insure that the review of proposed energy construction projects proceed in a timely and efficient manner that assures that energy needs are met and environmental protection is achieved consistent with each agency's regulatory authority. This bill would in part create the statutory framework to ensure that cooperation is achieved, energy needs are met, and environmental protection maintained.

To implement the plans with DNR the PSC requested and was granted under s. 20.001(5) the authority to treat the PSC expenses paid to DNR as a refund of expenditures. This allows the agency to pay DNR and then bill the utilities involved in the cases to replace the expense. This is a temporary authorization by the Department of Administration. The PSC intends to request the appropriate expenditure authority in the next biennial budget.

The bill has both increases and decreases in staff workload depending on the provision in the bill, but the bill does not appear to have any measurable fiscal impact on the PSC.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None