

Assembly Bill No. 1632

Passed the Assembly August 29, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 24, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 25303 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1632, Blakeslee. Energy: planning and forecasting.

The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to prepare an integrated energy policy report every 2 years. The act requires the commission, in its report, to consider electricity and natural gas forecasting and assessment activities, as specified, in reporting on electricity and natural gas markets.

This bill would require the commission, as part of its electricity and natural gas forecasting and assessment activities, to compile and assess existing scientific studies, as specified, to determine the potential vulnerability, to a major disruption due to aging or a major seismic event, of large baseload generation facilities of 1,700 megawatts or greater, including a specified analysis of the impact of a major disruption on system reliability, public safety, and the economy. The bill would also require the commission, in absence of a long-term nuclear waste storage facility, to assess the potential state and local costs and impacts associated with accumulating waste at California's nuclear powerplants, and to further assess other key policy and planning issues affecting the future role of nuclear powerplants in the state. The bill would require the commission to adopt the assessment by November 1, 2008, and include the assessment in the 2008 energy policy review.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 25303 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

25303. (a) The commission shall conduct electricity and natural gas forecasting and assessment activities to meet the

requirements of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 25302, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Assessment of trends in electricity and natural gas supply and demand, and the outlook for wholesale and retail prices for commodity electricity and natural gas under current market structures and expected market conditions.

(2) Forecasts of statewide and regional electricity and natural gas demand including annual, seasonal, and peak demand, and the factors leading to projected demand growth including, but not limited to, projected population growth, urban development, industrial expansion and energy intensity of industries, energy demand for different building types, energy efficiency, and other factors influencing demand for electricity. With respect to long-range forecasts of the demand for natural gas, the report shall include an evaluation of average conditions, as well as best and worst case scenarios, and an evaluation of the impact of the increasing use of renewable resources on natural gas demand.

(3) Evaluation of the adequacy of electricity and natural gas supplies to meet forecasted demand growth. Assessment of the availability, reliability, and efficiency of the electricity and natural gas infrastructure and systems including, but not limited to, natural gas production capability both in and out of state, natural gas interstate and intrastate pipeline capacity, storage and use, and western regional and California electricity and transmission system capacity and use.

(4) Evaluation of potential impacts of electricity and natural gas supply, demand, and infrastructure and resource additions on the electricity and natural gas systems, public health and safety, the economy, resources, and the environment.

(5) Evaluation of the potential impacts of electricity and natural gas load management efforts, including end-user response to market price signals, as a means to ensure reliable operation of electricity and natural gas systems.

(6) Evaluation of whether electricity and natural gas markets are adequately meeting public interest objectives including the provision of all of the following: economic benefits; competitive, low-cost reliable services; customer information and protection; and environmentally sensitive electricity and natural gas supplies. This evaluation may consider the extent to which California is an element within western energy markets, the

existence of appropriate incentives for market participants to provide supplies and for consumers to respond to energy prices, appropriate identification of responsibilities of various market participants, and an assessment of long-term versus short-term market performance. To the extent this evaluation identifies market shortcomings, the commission shall propose market structure changes to improve performance.

(7) Identification of impending or potential problems or uncertainties in the electricity and natural gas markets, potential options and solutions, and recommendations.

(8) (A) Compilation and assessment of existing scientific studies that have been performed by persons or entities with expertise and qualifications in the subject of the studies, to determine the potential vulnerability, to a major disruption due to aging or a major seismic event, of large baseload generation facilities, of 1,700 megawatts or greater.

(B) The assessment specified in subparagraph (A) shall include an analysis of the impact of a major disruption on system reliability, public safety, and the economy.

(C) The commission may work with other public entities and public agencies, including, but not limited to, the California Independent System Operator, the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Conservation, and the Seismic Safety Commission as necessary, to gather and analyze the information required by this paragraph.

(D) Upon completion and publication of the initial review of the information required pursuant to this paragraph, the commission shall perform subsequent updates as new data or new understanding of potential seismic hazards emerge.

(b) Commencing November 1, 2003, and every two years thereafter, to be included in the integrated energy policy report prepared pursuant to Section 25302, the commission shall assess the current status of the following:

(1) The environmental performance of the electric generation facilities of the state, to include all of the following:

(A) Generation facility efficiency.

(B) Air emission control technologies in use in operating plants.

(C) The extent to which recent resource additions have, and expected resource additions are likely to, displace or reduce the

operation of existing facilities, including the environmental consequences of these changes.

(2) The geographic distribution of statewide environmental, efficiency, and socioeconomic benefits and drawbacks of existing generation facilities, including, but not limited to, the impacts on natural resources including wildlife habitat, air quality, and water resources, and the relationship to demographic factors. The assessment shall describe the socioeconomic and demographic factors that existed when the facilities were constructed and the current status of these factors. In addition, the report shall include how expected or recent resource additions could change the assessment through displaced or reduced operation of existing facilities.

(c) In the absence of a long-term nuclear waste storage facility, the commission shall assess the potential state and local costs and impacts associated with accumulating waste at California's nuclear powerplants. The commission shall further assess other key policy and planning issues that will affect the future role of nuclear powerplants in the state. The commission's assessment shall be adopted on or before November 1, 2008, and included in the 2008 energy policy review adopted pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 25302.

Approved _____, 2006

Governor