

CHAPTER 41

[Substitute House Bill No. 328]

ENERGY FACILITY SITE LOCATIONS—NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) COMPLIANCE—PENALTIES

AN ACT Relating to energy facility site locations; amending section 15, chapter 45, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as amended by section 12, chapter 371, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 80.50.150; prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 15, chapter 45, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as amended by section 12, chapter 371, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 80.50.150 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The courts are authorized to grant such restraining orders, and such temporary and permanent injunctive relief as is necessary to secure compliance with this chapter and/or with a site certification agreement issued pursuant to this chapter or a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (hereafter in this section, NPDES) permit issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW. The court may assess civil penalties in an amount not less than one thousand dollars per day nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars per day for each day of construction or operation in material violation of this chapter, or in material violation of any site certification agreement issued pursuant to this chapter or in violation of any NPDES permit issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW. The court may charge the expenses of an enforcement action relating to a site certification agreement under this section, including, but not limited to, expenses incurred for legal services and expert testimony, against any person found to be in material violation of the provisions of such certification: PROVIDED, That the expenses of a person found not to be in material violation of the provisions of such certification, including, but not limited to, expenses incurred for legal services and expert testimony, may be charged against the person or persons bringing an enforcement action or other action under this section.

(2) Wilful violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Wilful or criminally negligent, as defined in RCW 9A.08.010(d), violation of any provision of an NPDES permit issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW shall be deemed a crime, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of up to twenty-five thousand dollars per day and costs of prosecution. Any violation of this subsection shall be a gross misdemeanor.

(4) Any person knowingly making any false statement, representation, or certification in any document in any NPDES form, notice, or report required by an NPDES permit shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and upon

conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars and costs of prosecution.

(5) Every person who violates the provisions of certificates and permits issued or administered by the council shall incur, in addition to any other penalty as provided by law, a penalty in an amount of up to five thousand dollars a day for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct violation. Every act of commission or omission which procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered a violation under the provisions of this section and subject to the penalty provided in this section. The penalty provided in this section shall be imposed by a notice in writing, either by certified mail with return receipt requested or by personal service, to the person incurring the same from the council describing such violation with reasonable particularity. The council may, upon written application therefor received within fifteen days after notice imposing any penalty is received by the person incurring the penalty, and when deemed in the best interest to carry out the purposes of this chapter, remit or mitigate any penalty provided in this section upon such terms as the council shall deem proper, and shall have authority to ascertain the facts upon all such applications in such manner and under such regulations as it may deem proper. Any person incurring any penalty under this section may appeal the same to the council. Such appeals shall be filed within thirty days of receipt of notice imposing any penalty unless an application for remission or mitigation is made to the council. When an application for remission or mitigation is made, such appeals shall be filed within thirty days of receipt of notice from the council setting forth the disposition of the application. Any penalty imposed under this section shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of a notice imposing the same unless application for remission or mitigation is made or an appeal is filed. When an application for remission or mitigation is made, any penalty incurred hereunder shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of notice setting forth the disposition of the application unless an appeal is filed from such disposition. Whenever an appeal of any penalty incurred hereunder is filed, the penalty shall become due and payable only upon completion of all review proceedings and the issuance of a final order confirming the penalty in whole or in part. If the amount of any penalty is not paid to the council within thirty days after it becomes due and payable, the attorney general, upon the request of the council, shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of any county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action except as otherwise provided in this chapter. All penalties recovered under this section shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

(6) Civil proceedings to enforce this chapter may be brought by the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney of any county affected by the violation on his own motion or at the request of the council. Criminal proceedings to enforce this chapter may be brought by the prosecuting attorney of any county affected by the violation on his own motion or at the request of the council.

~~((4))~~ (7) The remedies and penalties in this section, both civil and criminal, shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other penalties and remedies available at law, or in equity, to any person.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This 1979 act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 22, 1979.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1979.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 16, 1979.

CHAPTER 42

[Substitute House Bill No. 248]

PUBLIC AGENCIES—EXECUTIVE SESSIONS—REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION DISCUSSIONS

AN ACT Relating to open public meetings; and amending section 11, chapter 250, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. as amended by section 2, chapter 66, Laws of 1973 and RCW 42.30.110.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 11, chapter 250, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. as amended by section 2, chapter 66, Laws of 1973 and RCW 42.30.110 are each amended to read as follows:

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to prevent a governing body from holding executive sessions during a regular or special meeting to consider matters affecting national security; to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase, when publicity regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price; to consider the disposition of real estate by lease or sale, when publicity regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price; to consider the appointment, employment, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear complaints or charges brought against such officer or employee by another public officer, person, or employee unless such officer or employee requests a public hearing. The governing body also may exclude from any such public meeting or executive session, during the examination of a witness on any such matter, any or all other witnesses in the matter being investigated by the governing body. If executive sessions