STATE OF NEW YORK

9006

IN SENATE

April 9, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the energy law, in relation to the creation of geothermal facilities in New York state

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The energy law is amended by adding a new section 3-105 to read as follows:

§ 3-105. Geothermal facilities. New geothermal, dry steam, flash steam, and binary cycle plant facilities shall be created and installed on an expedited process, in conjunction with the following guidelines:

1. Such facilities shall be constructed on sites that are pre-approved by the public service commission, the New York state energy research and development authority, the New York power authority, or other identified state-approved organizations which specialize in the construction, production, and distribution of energy.

2. Such facilities shall be capable of completing efficient and safety-approved construction and willing to operate in compliance with the environmental conservation law to perform the safe capture and harnessing of geothermal energy.

3. All geothermal companies and such companies' operating partners and affiliates shall go through annual inspections starting one year after completion of construction, maximizing the safety of the energy facility and the surrounding local area of said facility. Such annual inspections will be conducted by the state, the public service commission, the New York state energy research and development authority, the New York power authority, or other identified state-approved organizations which specialize in the construction, production, and distribution of energy.

4. The public service commission, the New York state energy research and development authority, or any other competent authority that geothermal energy production may fall under, shall oversee the mapping, tracking, and reporting of areas that have been approved and cited as

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD15135-01-4

ready for geothermal-capable facilities to be erected on approved grounding sites.

5. The documented information for the readying of construction and installation of such facilities shall be made public on a state agency website for a minimum of thirty days allowing for public comment on the approved site if the cited area is in conjunction with a local municipality, and/or would change the overall agricultural land in the approved area. However, if there are no adverse effects to the local municipality, the thirty-day comment period shall be closed with no need for further review, and construction of the facility may commence effective immediately.

6. The construction and integration of energy systems to the designated approved area may expedite approval time of permits with the hiring of a bonafide or state-approved local union to take on the primary roles of installation and construction of the new facility fitting, or retrofitting as in the case of older fossil fuel facilities that are capable of being retrofitted for geothermal energy production, for the process of bringing in new geothermal power production facilities for dry steam, flash steam, and binary cycle.

7. Geothermal companies shall be deemed eligible for state funding and grants if they employ and retain more than sixty percent of the workforce from New York state residents and/or local unions for continued employment beyond the original base construction of the facility.

8. The mapping process shall include, but not be limited to the integration of the area that has been approved to be a newly-formed facility site which is capable of reasonably and timely connecting to pre-existing lines as well as, the creation of new lines to interconnect with the new geothermal energy source, and any other new or pre-existing renewable energy source that may provide a sufficient, safe, reliable, and affordable commodity for existing and new structures. Residential housing shall take connection priority, followed by commercial building structures, with the goal being a sustainable source able to maintain and sustain the surrounding structure and provide enough energy to build out more in-depth battery storage and energy supply for the entirety of New York.

9. The adoption and build out of geothermal energy facilities and their distribution of stored energy will not preclude, exclude, or eliminate the continued adoption of any and all other renewable energy sources that would aid in the ability to create a sustainable, affordable and clean energy efficient New York, and shall not remove or supersede any current renewable energy projects that have already been approved, have already started construction, or have been deemed a valuable piece of clean energy provisions for the state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.