

of the entire state budget for one year. One project is equivalent almost to an entire state budget for a year, and that is why I am very strong in suggesting that we should be very careful when we construct these. We are giving a lot of power to the industry and they have a lot of money in their hands. So I am suggesting that we be sure they use it wisely. Now let me describe just briefly the minimal controls of the amendments, that is the criteria that the amendments say you should file. First of all, it requires the filing of a statement of intent to build generating facilities with the board prior to construction, and this is to be sure that the board can satisfy itself that it has jurisdiction over the question. There are certain small plants that they do not have to approve, but unless they see some kind of statement of intent, they don't know whether they have jurisdiction or not. So the first step towards coordination, of course, is knowing if you have jurisdiction and a statement of intent will satisfy that aim as well as notifying other people in the industry of the intent of a particular utility to construct a power generating facility. Okay, in addition, the second request that was from the Power Review Board itself, a suggestion from them, was to provide for additional hearings if substantial changes or delays in projects come about. I think you can see that once an initial application is approved, it may become meaningless in terms of if there are significant delays or if the utility thereafter seeks to choose... or chooses to change the project in a significant manner. So the Power Review Board would like to have the ability to come back at a later point in time if they do that and say, hey, wait a minute, we want to approve the change plan. All right, now, the amendments would then require the board to make certain specific findings when they decide on an application. They would have to decide that the proposed generating plant is designed to meet the current and future energy needs of retail and wholesale customers. The applicant must provide a written analysis of current and future electric energy needs, and that analysis would be done on a ten-year basis, and they would have to make a finding that the proposed facility is the most economically feasible method of supplying electric energy needs, all I think reasonable expectations. On that last requirement, they would consider such things as the cost of other available sources of power, long term availability of the fuel source that is suggested, and the delivery and interconnection costs. So these are the essential elements of the amendments which I would ask the body to adopt. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer. Do you