

The SEC shall define orderly development as requiring energy projects to be subject to the same full and customary state, local and regional review and public comment, scrutiny and restrictions as new private hospitals (health), new private universities (education), new private food processing plants (food), or new private manufacturing businesses (jobs). Orderly development shall not include the siting of private, merchant energy projects not determined by ISO-NE as necessary for system reliability. This would create consistency across development categories and recognize that in most communities orderly development is quite clearly and deliberately defined by the limitations placed on development; restrictions in zoning.

The SEC process should require applications to present detailed analysis of reasonable alternatives, and the SEC should have the authority to require a serious alternatives analysis if it is not presented by the project sponsor. The applicant should be required to fund these studies and the affected towns allowed to hire a contractor of their own choosing. On points that may not be fully covered (in an evidentiary sense) by the competing studies of the developer and the public, the SEC itself should be required to commission objective expert input.

The SEC should consider the psychological well-being of residents as part of its assessment of public benefit or harm. An unwanted, visually offensive, noisy or malodorous project will have detrimental effects on people that will not register in a standard economic analysis.

If a town votes against a project, that project will not be considered orderly development by the SEC.