

Role of Regional Planning Organization in Intermunicipal Referrals

1. Review of Proposed Zoning Map or Zoning Regulation Changes

Section 8-3b governing Local Zoning Commissions

When the zoning commission of any municipality proposes to establish or change a zone or any regulation affecting the use of a zone any portion of which is within five hundred feet of the boundary of another municipality located within the area of operation of a regional planning agency, the zoning commission shall give written notice of its proposal to each regional planning agency for the region or regions in which it and the other municipality are located. Such notice shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by electronic mail to the electronic mail address designated by the regional planning agency on the agency's Internet web site for receipt of such notice, not later than thirty days before the public hearing to be held in relation thereto. If such notice is sent by electronic mail and the zoning commission does not receive an electronic mail message from a regional planning agency confirming receipt of such notice, then not later than twenty-five days before the public hearing, the zoning commission shall also send such notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to such planning agency. **The regional planning agency shall study such proposal and shall report its findings and recommendations thereon to the zoning commission at or before the hearing, and such report shall be made a part of the record of such hearing. The report of any regional planning agency of any region that is contiguous to Long Island Sound shall include findings and recommendations on the environmental impact of the proposal on the ecosystem and habitat of Long Island Sound.** If such report of the regional planning agency is not submitted at or before the hearing, it shall be presumed that such agency does not disapprove of the proposal. A regional planning agency receiving such a notice may transmit such notice to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or his designee for comment. The planning agency may designate its executive committee to act for it under this section or may establish a subcommittee for the purpose. The report of said planning agency shall be purely advisory.

2. Review of Municipal Line Subdivisions

Section 8-26b governing Municipal Line Subdivisions

Whenever a subdivision of land is planned, **the area of which will abut or include land in two or more municipalities** one or both of which are within a region or regions having a regional planning agency or agencies, the planning commission, where one exists, of each such municipality shall, before approving the plan, **give written notice of such subdivision plan to each regional planning agency for the region or regions in which it and the other municipality are located.** Such notice shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by electronic mail to the electronic mail address designated by the regional planning agency on the agency's Internet web site for receipt of such notice, not later than thirty days before the public hearing to be held in relation thereto. If such notice is sent by electronic mail and the planning commission does not receive an electronic mail message from a regional planning agency confirming receipt of such notice, then not later than twenty-five days before the public hearing, the planning commission shall also send such notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to such planning agency. **A regional planning agency receiving such notice shall, at or before the hearing report to (1) and (2) each such planning commission and (3) to the proponent of such subdivision on its findings on the intermunicipal aspects of the proposed subdivision, including street layout, storm drainage, sewer and water service and such other matters as it considers appropriate.** If such report of a regional planning agency is not submitted, at or before the hearing, it shall be presumed that such agency does not disapprove of the proposed subdivision. A regional planning agency may designate its executive committee to act for it under this section or it may establish a subcommittee for the purpose. The report of such regional planning agency shall be purely advisory.

3. Review of Local Plan of Conservation & Development

Section 8-23(G)(4) governing Municipal Plans of Conservation & Development

At least sixty-five days prior to the public hearing on adoption, the commission shall submit a copy of such plan or part thereof or amendment thereto to the regional planning agency for review and comment. The regional planning agency shall submit an advisory report along with its comments to the commission at or before the hearing. Such comments shall include a finding on the consistency of the plan with (A) the regional plan of conservation and development, adopted under section 8-35a, (B) the state plan of conservation and development, adopted pursuant to chapter 297, and (C) the plans of conservation and development of other municipalities in the area of operation of the regional planning agency. The commission may render a decision on the plan without the report of the regional planning agency.