



Factors Considered by the Commission For Transmission Line Route Permits

In determining whether to issue a route permit for a high voltage transmission line, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission shall consider the following (Minnesota Rule 7850.4100):

- A. Effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services;
- B. Effects on public health and safety;
- C. Effects on land-based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;
- D. Effects on archaeological and historic resources;
- E. Effects on the natural environment, including effect on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna;
- F. Effects on rare and unique natural resources;
- G. Application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity;
- H. Use or paralleling of existing right-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries;
- I. Use of existing large electric power generating plant sites;
- J. Use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way;
- K. Electrical systems reliability;
- L. Costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route;
- M. Adverse human and natural environmental effects which cannot be avoided; and
- N. Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.