



Typical Contents of an Environmental Impact Statement for a High Voltage Transmission Line

- Introduction and Project Overview
 - Project Proposer
 - Purpose and Need
 - Endpoints
 - Issues Outside EIS Scope
- Regulatory Environment
 - Certificate of Need
 - Route Permit
 - Scoping Process
 - Public Hearing
 - Other Permits
 - Applicable Codes
- Description of Proposed Project
 - Right-of-Way
 - Project Construction & Maintenance
 - Project Segments
 - Project Schedule
 - Alternative Routes/Route Segments Considered (if applicable)
 - Alternative Routes Considered and Rejected
- Potential Impacts of the Proposed Route and Alternative Routes
 - Human Settlement, including but not limited to:
 - Displacement; Noise; Radio & TV Interference; Aesthetics, Recreation, Land Use, Public Services & Transportation; Cultural Resources and Values
 - Public Health and Safety including EMF
 - Land-based Economies, including but not limited to:
 - Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism
 - Archaeological and Historic Resources
 - Natural Environment, including but not limited to:
 - Air Quality, Water Quality, Flora, Fauna, Rare & Unique Natural Resources
- Potential Impacts of Alternatives to the Proposed Project (if environmental review required for a certificate of need)
 - No-Build Alternative, Demand Side Management, Purchased Power, Facilities of a Different Size, Generation rather than Transmission
- Unavoidable Impacts
- Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources
- Route Comparison Relative to Factors Considered by the Commission

Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 directs the Commission to consider the following in determining whether to issue a permit for a facility:

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