

Appendix B

Route Permit Application Completeness Checklist

**Northland Reliability Project
Route Permit Application (Alternative Review)
Completeness Checklist**

Authority	Required Information	Location in Application
Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 2(5) Minn. R. 7850.2800, subp. 1(E)	Alternative Review of Applications. Alternative review is available for high-voltage transmission lines in excess of 200 kilovolts if at least 80 percent of the distance of the line in Minnesota will be located along existing high-voltage transmission line right-of-way	§§ 2.1, 1.8
Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 4	Notice of application. Upon submission of an application under this section, the applicant shall provide the same notice as required by section 216E.03, subdivision 4.	To be provided
Minn. R. 7850.2800, subp. 2	Notice to PUC. An applicant for a permit for one of the qualifying projects in subpart 1, who intends to follow the procedures of parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3700, shall notify the PUC of such intent, in writing, at least ten days before submitting an application for the project.	Appendix G
Minn. R. 7850.3100	Contents of Application (Alternative Review). The applicant shall include in the application the same information required in part 7850.1900, except the applicant need not propose any alternative sites or routes to the preferred site or route. If the applicant has rejected alternative sites or routes, the applicant shall include in the application the identity of the rejected sites or routes and an explanation of the reasons for rejecting them.	§ 5.3
Minn. R. 7850.1900, subp. 2	Route permit for HVTL. An application for a route permit for a high voltage transmission line shall contain the following information:	-
	A. a statement of proposed ownership of the facility at the time of filing the application and after commercial operation;	§ 1.1
	B. the precise name of any person or organization to be initially named as permittee or permittees and the name of any other person to whom the permit may be transferred if transfer of the permit is contemplated;	§ 1.1

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	C. at least two proposed routes for the proposed high voltage transmission line and identification of the applicant's preferred route and the reasons for the preference;	Not required by Minn. R. 7850.3100.
	D. a description of the proposed high voltage transmission line and all associated facilities including the size and type of the high voltage transmission line;	§ 2.1
	E. the environmental information required under subpart 3;	Chapter 7
	F. identification of land uses and environmental conditions along the proposed routes;	§§ 7.1, 7.6
	G. the names of each owner whose property is within any of the proposed routes for the high voltage transmission line;	Appendix O
	H. United States Geological Survey topographical maps or other maps acceptable to the commission showing the entire length of the high voltage transmission line on all proposed routes;	Appendix J
	I. identification of existing utility and public rights-of-way along or parallel to the proposed routes that have the potential to share the right-of-way with the proposed line;	§§ 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1
	J. the engineering and operational design concepts for the proposed high voltage transmission line, including information on the electric and magnetic fields of the transmission line;	§§ 2.1, 6.5, Appendix K, Appendix H
	K. cost analysis of each route, including the costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the high voltage transmission line that are dependent on design and route;	§ 2.2
	L. a description of possible design options to accommodate expansion of the high voltage transmission line in the future;	§ 2.1
	M. the procedures and practices proposed for the acquisition and restoration of the right-of-way, construction, and maintenance of the high voltage transmission line;	§§ 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4
	N. a listing and brief description of federal, state, and local permits that may be required for the proposed high voltage transmission line; and	Chapter 9

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	O. a copy of the Certificate of Need or the certified HVTL list containing the proposed high voltage transmission line or documentation that an application for a Certificate of Need has been submitted or is not required.	This Joint Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application
Minn. R. 7850.3100	Identification of rejected route alternatives and explanation for rejection.	§ 5.3
Minn. R. 7850.1900, subp. 3	Environmental information. An applicant for a site permit or a route permit shall include in the application the following environmental information for each proposed site or route to aid in the preparation of an environmental impact statement:	-
	A. a description of the environmental setting for each site or route;	§ 7.1
	B. a description of the effects of construction and operation of the facility on human settlement, including, but not limited to, public health and safety, displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services;	§ 7.2
	C. a description of the effects of the facility on land-based economies, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;	§ 7.3
	D. a description of the effects of the facility on archaeological and historic resources;	§ 7.4
	E. a description of the effects of the facility on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna;	§ 7.5
	F. a description of the effects of the facility on rare and unique natural resources;	§ 7.7
	G. identification of human and natural environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the facility is approved at a specific site or route; and	§ 7.9
	H. a description of measures that might be implemented to mitigate the potential human and environmental impacts identified in items A to G and the estimated costs of such mitigative measures.	Chapter 7
Minn. R. 7850.3300	Notice of Project. Notification to persons on PUC's general list, to local officials, and to	To be provided

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Minn. R. 7850.2100, subp. 2	property owners. Content of notice governed by Minn. R. 7850.2100, subp. 3.	
Minn. R. 7850.2100, subp. 4	Publication of notice. Within 15 days after submission of an application, the applicant shall publish notice in a legal newspaper of general circulation in each county in which a site, route, or any alternative is proposed to be located that an application has been submitted and a description of the proposed project. The notice must also state where a copy of the application may be reviewed.	To be published
Minn. R. 7850.2100, subp. 5	Confirmation of notice. Within 30 days after providing the requisite notice, the applicant shall submit to the PUC documentation that all notices required under this part have been given. The applicant shall document the giving of the notice by providing the PUC with affidavits of publication or mailing and copies of the notice provided.	Will file once completed
Minn. R. 7850.4100	Factors Considered. In determining whether to issue a permit for a large electric power generating plant or a high voltage transmission line, the commission shall consider the following:	-
	A. effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, and public services;	§ 7.2
	B. effects on public health and safety;	§ 7.2
	C. effects on land-based economies, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;	§ 7.3
	D. effects on archaeological and historic resources;	§ 7.4
	E. effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna;	§ 7.5
	F. effects on rare and unique natural resources;	§ 7.7
	G. application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity;	§ 2.1, Chapter 7

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	H. use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries;	§§ 5.1, 5.2, 6.1
	I. use of existing large electric power generating plant sites;	Not applicable
	J. use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way;	§§ 5.1, 5.2, 6.1
	K. electrical system reliability;	Chapter 3
	L. costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route;	§ 2.2
	M. adverse human and natural environmental effects which cannot be avoided; and	§ 7.9
	N. irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.	§ 7.9
Minn. R. 7850.4300, subps. 1, 2	<p>Wilderness areas. No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national wilderness areas.</p> <p>Parks and natural areas. No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national parks or state scientific and natural areas unless the transmission line would not materially damage or impair the purpose for which the area was designated and no feasible and prudent alternative exists. Economic considerations alone do not justify use of these areas for a high voltage transmission line.</p>	§§ 7.2.7, 7.2.8
Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 7 (applicable per § 216E.04, subd. 8); H.F. No. 7 (2023)	<p>Considerations in designating sites and routes.</p> <p>(a) The commission's site and route permit determinations must be guided by the state's goals to conserve resources, minimize environmental impacts, minimize human settlement and other land use conflicts, and ensure the state's electric energy security through efficient, cost-effective power supply and electric transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>(b) To facilitate the study, research, evaluation, and designation of sites and routes, the</p>	

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	commission shall be guided by, but not limited to, the following considerations:	
	(1) evaluation of research and investigations relating to the effects on land, water and air resources of large electric power generating plants and high-voltage transmission lines and the effects of water and air discharges and electric and magnetic fields resulting from such facilities on public health and welfare, vegetation, animals, materials and aesthetic values, including baseline studies, predictive modeling, and evaluation of new or improved methods for minimizing adverse impacts of water and air discharges and other matters pertaining to the effects of power plants on the water and air environment;	Chapter 7
	(2) environmental evaluation of sites and routes proposed for future development and expansion and their relationship to the land, water, air and human resources of the state;	§ 2.1, Chapter 7
	(3) evaluation of the effects of new electric power generation and transmission technologies and systems related to power plants designed to minimize adverse environmental effects;	Not applicable
	(4) evaluation of the potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from proposed large electric power generating plants;	Not applicable
	(5) analysis of the direct and indirect economic impact of proposed sites and routes including, but not limited to, productive agricultural land lost or impaired;	§ 7.3
	(6) evaluation of adverse direct and indirect environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposed site and route be accepted;	§ 7.9
	(7) evaluation of alternatives to the applicant's proposed site or route proposed pursuant to subdivisions 1 and 2;	§ 5.3
	(8) evaluation of potential routes that would use or parallel existing railroad and highway rights-of-way;	§§ 5.1, 5.2, 6.1
	(9) evaluation of governmental survey lines and other natural division lines of agricultural land so as to minimize interference with agricultural operations;	§ 5.1

Authority	Required Information	Location in Application
	(10) evaluation of the future needs for additional high-voltage transmission lines in the same general area as any proposed route, and the advisability of ordering the construction of structures capable of expansion in transmission capacity through multiple circuiting or design modifications;	§ 2.1
	(11) evaluation of irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources should the proposed site or route be approved;	§ 7.9
	(12) when appropriate, consideration of problems raised by other state and federal agencies and local entities;	Chapter 8
	(13) evaluation of the benefits of the proposed facility with respect to (i) the protection and enhancement of environmental quality, and (ii) the reliability of state and regional energy supplies;	Chapters 3 and 7
	(14) evaluation of the proposed facility's impact on socioeconomic factors; and	§§ 7.2, 6.2.3
	(15) evaluation of the proposed facility's employment and economic impacts in the vicinity of the facility site and throughout Minnesota, including the quantity and quality of construction and permanent jobs and their compensation levels. The commission must consider a facility's local employment and economic impacts, and may reject or place conditions on a site or route permit based on the local employment and economic impacts.	§§ 6.2, 6.4