

MnDOT's Role in the Minnesota Public Utilities (MPUC) Siting and Routing Process

MnDOT participates in the siting and routing of large energy projects in accordance with Minnesota State Statute §216E.10 Subd. 3 by:

- Proactively seeking early engagement and coordination with project proposers, providing the following guidance materials to aid in facilitating valuable project reviews and downstream permit approvals:
 - Transmission Line Guidelines
 - Environmental Requirements
 - Utility Early Notification Memo (ENM) and Desktop Review Process
 - Utility ENM Supplemental Information Checklist
 - Utility Project Review Guidance for Large Energy Facility Project Proposals
- Performing full Agency reviews of proposed projects intersecting the State trunk highway system and coordinating with project proposers on area(s) that require avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or future deliverables
- Actively participating in and providing Agency comments throughout the life of the MPUC permitting process
- Ensuring the safety of Minnesota's traveling public, construction and maintenance staff and protecting current and future trunk highway (TH) right of way (ROW), including future cost of construction and maintenance
- Accommodating public utilities within or as near as feasible to trunk highway rights of way in accordance with MnDOT's Utility Accommodation Policy, Utility Accommodation and Coordination Manual, and any provision of applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation

2024 MnDOT Participation

MnDOT has participated in reviews and coordination for the following (varying status):

- 10 Transmission Line projects
- 7 Generation/Energy Storage Facility projects (non-wind)
- 1 Wind Generation Facility project
- 3 Pipeline projects

In addition to formal participation and project reviews, MnDOT held numerous meetings, exchanged hundreds of emails, and provided detailed guidance to project proposers. MnDOT offers this guidance before, during, and after the MPUC permitting process to ensure successful downstream permit approvals from our agency.

Other

MnDOT is interested in engaging in discussions with Commission and Commerce staff regarding:

- Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs) – MnDOT has specific vegetative concerns that may be in addition to those currently covered in VMPs submitted by project applicants
- 2024 Legislative changes – MnDOT is interested in convening a small working group regarding:
 - Incorporating additional MnDOT requirements into MPUC permits
 - Additional guidance to applicants in pre-filing/draft application phases
 - Additional considerations for use of TH ROW for HVTL/Gen-Tie projects
- Road ROW setback requirements for wind turbines (desired 1.1x)
- Clarifying solar and energy/storage facility boundaries as displayed in official Project mapping