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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1707

02/27/2025 Authored by Mekeland and Anderson, P. H., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; requiring local government and Tribal approval for all solar
1.3 projects; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 216I.05, subdivision 5;
1.4 216I.10, subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216I.05, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 5. **Preapplication coordination and approval.** (a) At least 30 days before filing
1.8 an application with the commission, an applicant must provide notice to: (1) each local unit
1.9 of government within which a site or route may be proposed; (2) Minnesota Tribal
1.10 governments, as defined under section 10.65, subdivision 2; and (3) the state technical
1.11 resource agencies. The notice must describe the proposed project and provide the entities
1.12 receiving the notice an opportunity for preapplication coordination or feedback.

1.13 (b) An applicant applying for a permit for a solar project of any capacity must receive
1.14 approval from each local unit of government and Minnesota Tribal government that has
1.15 jurisdiction over the proposed site location.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216I.10, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.17 Subdivision 1. **Permit not required.** A permit issued by the commission is not required
1.18 to construct:

- 1.19 (1) a small wind energy conversion system;
1.20 (2) a power plant ~~or solar energy generating system~~ with a capacity of less than 50
1.21 megawatts;

- 2.1 (3) an energy storage system with a capacity of less than ten megawatts;
- 2.2 (4) a transmission line that (i) has a capacity of 100 kilovolts or more, and (ii) is less
- 2.3 than 1,500 feet in length; and
- 2.4 (5) a transmission line that has a capacity of less than 100 kilovolts.