

7850.1300 PERMIT REQUIREMENT.

Subpart 1. **Site permit.** No person may construct a large electric power generating plant without a site permit from the commission. A large electric power generating plant may be constructed only on a site approved by the commission.

Subp. 2. **Route permit.** No person may construct a high voltage transmission line without a route permit from the commission. A high voltage transmission line may be constructed only within a route approved by the commission.

Subp. 3. **Expansion of existing facility.**

A. No person shall increase the voltage of a high voltage transmission line without a route permit or other approval from the PUC.

B. No person shall increase the voltage of a transmission line under 100 kilovolts to over 100 kilovolts without a route permit from the PUC.

C. Except as provided in part 7850.1500 or 7850.4800, no person shall increase the generating capacity or output of an existing large electric power generating plant without a permit from the commission.

D. No person shall increase the generating capacity or output of an electric power plant from under 50 megawatts to more than 50 megawatts without a site permit from the PUC.

Subp. 4. **Local authority.** A site permit from the commission is not required for a large electric power generating plant that is permitted by local units of government under Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.05. A route permit from the commission is not required for a high voltage transmission line that is permitted by local governmental authorities under Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.05.

Subp. 5. **Commence construction.** No person may commence construction of a large electric power generating plant or a high voltage transmission line until a permit has been issued by the commission or by the appropriate local units of government if local review is sought. "Commence construction" means to begin or cause to begin as part of a continuous program the placement, assembly, or installation of facilities or equipment, or to conduct significant physical site preparation or right-of-way preparation work for installation of facilities or equipment. Conducting survey work or collecting geological data or contacting landowners to discuss possible construction of a power plant or transmission line is not commencement of construction.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 116C.66; 216E.16*

History: *27 SR 1295; L 2005 c 97 art 3 s 19*

Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*