

7850.2300 PUBLIC MEETING.

Subpart 1. **Scheduling public meeting.** Upon acceptance of an application for a site or route permit, the commission shall schedule a public meeting to provide information to the public about the proposed project and to answer questions and to scope the environmental impact statement. The public meeting must be held no later than 60 days after acceptance of the application. The public meeting must be held in a location that is convenient for persons who live near the proposed project.

Subp. 2. **Notice of public meeting.** The PUC shall give at least ten days' notice of the public meeting by mailing notice to persons whose names are on the project contact list maintained pursuant to part 7850.2100, subpart 1. The PUC shall also publish notice of the public meeting in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the area where the project is proposed to be located. If appropriate, the PUC may request the applicant to include notice of the public meeting in the notice to be provided by the applicant pursuant to part 7850.2100.

Subp. 3. **Conduct of public meeting.** The commission shall appoint a person, who may be a PUC staff person, to conduct the public meeting. The public meeting must be conducted in an informal manner designed to encourage public participation. The public must be afforded an opportunity to present comments and ask questions. The PUC shall make available at the public meeting a copy of the application and other pertinent documents in the PUC files regarding the application. The staff shall explain the permitting process to the persons in attendance. A transcript of the meeting need not be maintained, although the PUC may elect to keep an audio recording of the meeting.

Subp. 4. **Applicant role.** The applicant shall provide representatives at the public meeting who are capable of answering general questions about the proposed project.

Subp. 5. **EIS scoping.** At the public meeting, the public must be provided an opportunity to comment on the scope of the environmental impact statement in accordance with part 7850.2500.

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

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

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