

CHAPTER 7850
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
SITE OR ROUTE PERMIT; POWER PLANT OR LINE

7850.4000 STANDARDS AND CRITERIA.

7850.4300 PROHIBITED ROUTES.

7850.4400 PROHIBITED SITES.

7850.0100 [Renumbered 4410.7000]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0200 [Renumbered 4410.7100]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0300 [Renumbered 4410.7200]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0400 [Renumbered 4410.7300]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0500 [Renumbered 4410.7400]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0600 [Renumbered 4410.7500]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0700 [Renumbered 4410.7600]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0800 [Renumbered 4410.7700]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.0900 [Renumbered 4410.7800]
Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.1000 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1100 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1200 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1300 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1400 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1500 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1600 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1700 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1800 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.1900 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2000 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2100 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2200 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2300 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2400 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2500 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2600 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2700 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2800 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.2900 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3000 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3100 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3200 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3300 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3400 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3500 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3600 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3700 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3800 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.3900 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4000 STANDARDS AND CRITERIA.

No site permit or route permit shall be issued in violation of the site selection standards and criteria established in Minnesota Statutes, sections 216E.03 and 216E.04, and in rules adopted by the commission. The commission shall issue a permit for a proposed facility when the commission finds, in keeping with the requirements of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116D, and the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116B, that the facility is consistent with state goals to conserve resources, minimize environmental impacts, and minimize human settlement and other land use conflicts and ensures the state's electric energy security through efficient, cost-effective power supply and electric transmission infrastructure.

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*

7850.4100 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4200 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4300 PROHIBITED ROUTES.

Subpart 1. **Wilderness areas.** No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national wilderness areas.

Subp. 2. **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.

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

History: *27 SR 1295*

Published Electronically: *September 18, 2009*

7850.4400 PROHIBITED SITES.

Subpart 1. **Prohibited sites.** No large electric power generating plant may be located in any of the following areas:

- A. national parks;
- B. national historic sites and landmarks;
- C. national historic districts;
- D. national wildlife refuges;
- E. national monuments;
- F. national wild, scenic, and recreational riverways;
- G. state wild, scenic, and recreational rivers and their land use districts;
- H. state parks;
- I. nature conservancy preserves;
- J. state scientific and natural areas; and
- K. state and national wilderness areas.

Subp. 2. **Water use.** The areas identified in subpart 1 must not be permitted as a site for a large electric power generating plant except for use for water intake or discharge facilities. If the commission includes any of these areas within a site for use for water intake or discharge facilities, it may impose appropriate conditions in the site permit to protect these areas for the purposes for which they were designated. The commission shall also consider the adverse effects of proposed sites on these areas which are located wholly outside of the boundaries of these areas.

Subp. 3. **Site exclusions when alternative sites exist.** No large electric power generating plant may be located in any of the following areas unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. Economic considerations alone do not justify approval of these areas. These areas are:

- A. state registered historic sites;
- B. state historic districts;
- C. state wildlife management areas, except in cases where the plant cooling water is to be used for wildlife management purposes;
- D. county parks;
- E. metropolitan parks;
- F. designated state and federal recreational trails;
- G. designated trout streams; and
- H. the rivers identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.32, subdivision 1.

Subp. 4. **Prime farmland exclusion.** No large electric power generating plant site may be permitted where the developed portion of the plant site, excluding water storage reservoirs and cooling ponds, includes more than 0.5 acres of prime farmland per megawatt of net generating capacity, or where makeup water storage reservoir or cooling pond facilities include more than 0.5 acres of prime farmland per megawatt of net generating capacity, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. Economic considerations alone do not justify the use of more prime farmland. "Prime farmland" means those soils that meet the specifications of Code of Federal Regulations 1980, title 7, section 657.5, paragraph (a). These provisions do not apply to areas located within home rule charter or statutory cities; areas located within two miles of home rule charter or statutory cities of the first, second, and third class; or areas designated for orderly annexation under Minnesota Statutes, section 414.0325.

Subp. 5. **Sufficient water supply required.** No site may be designated that does not have reasonable access to a proven water supply sufficient for plant operation. No use of groundwater may be permitted where removal of groundwater results in material adverse effects on groundwater, groundwater dependent natural resources, or higher priority users in and adjacent to the area, as determined in each case.

The use of groundwater for high consumption purposes, such as cooling, must be avoided if a feasible and prudent alternative exists.

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*

7850.4500 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]

Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4600 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4700 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4800 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.4900 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5000 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5100 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5200 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5300 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5400 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5500 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*

7850.5600 [Repealed, L 2024 c 126 art 7 s 15; L 2024 c 127 art 43 s 15]
Published Electronically: *November 13, 2025*