C,	12/05/90 [REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585
1	Environmental Quality Board
2	
3	Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to High Voltage Lines, Power
4	Plants
5	· · ·
6	Rules as Adopted
7	CHAPTER 4400
8	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
9	HIGH VOLTAGE LINES, POWER PLANTS
10	4400.0200 DEFINITIONS.
11	Subpart 1. Scope. As used in this chapter, the following
12	terms have the meanings given them.
13	Subp. 2. Act. "Act" means the Power Plant Siting Act of
14	1973, as amended, Minnesota Statutes, sections 116C.51 to
15	116C.69.
16	[For text of subps 3 and 4, see M.R.]
17	Subp. 5. Construction. "Construction" means:
18	A. any clearing of land, excavation, or other
19	improvement that would adversely affect the natural environment
20	of a site or route but does not include changes needed for
21	temporary use of sites or routes for nonutility purposes, or
22	uses in securing survey or geological data, including necessary
2 3	boring, to ascertain foundation conditions; or
24	B. the modifications necessary to:
25	(1) increase the nominal voltage of an existing
26	transmission line to over 200 kilovolts; or
27	(2) increase the nominal voltage of an existing
28	HVTL.
29	[For text of subp 6, see M.R.]
30	Subp. 6a. Environmental impact assessment; EIA.
31	"Environmental impact assessment" or "EIA" means a detailed
3 2	written statement that describes proposed HVTLs and LEPGPs and
33	satisfies the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section
34	116D.04.
35	Subp. 7. File. "File" means to deliver 40 copies to the

9

14.740

1

Approved by Revisor

12/05/90 [REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585 1 office of the chair of the board. 2 Subp. 8. High voltage transmission line; HVTL. "High voltage transmission line" or "HVTL" means a conductor of 3 electric energy and associated facilities designed for and 4 capable of operating at a nominal voltage of 200 kilovolts or 5 more either immediately or without significant modification. 6 7 Associated facilities shall include, but not be limited to, insulators, towers, substations, and terminals. 8 [For text of subps 9 to 14, see M.R.] 9 10 Subp. 15. Right-of-way. "Right-of-way" means the land interest required within a route for the construction and 11 operation of an HVTL. 12 Subp. 16. Route. "Route" means an area of land up to 1.25 13 miles wide within which a right-of-way for an HVTL can be 14 15 located. [For text of subp 17, see M.R.] 16 Subp. 18. Site. "Site" means an area of land required for 17 the construction and operation of an LEPGP. 18 [For text of subps 19 and 20, see M.R.] 19 4400.0300 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY. 20 Parts 4400.0200 to 4400.4900 are prescribed by the 21 22 Minnesota Environmental Quality Board pursuant to the authority granted to the board in the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota 23 Statutes, sections 116C.51 to 116C.69, to give effect to the 24 purposes of the act. 25 It is the purpose of the act and the policy of the state to 26 locate large electric power facilities in an orderly manner 27 compatible with environmental preservation and the efficient use 28 of resources. In accordance with this policy, the board shall 29 choose locations that minimize adverse human and environmental 30 impact while ensuring continuing electric power system 31 reliability and integrity and ensuring that electric energy 32 needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion. 33 The board shall provide for broad spectrum citizen participation 34 as a principle of operation. To ensure effective citizen 35

> Approved by Revisor

12/05/90 [REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585 participation, the board shall maintain a public education 1 2 program on, but not limited to, the considerations identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.57, subdivision 4. 3 ROUTE DESIGNATION AND CONSTRUCTION PERMIT 4 4400.0600 APPLICATION FOR ROUTE DESIGNATION AND CONSTRUCTION 5 PERMIT. 6 Subpart 1. Contents. An application shall be filed that 7 includes any information necessary to make the evaluation of 8 considerations required in part 4400.1310 and the following: 9 10 A. a statement of proposed ownership of the facility as of the day of filing and an affidavit authorizing the 11 applicant to act on behalf of those planning to participate in 12 the project; 13 the size and type of the proposed HVTL; 14 в. C. at least two proposed routes for the proposed 15 16 HVTL; the engineering and operational design concepts 17 D. for the proposed HVTL, including a characterization of the 18 electrical environment of the transmission line; 19 E. a cost analysis of each route; 20 a description of the construction, right-of-way 21 F. restoration impact mitigation measures, and maintenance 22 procedures anticipated for the proposed HVTL; 23 a description of the potential human and natural 24 G. environmental effects of each route and measures proposed by the 25 applicant to mitigate adverse effects presented in the order 26 shown in part 4400.1310; 27 the procedures and practices proposed for the H. 28 ultimate abandonment and restoration of the right-of-way; 29 a listing and brief description of federal and 30 I. state permits that may be required for the proposed HVTL; and 31 the certificate of need if available, or an J. 32 acknowledgment of the receipt of a substantially complete 33 certificate of need application by the Public Utilities 34 Commission, if a certificate of need is required by Minnesota 35

> Approved by Revisor _

1 Statutes, chapter 216B.

2 <u>Subp. 2.</u> Distribution. <u>A copy of the application shall be</u> 3 provided by board staff to each member of the board.

4 4400.0710 ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION FOR ROUTE DESIGNATION AND5 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT.

6 Subpart 1. Board action on application. The board shall 7 either accept or reject an application at its first regularly 8 scheduled meeting after the application is filed with the board, 9 provided the application is filed at least 21 days before that 10 meeting.

Subp. 2. Rejection of application. If the board rejects 11 12 the application, the board shall inform the applicant in writing which deficiencies, if corrected, will allow the application to 13 14 be accepted. If the applicant has corrected the deficiencies or provided the board with the required information 14 days in 15 16 advance of a regularly scheduled meeting, the board must 17 reconsider acceptance of the application at that meeting. If the applicant fails to meet the conditions established by the 18 19 board for reconsideration of the rejected application, the 20 rejection shall stand. If the rejection stands, the applicant may reapply at any time. If the board fails to act within the 21 22 times specified in this subpart, the application shall be considered accepted. 23

Subp. 3. Additional information. On acceptance of the application, the board shall proceed with the actions required in parts 4400.0800 to 4400.1500. The applicant shall provide additional relevant information that the board considers necessary to process the application.

29 4400.0720 BOARD ACTION UPON ACCEPTANCE.

On acceptance of an application for route designation and a construction permit, the board shall designate a project leader who shall serve as an independent representative of the board during the formal routing proceedings. The project leader shall be responsible for coordinating assigned staff responsibilities during the routing process and in preparing the EIA. The

4

Approved by Revisor _

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

project leader shall ensure that the record of the proceedings is fully developed and responsive to all issues raised in the process. The project leader may intervene as a party in the public hearing if appropriate. Positions taken or representations made by the project leader during the routing process are not binding on the board.

7 4400.0800 ROUTE ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

8 On acceptance of an application for route designation and a 9 construction permit the board may appoint a route advisory task 10 force and its chair consistent with the act and part 4405.0800. 11 The board shall provide guidance to the task force in the form 12 of a charge. Route advisory task forces are advisory and assist 13 the board in evaluating the application and alternatives, and in 14 determining the scope of the EIA prepared under part 4400.1210.

15 4400.0900 PUBLIC ADVISER.

On acceptance of an application for route designation and a construction permit, the board shall designate a public adviser. The public adviser shall be available to any person to advise that person on how to effectively participate in the routing process. The public adviser shall not give legal advice or advice that may affect the legal rights of the person being advised or act as an advocate.

23 4400.1000 INFORMATION MEETINGS.

The board shall hold at least two information meetings. After acceptance of an application for route designation and a construction permit the board shall hold at least one information meeting in the area affected by the applicant's proposal to explain the route designation process, receive comments on the scope of the EIA, and to respond to questions raised by the public.

Before the public hearings held to consider the routes approved for consideration by the board, the board shall hold an information meeting in each county through which a route is proposed to be located to explain the route designation process,

5

Approved

by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

receive comments on issues and alternatives described in the
 EIA, and respond to questions raised by the public.

3 4400.1100 ROUTE PROPOSALS.

Subpart 1. Acceptance for consideration. The board shall 4 accept for consideration the routes and route segments proposed 5 by the applicant and may accept for consideration any other 6 routes or route segments which are proposed in accord with this 7 part. Only routes or route segments which have been accepted by 8 the board prior to notice of the public hearing shall be 9 considered at the public hearing. Routes and route segments 10 accepted shall be identified by the board in accordance with 11 part 4400.3710. Any proposer of a route or route segment which 12 the board has accepted for consideration shall make a 13 presentation of facts on the merits of the proposal at the 14 public hearing. 15

16

Subp. 2. [See Repealer.]

17 Subp. 3. Agency and advisory task force route proposals. 18 The board member agencies, power plant siting staff, and the 19 route advisory task force may propose routes or route segments 20 to the board. Route proposals made by the route advisory task 21 force must be made no later than 105 days after acceptance of 22 the application by the board.

23 Subp. 4. Other sources of route proposals. Any other 24 person may propose a route or a route segment as provided in 25 this subpart.

A. The proposed route or route segment must be set out specifically on the appropriate general county highway map available from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, or on the appropriate United States Geological Survey topographical maps.

31 B. The proposal must contain the data and analysis 32 required in parts 4400.0600 and 4400.1310, except part 33 4400.0600, items C and E; unless the information is the same as 34 provided by the applicant.

35 C. The proposal must be presented to the chair of the

6

Approved

by Revisor

1 board within 70 days of acceptance of the application by the 2 board.

3 Subp. 5. Adequate preparation of proposal. Within ten days of receipt of a route or route segment proposed under 4 subpart 4, the chair of the board shall determine if the 5 proposal is adequately prepared in accord with this part. 6 If the chair of the board determines that it is adequately 7 8 prepared, the chair shall forward the proposal to the board for its consideration. If the chair of the board determines that 9 the proposal is not adequately prepared, the chair shall inform 10 11 the proposer of any inadequacies in the proposal. The proposer shall have 15 days to provide additional information to the 12 chair of the board. The chair of the board shall determine 13 within ten days whether the amended proposal is adequately 14 If the chair of the board then determines that the prepared. 15 16 proposal is not adequately prepared, the proposer may appeal to the board at its next meeting to determine the adequacy of the 17 18 proposal.

19 4400.1200 PUBLIC HEARINGS.

12/05/90

Public hearings held by the board under parts 4400.0600 to 4400.1500 shall be held for the purposes of collecting and verifying data, and establishing a complete and accurate record upon which to base a decision. The hearings shall be conducted by an independent administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. The conduct of these hearings shall be as prescribed by chapter 1405.

27 4400.1210 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR HVTL.

Record of hearings. An environmental impact Subpart 1. 28 assessment (EIA) must be prepared for inclusion in the record of 29 the public hearing under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.58. 30 Subp. 2. Contents. The EIA must contain: 31 a summary of the project description provided in Α. 32 the project proposer's application; 33 a summary of the certificate of need decision, if в. 34 one was required and is available; the EIA must not consider 35

> Approved by Revisor

need for the project and other issues determined by the Public
 Utilities Commission;

C. a description of the applicant's proposed routes and any alternative routes or route segments approved by the board for consideration at public hearings;

6

D. a description of feasible alternative designs;

E. an analysis of the potential human and natural environmental effects of each alternative route, route segment, or design. The analysis must include those issues identified by the route advisory task force or by any interested person during the first public information meeting held under part 4400.1000;

F. a description of mitigative measures that could
reasonably eliminate or minimize potential adverse effects;

14 G. a discussion of all known governmental permits and 15 approvals required; and

H. an explanation of the board's routing process and how the public may participate, and specifically, how public comments on the EIA will be received for inclusion in the record of the public hearing.

Subp. 3. Notice of availability. The chair or the chair's designee shall provide notice of the availability of the EIA and how the public can participate in its review. The notice must be provided according to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.58, and part 4400.3710, and may be provided in the notice of the hearing required. Notice must also be published in the EQB Monitor.

27 Subp. 4. Distribution. When notice of availability is 28 provided under subpart 3, the EIA shall be distributed <u>to each</u> 29 <u>member of the board and</u> by certified mail to the persons 30 receiving notice. At least one copy must be available for 31 public review at the last public information meeting held before 32 the public hearing and during the public hearing conducted under 33 Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.58.

34 Subp. 5. Comments. The comment period begins when notice 35 of availability of the EIA is published in the EQB Monitor and 36 closes at the end of the oral portion of the public hearing. At

Approved by Revisor ____

12/05/90

1 least 30 days must be provided for comments. All comments
2 become part of the hearing record as provided in part 1405.1800,
3 subpart 5. The hearing record remains open until responses have
4 been provided to all relevant comments that address deficiencies
5 in the EIA pursuant to subpart 2. The date shall be set by the
6 administrative law judge under part 1405.1400.

7 Subp. 6. Adequacy. Prior to designating a route and 8 issuing a construction permit for an HVTL, the board shall make 9 a finding and conclusion that the EIA, comments on the EIA, and 10 responses to comments:

A. have adequately addressed significant environmental issues identified by the route advisory task force and the public under parts 4400.0800 and 4400.1000; and B. have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of this part; and

16 <u>C. have addressed the issues raised on the scope of</u> 17 <u>the EIA so that all issues have been analyzed</u>.

18 Subp. 7. Cooperative processes. The chair or the chair's 19 designee shall cooperate with federal agencies to the fullest 20 extent possible to reduce duplication between Minnesota 21 Statutes, chapter 116D, and the National Environmental Policy 22 Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 4321 to 4361.

23 Subp. 8. Costs. The board shall assess the project 24 proposer for its reasonable costs of preparing and distributing 25 the EIA pursuant to part 4410.6000.

26 4400.1310 ROUTING CONSIDERATIONS.

Subpart 1. Considerations. To facilitate the evaluation and designation of HVTL routes and route segments, the board shall be guided by the act and the following considerations: A. effects on human settlement, including but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, and public services;

B. effects on public health and safety;
C. effects on land-based economies, including but not
limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;

9

Approved

by Revisor _

12/05/90 [REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585 1 D. archaeological and historic resources; 2 effects on the natural environment; Ε. 3 rare and unique natural resources; F. G. application of design options which maximize 4 5 energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission capacity; 6 н. use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, 7 8 survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field 9 boundaries; 10 electrical system reliability; Ι. 11 J. costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the HVTL which are dependent on design and route; and 12 13 ĸ. adverse human and natural environmental effects which cannot be avoided. 14 15 Subp. 2. Resources designated for preservation. Certain 16 resources within the state have been designated for preservation by action of the state or federal government for the benefit of 17 the people and for future generations. No route shall be 18 designated by the board through state or national wilderness 19 areas. No route shall be designated by the board through state 20 21 or national parks and state scientific and natural areas unless the route would not materially damage or impair the purpose for 22 which the area was designated, and all feasible alternative 23 routes would have a greater adverse human or environmental 24 impact. Designation of a route in these areas shall be 25 consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.53, subdivision 26 1, and shall include conditions to minimize impacts which 27 adversely affect the unique character of these areas. Economic 28 considerations alone shall not justify approval of these areas. 29 4400.1400 ROUTE DESIGNATION AND ISSUANCE OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT. 30 Within one year after the board's acceptance of an 31 application for route designation and a construction permit, the 32 board shall act on that application. When the board designates 33 a route, it shall issue a permit for the construction of an HVTL 34 specifying the design and, route, and right-of-way width. The 35

10

Approved by Revisor

permit may specify conditions for construction, right-of-way restoration, abandonment, maintenance, and any other conditions relevant to minimizing human and environmental impact the board considers necessary. The board's decision shall be based on the record, part 4400.1310, and the act. The board shall give the reasons for its decision in written findings of fact.

7 4400.1500 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT COMPLIANCE.

12/05/90

Following route designation and issuance of a construction 8 permit, the permittee shall provide the board with a preliminary 9 construction plan at least 60 days before construction that 10 shall show that the right-of-way of the HVTL as proposed is 11 within the route designated by the board. The board may suspend 12 the 60-day time limitation if it can be shown that earlier 13 construction will not preclude proper review of the plans. If 14 the permittee makes any changes in its preliminary construction 15 plan, it shall notify the board in writing of the changes before 16 17 construction.

18 SITE DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY

19 4400.2600 APPLICATIONS FOR SITE DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATE OF 20 SITE COMPATIBILITY.

Subpart 1. Contents. An application shall be filed that includes any information necessary to make the evaluation required in part 4400.3310 and the following:

A. a statement of proposed ownership of the facility as of the day of filing and an affidavit authorizing the applicant to act on behalf of those planning to participate in the project;

B. the size and type of the proposed LEPGP;
C. at least two proposed sites for the proposed
LEPGP;

31 D. the engineering and operational design for the
32 LEPGP at each of the proposed sites;

33 E. a cost analysis of the LEPGP at each proposed 34 site;

35 F. an engineering analysis of each of the proposed

Approved by Revisor

sites; 1 2 G. a description of the environmental setting and the 3 potential human and natural environmental impacts of each site and measures proposed by the applicant to mitigate adverse 4 effects, presented in the order shown in part 4400.3310; 5 6 a listing and brief description of federal and Η. 7 state permits that may be required for each proposed site; and 8 I. the certificate of need if available, or an acknowledgment of the receipt of a substantially complete 9 certificate of need application by the Public Utilities 10 Commission, if a certificate of need is required by Minnesota 11 Statutes, chapter 216B. 12 Subp. la. Distribution. A copy of the application shall 13 be provided by board staff to each member of the board. 14 [For text of subp 2, see M.R.] 15 4400.2710 ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION FOR SITE DESIGNATION AND 16 CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY. 17 Subpart 1. Board action required. The board shall either 18 accept or reject an application at its first regularly scheduled 19 meeting after the application is filed with the board, provided 20 the application is filed at least 21 days before that meeting. 21 Subp. 2. Rejection of application. If the board rejects 22 the application the board shall inform the applicant in writing 23 which deficiencies, if corrected, will allow the application to 24 be accepted. If the applicant has corrected the deficiencies or 25 provided the board with the required information 14 days in 26 advance of a regularly scheduled meeting, the board must 27 reconsider acceptance of the application at that meeting. If 28 the applicant fails to meet the conditions established by the 29 board for reconsideration of the rejected application, the 30 rejection shall stand. If the rejection stands, the applicant 31 may reapply at any time. If the board fails to act within the 32 times specified in this subpart, the application shall be 33 considered accepted. 34

35

Subp. 3. Additional information. On acceptance of the

Approved by Revisor

12/05/90

application, the board shall proceed with the actions required in parts 4400.2800 to 4400.3500. The applicant shall provide additional relevant information that the board considers necessary to process the application.

5 4400.2720 BOARD ACTION UPON ACCEPTANCE.

6 On acceptance of an application for site designation and a certificate of site compatibility, the board shall designate a 7 8 project leader who shall serve as an independent representative 9 of the board during the formal siting proceedings. The project leader shall be responsible for coordinating assigned staff 10 11 responsibilities during the siting process and in preparing the The project leader shall ensure that the record of the 12 EIA. proceedings is fully developed and responsive to all issues 13 14 raised in the process. The project leader may intervene as a 15 party in the public hearing if appropriate. Positions taken or representations made by the project leader during the siting 16 process are not binding on the board. 17

18 4400.2800 SITE ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

Upon acceptance of an application for site designation and a certificate of site compatibility, the board may appoint a site advisory task force and its chair consistent with the act and part 4405.0800. The board shall provide guidance to the task force in the form of a charge. Site advisory task forces are advisory and are to assist the board in evaluating the application and alternatives, and in determining the scope of the EIA prepared under part 4400.3210.

27 '4400.2900 PUBLIC ADVISER.

On acceptance of an application for site designation and a certificate of site compatibility, the board shall designate a public adviser. The public adviser shall be available to any person to advise that person on how to effectively participate in the siting process. The public adviser shall not give legal advice or advice which may affect the legal rights of the person being advised or act as an advocate.

> Approved by Revisor

1 4400.3000 INFORMATION MEETINGS.

The board shall hold at least two information meetings. After acceptance of an application for site designation and a certificate of site compatibility, the board shall hold at least one information meeting in the area affected by the applicant's proposal to explain the site designation process, receive comments on the scope of the EIA, and to respond to questions raised by the public.

9 Before the public hearings held to consider the sites 10 approved for consideration by the board, the board shall hold an 11 information meeting in each county in which a site is proposed 12 to be located to explain the site designation process, receive 13 comments on issues and alternatives described in the EIA, and to 14 respond to questions raised by the public.

15 4400.3100 SITE PROPOSALS.

Subpart 1. Acceptance for consideration. The board shall 16 accept for consideration the sites proposed by the applicant and 17 may accept for consideration any other site which is proposed in 18 accord with this part. Only sites which have been accepted by 19 the board prior to notice of the public hearing shall be 20 considered at the public hearing. Sites accepted shall be 21 identified by the board in accordance with part 4400.3710. Τn 22 order that a site be included in the public hearing record, any 23 proposer of a site which has been accepted for consideration at 24 the public hearing by the board shall make a presentation of 25 facts on the merits of the proposal at the public hearing. 26 Subp. 2. Agency and advisory task force site proposals. 27 The board member agencies, power plant siting staff, and the 28 site advisory task force may propose sites directly to the 29 Site proposals made by the site advisory task force must 30 board. be made no later than 105 days after acceptance of the 31

32 application by the board.

33 Subp. 3. Other sources of site proposals. Any other
34 person may propose a site as provided in this subpart:
35 A. The proposed site must be set out specifically on

Approved by Revisor _

the appropriate general county highway map available from the
 Minnesota Department of Transportation or on United States
 Geological Survey topographical maps.

B. The proposal must contain the data and analysis required in parts 4400.2600 and 4400.3310 with the exception of part 4400.2600, subpart 1, items C and E, unless the information is the same as provided by the applicant.

8 C. The proposal must be presented to the chair of the 9 board within 70 days of acceptance of the application by the 10 board.

11 Subp. 4. Adequate preparation of proposal. Within ten 12 days of receipt of a site proposal, the chair of the board shall determine if the proposal is adequately prepared in accord with 13 this part. If the chair of the board determines that it is 14 15 adequately prepared, the chair shall forward the proposal to the board for its consideration at its next meeting. If the chair 16 17 of the board determines that the proposal is not adequately prepared, the chair shall inform the proposer of any 18 19 inadequacies in the proposal. The proposer shall have 15 days 20 to provide additional information to the chair of the board. The chair of the board shall determine within ten days whether 21 the amended proposal is adequately prepared. If the chair of 22 23 the board then determines that the proposal is not adequately prepared, the proposer may appeal to the board at its next 24 25 meeting to determine the adequacy of the proposal.

26 4400.3200 PUBLIC HEARINGS.

12/05/90

Public hearings held by the board under parts 4400.2600 to 4400.3500 shall be held for the purposes of collecting and verifying data and establishing a complete and accurate record upon which to base a decision. The hearing shall be conducted by an independent administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. The conduct of these hearings shall be as prescribed by chapter 1405.

34 4400.3210 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR LEPGP.
 35 Subpart 1. Record of hearings. An environmental impact

Approved by Revisor

12/05/90 [REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585 assessment (EIA) must be prepared for inclusion in the record of 1 the public hearing under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.58. 2 Subp. 2. Contents. The EIA must contain: 3 4 A. a summary of the project description provided in 5 the project proposer's application; B. a summary of the certificate of need decision, if 6 7 one was required and is available; the EIA shall not consider need for the project and other issues determined by the Public 8 9 Utilities Commission; a description of the applicant's proposed sites 10 с. and any alternative sites approved by the board for 11 12 consideration at public hearing; D. a description of feasible alternative designs; 13 an analysis of the potential human and natural 14 Ε. environmental effects of each alternative site or design. The 15 analysis must include those issues identified by the site 16 advisory task force or by any interested person during the first 17 public information meeting held under part 4400.3000; 18 F. a description of mitigative measures that could 19 reasonably eliminate or minimize potential adverse effects; 20 a discussion of all known governmental permits and G. 21 approvals required; and 22 an explanation of the board's siting process and н. 23 how the public can participate, and specifically, how public 24 comments on the EIA will be received for inclusion in the record 25 of the public hearing. 26 Subp. 3. Notice of availability. The chair or the chair's 27 designee shall provide notice of the availability of the EIA and 28 how the public can participate in its review. The notice must 29 be provided according to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.58, 30 and part 4400.3710, and may be provided in the notice of the 31 hearing required. Notice must also be published in the EQB 32 Monitor. 33 Subp. 4. Distribution. When notice of availability is 34 provided under subpart 3, the EIA must be distributed to each 35

member of the board and by certified mail to the persons

Approved by Revisor _

16

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

receiving notice. At least one copy must be available for
 public review at the last public information meeting held before
 the public hearing and during the public hearing conducted under
 Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.58.

Subp. 5. Comments. The comment period begins when notice 5 of availability of the EIA is published in the EQB Monitor and 6 closes at the end of the oral portion of the public hearing. At 7 8 least 30 days must be provided for comments. All comments become part of the hearing record as provided in part 1405.1800, 9 subpart 5. The hearing record remains open until responses have 10 been provided to all relevant comments which address 11 deficiencies in the EIA pursuant to subpart 2. The date shall 12 be set by the administrative law judge under part 1405.1400. 13 Subp. 6. Adequacy. Prior to designating a site and 14 issuing a certificate of site compatibility for an LEPGP, the 15 board shall make a finding and conclusion that the EIA, comments 16

17 on the EIA, and responses to comments:

A. have adequately addressed significant environmental issues identified by the site advisory task force and the public under parts 4400.2800 and 4400.3000; and

B. have been prepared in compliance with the
requirements of this part; and

23 <u>C. have addressed the issues raised on the scope of</u>
24 the EIA so that all issues have been analyzed.

Subp. 7. Cooperative processes. The chair or the chair's designee shall cooperate with federal agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116D, and the National Environmental Policy Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 4321 to 4361. Subp. 8. Costs. The board shall assess the project

31 proposer for its reasonable costs of preparing and distributing 32 the EIA pursuant to part 4410.6000.

33 4400.3310 SITING CONSIDERATIONS.

34 Subpart 1. Considerations. To facilitate the evaluation 35 and designation of LEPGP sites, the board shall be guided by the

17

Approved

by Revisor _

12/05/90 [REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585 act and the following considerations: 1 effects on human settlement, including but not 2 Α. 3 limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, community benefits, 4 cultural values, recreation, and public services; effects on public health and safety; 5 'В. effects on land-based economies, including but not 6 c. 7 l'imited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining. D. archaeological and historic resources; 8 effects on the natural environment; Ε. 9 rare and unique natural resources; 10 F. cumulative present and future demands on air and 11 G. 12 water resources; application of design options which maximize 13 H. energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and 14 could accommodate expansion of generating capacity; 15 use of existing LEPGP sites; I. 16 use of existing transportation, pipeline, and 17 J. electrical transmission systems; 18 costs of constructing and operating the facility ·19 Κ. which are dependent on design and site; and 20 adverse human and natural environmental effects 21 Tel which cannot be avoided. 22 Subp. 2. Site exclusions. The following resources within 23 the state have been designated for preservation by action of the 24 state or federal government for the benefit of the people and 25 for future generations: 26 27 Α. national parks; national historic sites and landmarks; 28 в. national historic districts; 29 с. national wildlife refuges; 30 D. national monuments; 31 Ε. national wild, scenic, and recreational riverways; F. 32 state wild, scenic, and recreational rivers and 33 G. their land use districts; 34 н. state parks; 35 nature conservancy preserves; 36 I.

> Approved by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

1 2

J. state scientific and natural areas; and state and national wilderness areas. K.

These areas shall not be designated as a site for an LEPGP 3 except for use for water intake or discharge facilities. If the 4 5 board includes any of these areas within a site for use for 6 water intake or discharge facilities, it may impose appropriate 7 conditions in the certificate of site compatibility which 8 protect these areas for the purpose for which they were 9 designated. The board shall also consider the adverse effects 10 of proposed sites on these areas which are located wholly 11 outside of the boundaries of these areas.

Subp. 3. Site exclusions when alternative sites exist. 12 13 Certain resources within the state shall not be designated for 14 LEPGP sites when unless all feasible and prudent alternatives would have greater adverse human and environmental impact. 15 16 Designation of a site in these areas shall be consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.53, subdivision 1, and shall 17 include conditions to minimize impacts which adversely affect 18 the unique character of these areas. Economic considerations 19 alone shall not justify approval of these areas. These areas 20 21 are:

22

A. state registered historic sites;

state historic districts; 23 в.

c. state wildlife management areas (except in cases 24 where the plant cooling water is to be used for wildlife 25 management purposes); 26

27

D. county parks;

28 Ε. metropolitan parks;

designated state and federal recreational trails; 29 F. 30 G.

designated trout streams; and

H. the rivers identified in Minnesota Statutes, 31 section 85.32, subdivision 1. 32

Subp. 4. Prime farmland exclusion. When there exists a 33 feasible and prudent alternative with less adverse environmental 34 and noncompensable human effects, no LEPGP site shall be 35 designated where the developed portion of the plant site 36

> Approved by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

1 includes more than 0.5 acres of prime farmland per megawatt of net generating capacity, and no makeup water storage reservoir 2 or cooling pond site shall include more than 0.5 acres of prime 3 farmland per megawatt of net generating capacity. 4 These provisions do not apply to areas located within home rule 5 6 charter or statutory cities; areas located within two miles of 7 home rule charter or statutory cities of the first, second, and third class; or areas designated for orderly annexation under 8 Minnesota Statutes, section 414.0325. 9

10 Subp. 5. Sufficient water supply required. No site shall 11 be designated that does not have reasonable access to a proven 12 water supply sufficient for plant operation. No use of 13 groundwater shall be permitted where removal of groundwater 14 results in material adverse effects on groundwater in and 15 adjacent to the area, as determined in each case.

16 The use of groundwater for high consumption purposes, such 17 as cooling, shall be avoided if feasible and prudent surface 18 water alternatives less harmful to the environment exist. 19 Groundwater use to supplement available surface water shall be 20 permitted if the cumulative impact minimizes environmental harm.

21 4400.3400 SITE DESIGNATION AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF SITE22 COMPATIBILITY.

Within one year after the board's acceptance of an 23 application for a certificate of site compatibility, the board 24 shall act on that application. When the board designates a site 25 it shall issue a certificate of site compatibility with any 26 appropriate conditions. The board's decision shall be based on 27 the record, part 4400.3310, and the act. The board shall give 28 the reasons for its decision in written findings of fact. If 29 the board refuses to designate a site, it shall indicate the 30 reasons for the refusal and indicate the necessary changes in 31 size or type of facility to allow site designation. 32

33 4400.3500 CERTIFICATE COMPLIANCE.

Following site designation and issuance of a certificate of site compatibility, the board may require the permittee to

> Approved by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

supply plans and information as it deems necessary to determine
 whether or not the LEPGP is in compliance with the conditions of
 the certificate of site compatibility.

4 4400.3600 PROGRAM ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

5

Subpart 1. [See Repealer.]

б Subp. 2. Program advisory task force. The board may 7 appoint a program advisory task force to provide advice and recommendations concerning development, revision, and 8 9 enforcement of any rule, inventory, or program initiated under the act or parts 4400.0200 to 4400.4900. The board shall 10 11 provide guidance to the program advisory task force in the form 12 of a charge and through specific requests. The program advisory task force shall be composed of as many members as may be 13 14 designated by the board, and its membership shall be solicited on a statewide basis. The program advisory task force and its 15 chair shall be appointed for a one-year term. 16

17 4400.3710 NOTICES.

18 Subpart 1. When to notice. The chair or the chair's 19 designee shall provide notice consistent with the act at the 20 following points in the routing and siting processes:

A. within 20 days of acceptance of any application filed with the board under the act, except an exemption application;

24 B. public information meetings;

25 C. availability of EIA;

C.

26

D. public hearing; and

27 E. board designation of a site or route.

Subp. 2. Content of notices. All notices shall be provided consistent with the act, except for subpart 1, item E, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

32 A. identification of the applicant;

B. date, time, and location of any action, meeting,
or public hearing being noticed;

35

Approved by Revisor

21

a brief description of the proposed large electric

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

l power facility;

D. a map showing the location of the proposedfacility;

E. procedures for participating in the routing or siting process and for interested persons to be placed on a mailing list for future notices;

F. locations where documents are available for public8 review; and

9 G. the name and function of the public advisor and 10 the address and telephone number where that person can be 11 reached.

12 Subp. 3. Proposals required to be noticed. For purposes 13 of providing notice, a route, route segment, or site proposal 14 shall be any route, route segment, or site proposed by the 15 applicant or accepted by the board under part 4400.1100 or 16 4400.3100.

17 4400.3800 EMERGENCY CERTIFICATIONS AND PERMITS.

18 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]
19 Subp. 2. Determination of an emergency. The board shall
20 hold a public hearing as prescribed by chapter 1405 within 90
21 days of acceptance of an application for emergency certification
22 to consider the following to determine whether an emergency
23 exists:

A. whether adherence to the procedures and time schedules specified in parts 4400.1400 and 4400.3400 would jeopardize the utility's electric power system or would jeopardize the utility's ability to meet the electric needs of its customers in an orderly and timely manner;

B. whether there remains any feasible or prudent
alternative to the utility which can serve its immediate need;
and

C. whether the utility is prepared to, and will upon authorization, carry out the acquisition and construction program at the maximum rate of progress.

35 The board shall also establish whether the situation could

22

Approved

by Revisor _

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

have been reasonably anticipated by the utility in time to use 1 the normal application procedures. If the board finds that the 2 3 utility could have reasonably anticipated the situation, the utility may be subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.68. 4 Subp. 3. Emergency procedures. If the board determines 5 that an emergency exists, then the route or site designation 6 procedures prescribed in parts 4400.0600 to 4400.1500 and 7 8 4400.2600 to 4400.3500, with the exception of parts 4400.1100, subparts 2 to 5, and 4400.3100, subparts 2 to 4, shall be 9 followed, except that the board shall designate a route and 10 11 issue an emergency construction permit or designate a site and issue an emergency certificate of site compatibility within 195 12 days of the application. 13 4400.3900 EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES. 14 Subpart 1. Application for exemption. A utility or person 15 may file an application with the board to exempt from the act 16 the construction of an HVTL within a proposed route. 17 No 18 exemptions may be granted unless the procedures in this part are 19 followed. Subp. la. Application contents. The application for 20 21 exemption shall contain information necessary to make an evaluation of considerations listed in part 4400.1310, and the 22 23 following: a statement of proposed ownership of the facility 24 Α. as of the day of filing and an affidavit authorizing the 25 applicant to act on behalf of those planning to participate in 26 27 the project; a general description of the proposed project; в. 28 a description of the route for the proposed HVTL 29 c. 30 and a map; the engineering design and estimated costs for the 31 D. proposed HVTL; 32

E. a description of the construction, right-of-way restoration, and maintenance procedures anticipated for the proposed HVTL;

23

Approved

by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

F. a description of the potential human and natural environmental effects and measures proposed by the applicant to mitigate adverse effects presented in the order shown in part 4400.1310; and

5 G. a listing and brief description of governmental 6 permits that may be required.

Subp. lb. Distribution. A copy of the application shall
be provided by board staff to each member of the board.

9 Subp. 2. Notice of exemption application. Within 15 days 10 of filing of an exemption application, the applicant shall:

11

A. publish notice consistent with the act;

B. send a copy of the exemption application by certified mail to the chair or chief executive of any regional development commission, county, home rule charter or statutory city, and organized town in which the route is proposed to be located; and

17 C. mail to each owner whose property is included 18 within the route, a notice and description of the exemption 19 application, together with an understandable description of the 20 procedures the owner must follow should the owner desire to 21 object. Determination of ownership shall be consistent with 22 Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.57, subdivision 5.

Subp. 3. Objection to exemption. If a person who owns 23 real property crossed by the proposed route, or any person 24 owning property contiguous to the property crossed by the 25 proposed route, or any affected political subdivision submits a 26 27 written objection to the board within 60 days after notice has been provided, the board must either deny the exemption 28 application or conduct a hearing as prescribed by chapter 1405 29 to determine if the proposed HVTL within the proposed route will 30 cause any significant human or environmental impact. The 31 32 written objection shall:

A. state reasons why the board should deny the
exemption application or hold a public hearing;
B. to the extent possible, describe significant

36 impacts on the human or natural environment which will be caused

Approved by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

by the proposed facility, or show that insufficient information
 is provided on possible impacts in the application; and

C. provide evidence of real property ownership required in this subpart. Property tax records shall suffice as evidence.

6

Subp. 4. [See Repealer.]

Subp. 5. Public hearing. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes,
section 116C.06, the board may order a public hearing as
prescribed by chapter 1405 to determine if the proposed facility
will cause any significant human or environmental impact.

11 Subp. 6. Public comments. Any person may submit comments 12 to the board within 60 days after notice has been provided as 13 required by subpart 2.

Subp. 7. Determination. In deciding whether to grant or 14 deny an exemption, the board shall consider any objections and 15 comments that are submitted, the record of any public hearing 16 which is held, and the information contained in the 17 application. If the board determines that the proposed HVTL 18 will not have a significant human or environmental impact, the 19 board may exempt from the act with any appropriate conditions 20 the construction of the proposed facility within the proposed 21 route. If the board denies an HVTL exemption, it shall indicate 22 the reasons and indicate the project changes necessary for 23 approval. The applicant may reapply for an exemption or apply 24 25 for a construction permit.

When an exemption is granted, the utility or person must comply with any applicable state rules, local zoning, building, and land use rules, regulations, and ordinances of any regional, county, local, and special purpose governments in which the facility is to be located.

31 4400.3910 EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN LEPGP SITES.

32 Subpart 1. Application for exemption. A utility or person 33 may file an application with the board to exempt from the act 34 the construction of an LEPGP with an electric power production 35 capacity between 50 and 80 megawatts at a proposed site. No

25

Approved

by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

1 exemptions may be granted unless the procedures in this part are 2 followed. 3 Subp. 2. Contents of application. The application for exemption shall contain information necessary to make an 4 5 evaluation of considerations listed in part 4400.3310 and inventory criteria in part 4400.4500, and the following: 6 7 Α. a statement of proposed ownership of the facility 8 as of the day of filing and an affidavit authorizing the 9 applicant to act on behalf of those planning to participate in the project; 10 11 the size and type of the proposed plant; Β. 12 C. the proposed site location and a map; 13 an engineering design, cost, and operation D. 14 analysis for the proposed plant; 15 E. a description of all waste streams and disposal 16 methods; the anticipated life of the facility; 17 F. 18 G. a description of the potential human and natural environmental effects and measures proposed by the applicant to 19 20 mitigate adverse effects presented in the order shown in part 4400.3310; and 21 22 H. a listing and brief description of governmental permits that may be required. 23 Subp. 2b. Distribution. A copy of the application shall 24 25 be provided by board staff to each member of the board. 26 Subp. 3. Notice of exemption application. Within 15 days of the filing of an exemption application, the applicant shall: 27 A. publish notice consistent with the act in each 28 county in which any portion of the proposed site is located; 29 send a copy of the exemption application by 30 в. certified mail to the chair or chief executive of any regional 31 development commission, county, home rule charter or statutory 32 city, and organized town within ten miles of the proposed site; 33 34 and C. mail to the owner of each property that is part of 35 or is contiguous to the proposed site a notice and description 36

> Approved by Revisor _

12/05/90

of the exemption application and an understandable description
 of the procedures the owner must follow should the owner desire
 to object. Determination of ownership shall be consistent with
 Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.57, subdivision 5a, paragraph
 (b).

6 Subp. 4. Objection to exemption. If a person who owns real property that is part of or contiguous to the proposed site 7 8 or an affected political subdivision submits a written objection to the board within 60 days after the board receives an 9 exemption application, the board must either deny the exemption 10 application or conduct a public hearing as prescribed by chapter 11 1405 to determine if the proposed electric power plant at the 12 proposed site will cause any significant human or environmental 13 impact. The written objection shall: 14

A. state reasons why the board should deny theexemption application or hold a public hearing;

B. to the extent possible, describe significant impacts on the human or natural environment which will be caused by the proposed facility, or show that insufficient information is provided on possible impacts in the exemption application; and

C. provide evidence of real property ownership
required in this subpart. Property tax records shall suffice as
evidence.

Subp. 5. Public hearing. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.06, the board may order a public hearing as prescribed in chapter 1405 to determine if the proposed facility will cause significant human or environmental impact.

29 Subp. 6. Public comments. Any person may submit comments 30 to the board within 60 days after notice has been provided as 31 required in subpart 3.

32 Subp. 7. Determination. In deciding whether to grant or 33 deny an exemption, the board shall consider any objections and 34 comments that are submitted, the record of any public hearing 35 which is held, and the information contained in the 36 application. If the board determines that a facility has an

> Approved by Revisor

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

1 electric power production capacity less than 80 megawatts and construction at the proposed site will not have a significant 2 human or environmental impact, the board may exempt with any 3 appropriate conditions the construction of the proposed facility 4 at the proposed site from the requirements of the act. If the 5 board denies an LEPGP exemption, it shall indicate the reasons 6 and indicate the project changes necessary for approval. 7 The applicant may reapply for an exemption or apply for a 8 certificate of site compatibility. 9

When an exemption is granted, the utility or person must comply with applicable state rules, local zoning, building, and land use rules, regulations, and ordinances of any regional, county, local, and special purpose governments in which the facility is to be located.

15 4400.4000 DELAY IN ROUTE OR SITE CONSTRUCTION.

If construction and improvement of a route or site have not 16 commenced four years after the construction permit or site 17 certificate has been issued by the board, the board shall 18 suspend the certificate or permit. If at that time, or at a 19 time subsequent, the utility decides to construct the proposed 20 large electric power facility, it shall certify to the board 21 that there have been no significant changes in any material 22 aspects of the conditions or circumstances existing when the 23 permit or certificate was issued. If the board determines that 24 there are no significant changes, it shall reinstate the permit 25 or certificate. If the board determines that there is a 26 significant change, it may order a new hearing and consider the 27 matter further, or it may require a new application. 28

29 4400.4100 MINOR ALTERATIONS IN CONSTRUCTION PERMIT OR30 CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY.

Following issuance of a construction permit for an HVTL or a certificate of site compatibility for an LEPGP, a utility may apply to the board for minor alterations on conditions specified in the permit or certificate. The utility shall submit an application for a minor alteration which contains sufficient

> Approved by Revisor _

[REVISOR] CMR/LS AR1585

1 information for the board to determine within 45 days the
2 following: whether the requested changes are significant enough
3 to warrant board study and approval; whether to order public
4 hearings near the affected area; or whether additional fees
5 shall be assessed.

6 If the board decides to study the application, the board 7 shall determine within 70 days whether granting the application 8 would be consistent with part 4400.1310 or 4400.3310 and shall 9 grant or deny the utility's application accordingly.

10 4400.4200 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATE OR PERMIT.

11 Subpart 1. Initiation of action to revoke or suspend. The 12 board may initiate action to consider revocation or suspension 13 of a construction permit or certificate of site compatibility on 14 its own motion or upon the request of any person who has made a 15 prima facie showing by affidavit and documentation that a 16 violation of the act has occurred under Minnesota Statutes, 17 section 116C.645 or this chapter.

18

[For text of subp 2, see M.R.]

19 Subp. 3. Finding of violation. If the board finds that a 20 violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.645 or this 21 chapter has occurred, it may revoke or suspend the permit or 22 certificate, require the utility to undertake corrective or 23 ameliorative measures as a condition to avoid revocation or 24 suspension, or require corrective measures and suspend the 25 permit or certificate.

26 4400.4500 IDENTIFICATION OF LARGE ELECTRIC POWER GENERATING27 PLANT STUDY AREAS.

[For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]
Subp. 2. Exclusion areas. Criterion: study areas shall
be compatible with board rules on exclusion criteria for LEPGP
site selection.

32 Standard: geographic areas identified in part 4400.3310, 33 subpart 2 shall not be part of any study area. 34 [For text of subps 3 to 6, see M.R.]

> Approved by Revisor

1 4400.4900 APPLICATION FEES.

Every applicant for a route or site pursuant to Minnesota
Statutes, section 116C.57 shall pay to the board a fee as
prescribed by the act.

5 For applications filed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, 6 section 116C.57, subdivisions 1 and 2, 25 percent of the total 7 estimated fee shall accompany the application and the balance is 8 payable in three equal installments at the end of 90, 180, and 9 270 days from the date of the board's acceptance of the 10 application.

For applications filed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.57, subdivision 3, 25 percent of the total estimated fee shall accompany the application and the balance is payable at the end of 90 days from the date of the board's acceptance of the application.

For applications filed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.57, subdivisions 5 and 5a, 50 percent of the total approved cost for processing the application shall be paid within 14 days of receipt of the application and the balance is payable as determined by the board.

21

22 REPEALER. Minnesota Rules, parts 4400.0700; 4400.1100,
23 subpart 2; 4400.1300; 4400.2700; 4400.3300; 4400.3600, subpart
24 1; 4400.3700; and 4400.3900, subpart 4, are repealed.

state of minnesota DEPARTMENT OF STATE FILED DEC 1 11990

Joen andrew Shore Secretary of State 1:30 pm nk

Approved by Revisor