

APPENDIX A
Application Completeness Checklist

Table A-1
Standard Review Completeness Checklist
[Minn. Stat. Ch. 216I](#)

Topics	Authority	Required Information	Location in Application
Route Permit Application Contents (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216I)			
-	216I.05, subd. 3(a)	(a) A person that seeks to construct a large energy infrastructure facility must apply to the commission for a site or route permit, as applicable. The applicant must propose a single route for a high-voltage transmission line.	-
-	216I.05, subd. 3(b)	(b) The application must contain:	-
Project ownership	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(1)	a statement of proposed ownership of the facility at the time of filing the application and after commercial operation	Section 1.4
Permittee name	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(2)	the name of any person or organization initially named as permittee or permittees and the name of any other person to whom the permit may be transferred if transfer of the permit is contemplated	Section 1.4
Project description	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(3)	a description of the proposed large energy infrastructure facility and all associated facilities, including size, type, and timing of the facility	Section 1.3, Figures 1 – 4
Environmental Information, generally	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(4)	the environmental information required under subdivision 4;	Section 5
Identification of Property Owners	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(5)	the names of each owner described under subdivision 8;	Appendix I
Maps	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(6)	United States Geological Survey topographical maps, or other maps acceptable to the commission, that show the entire proposed large energy infrastructure facility	Section 5.8.4 and Appendix B
Existing ROWs	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(7)	a document that identifies existing utility and public rights-of-way along or near the large energy infrastructure facility	Section 3.1.2, Figures 2, 5 and 10
Project design, including required ancillary facilities	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(8)	the engineering and operational design at each of the proposed sites for the proposed large energy infrastructure facility, and identify transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems that are required to construct, maintain, and operate the facility	
Project cost	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(9)	a cost analysis of the proposed large energy infrastructure facility, including the costs to construct, operate, and maintain the facility	Sections 3.2.7, 3.3.5, 3.8 and Table 5

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Topics	Authority	Required Information	Location in Application
Design for expansion	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(10)	a description of possible design options to accommodate the large energy infrastructure facility's future expansion	Section 3.7
Site or ROW acquisition, construction, maintenance, and restoration	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(11)	the procedures and practices proposed to acquire, construct, maintain, and restore the large energy infrastructure facility's right-of-way or site	Section 3
Other Permits	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(12)	a list and brief description of federal, state, and local permits that may be required for the proposed large energy infrastructure facility	Section 2.3
CN Requirement	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(13)	a discussion regarding whether a certificate of need application is required and, if a certificate of need application is required, whether the certificate of need application has been submitted	Section 2.1
Other sites or routes considered	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(14)	a discussion regarding any other sites or routes that were considered and rejected by the applicant	Section 4
Additional information required by rule	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(15)	any information the commission requires pursuant to an administrative rule	
Tribal coordination	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(16)	a discussion regarding coordination with Minnesota Tribal governments, as defined under section 10.65, subdivision 2, by the applicant, including but not limited to the notice required under subdivision 5 of this section	Section 1.5 and Appendix D
Route Permit Application - Environmental information (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216I)			
-	216I.05, subd. 4(a)	An applicant for a site or route permit must include in the application environmental information for each proposed site or route. The environmental information submitted must include:	-
Environmental setting	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(1)	a description of each site or route's environmental setting	Section 5.3 and Figure 1
Human settlement, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	description of the effects the facility's construction and operation has on human settlement, including but not limited to public health and safety,	Section 5.4

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Public health & safety including EMF	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts, environmental justice impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services	Section 5.5
Displacement	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.3
Noise	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.7
Aesthetics	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.1
Socioeconomic Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.10
Environmental Justice Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.5
Cultural Values	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.2
Recreation	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.9
Public Services	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		Section 5.4.8
Land-based economics, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	a description of the facility's effects on land-based economies, including but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining	Section 5.6

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Agriculture	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3); see also Minn. R. 7850.4400, subp. 4.	Minn. R. 7850.4400, 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 .	Section 5.6.1
Forestry	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	a description of the facility's effects on land-based economies, including but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining	Section 5.6.2
Tourism	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)		Section 5.6.4
Mining	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)		Section 5.6.3
Archaeological & historic resources	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(4)	a description of the facility's effects on archaeological and historic resources	Section 5.7
Natural environment impacts - generally	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)	a description of the facility's effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources, flora, and fauna	Section 5.8
Air quality	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		Section 5.8.1
Soils	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		Section 5.8.7

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Surface waters (including stormwater, floodplains, and wetlands)	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		Section 5.8.9
Vegetation	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		Section 5.8.8
Wildlife	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		Section 5.8.10
Greenhouse gases	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(6)	a description of the greenhouse gases associated with constructing and operating the facility	Section 5.8.3 and Appendix H
Climate change resilience	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(7)	a description of the facility's climate change resilience	Section 5.8.2
Rare & unique resources	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(8)	a description of the facility's effects on rare and unique natural resources	Section 5.8.6
Unavoidable Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(9)	a list that identifies human and natural environmental effects that are unavoidable if the facility is approved at a specific site or route	Section 5.9
Mitigation Measures	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(10)	a description of (i) measures that might be implemented to mitigate the potential human and environmental impacts identified in clauses (1) to (7), and (ii) the estimated costs of the potential mitigative measures	Section 5
Commission Considerations in Designating Sites and Routes (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216I)			
-	216I.05, subd. 11(a)	The commission's site and route permit determinations must:	-
State Conservation Goals	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(1)	be guided by the state's goals to conserve resources;	Section 1.0
Natural environment impacts - generally	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(2)	minimize environmental impacts, and minimize human settlement and other land use conflicts;	Sections 1.0 and 3.1.3
Human settlement, generally	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(2)		Sections 1.0 and 5.4

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Land Use	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(2)		Sections 1.0 and 5.4.6, Figures 8 and 9
Environmental Justice Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(3)	consider impacts to environmental justice areas, as defined in section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, paragraph (e), including cumulative impacts, as defined in section 116.065, to environmental justice areas; and	Section 5.4.5 and Table 10
Cost-effective energy	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(4)	ensure the state's energy security through efficient, cost-effective energy supply and infrastructure.	Section 3.8, Table 6
-	216I.05, subd. 11(b)	When determining whether to issue a site permit for a large energy infrastructure facility, the commission must include but is not limited to:	-
Large energy Infrastructure Research and Investigations	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1)	evaluating research and investigations relating to: (i) large energy infrastructure facilities' effects on land, water, and air resources; and (ii) the effects water and air discharges and electric and magnetic fields resulting from large energy infrastructure facilities have on public health and welfare, vegetation, animals, materials, and aesthetic values, including baseline studies, predictive modeling, and evaluating new or improved methods to minimize adverse impacts of water and air discharges and other matters pertaining to large energy infrastructure facilities' effects on the water and air environment;	Section 5.0
Environmental Evaluation	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(2)	conducting environmental evaluation of sites and routes that are proposed for future development and expansion, and the relationship of proposed sites and routes for future development and expansion to Minnesota's land, water, air, and human resources;	Sections 3.7 and 5
Minimize Adverse Environmental Effects	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(3)	evaluating the effects of measures designed to minimize adverse environmental effects;	Section 5
Potential for Beneficial Use of Waste Energy	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(4)	evaluating the potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from proposed large electric power generating plants;	-
Direct and Indirect Economic Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(5)	analyzing the direct and indirect economic impact of proposed sites and routes, including but not limited to productive agricultural land lost or impaired;	Section 5.6

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Unavoidable Environmental Effects	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(6)	evaluating adverse direct and indirect environmental effects that are unavoidable should the proposed site and route be accepted;	Section 5.9
Route Alternatives	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(7)	evaluating alternatives to the applicant's proposed site or route, if applicable;	Section 4 and Figure 6
Paralleling Existing Railroad and Highway Rights-of-way	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(8)	when appropriate, evaluating potential routes that would use or parallel existing railroad and highway rights-of-way;	Section 3.1.2
Survey and Natural Division Lines	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(9)	evaluating governmental survey lines and other natural division lines of agricultural land to minimize interference with agricultural operations;	Sections 5.4.2 and 5.6.1
Need for Large Energy Infrastructure	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(10)	evaluating the future needs for large energy infrastructure facilities in the same general area as any proposed site or route;	Section 3.7
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(11)	evaluating irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources if the proposed site or route is approved;	Section 5.10
Other Potential Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(12)	when appropriate, considering the potential impacts raised by other state and federal agencies and local entities;	Section 2.3.1 and Appendix D and E
Environmental Benefits and Reliability	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(13)	evaluating the benefits of the proposed facility with respect to (i) the protection and enhancement of environmental quality, and (ii) the reliability of state and regional energy supplies;	Sections 3.6 and 5
Socioeconomic Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(14)	evaluating the proposed facility's impact on socioeconomic factors; and	Section 5.4.10
Employment and Economic Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(15)	evaluating the proposed facility's employment and economic impacts in the facility site's vicinity and throughout Minnesota, including the quantity, quality, and compensation level of construction and permanent jobs. The commission must consider a facility's local employment and economic impacts, and may reject or place conditions on a site or route permit based on the local employment and economic impacts.	Section 5.4.10

Table A-2 Recommended Application Content not Specified in Statute or Rule		
Item	Description	Location in Application
Vegetation Management Plan	In practice site and route permits issued by the PUC require permittees to develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to detail how a site or route will be vegetated, maintained, and monitored over time. Staff recommends that the applicant coordinate development of the VMP with the interagency Vegetation Management Plan Working Group. Energy Infrastructure Permitting Staff recommends that a draft version of a VMP be included as an appendix in the application to allow for comment and coordination on the plan.	Appendix G