

Attachment A:
EERA's Proposed Edits to the Sample Route
Permit

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR A
HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN
ST. LOUIS COUNTY

ISSUED TO
[PERMITTEE]

PUC DOCKET NO. ~~{Docket Number}~~
TL-22-611

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 this route permit is hereby issued to:

[Permittee]

[Permittee] is authorized by this route permit to construct and operate [Provide a description of the project authorized by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission].

The high-voltage transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the route maps and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this ____ day of [Month, Year]

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Will Seuffert,
Executive Secretary

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 2 – [Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities](#)~~Route Maps~~

[Attachment 3 – Route Permit Maps](#)

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to [Permittee Name] (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This [route](#) permit authorizes the [Permittee Name] to construct and operate an [Provide a description of the project as authorized by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission], and as identified in the attached route maps, hereby incorporated into this document- [\(henceforth known as Transmission Facility\).](#)

1.1 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this [route](#) permit shall be the sole route approval required ~~to be obtained by the Permittee~~ for construction of the transmission facilities and this [route](#) permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose governments.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

[Provide a description of the project as authorized by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission]

2.1 Project Location

The ~~project~~ [Transmission Facility](#) is located in the following:

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Section
St. Louis	City of Hermantown and Solway Township	50N	15W and 16W	31 and 36

~~Substations and Associated Facilities~~

~~[Provide a detailed description of the associated facilities and substations as authorized by the Commission]~~

2.2 Structures

[Provide a detailed description of the structures authorized by the Commission]

2.3 Conductors

[Provide a detailed description of the conductors authorized by the Commission]

The table below details specifics on the various structure and conductor types as presented in the route permit application.

Transmission Line Type	Conductor	Structure		Foundation	Height	Span
		Type	Material			

[2.4 Substations and Associated Facilities](#)

[\[Provide a detailed description of the substations and associated facilities authorized by the Commission.\]](#)

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission ~~in this permit is the route~~ described below and shown on the route maps attached to this [route](#) permit ([Designated Route](#)). The [Designated Route](#) ~~route~~ is generally described as follows:

[Provide detailed description of the authorized route including the route widths and any other specifics relevant to each segment. Also include a reference to the relevant route map to be attached to the [route](#) permit.]

The [Designated Route](#) ~~includes an anticipated final alignment~~ (centerline) and a right-of-way. ~~The right-of-way is the physical land needed for the safe operation of the transmission line. The Permittee shall locate the alignment and associated right-of-way must be located within the Designated Route unless otherwise authorized by this this designated route permit or the Commission. The Designated Route provides identified route widths on the attached route maps provide~~ the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the alignment ~~or and~~ right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. ~~The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized by this permit or the Commission.~~

4 RIGHT-OF-WAY

This [Permit-route permit](#) authorizes the Permittee to obtain a new permanent right-of-way for the transmission line up to [number] [feet](#) in width. The permanent right-of-way is typically

[number] feet on both sides of the transmission line measured from its ~~centerline~~alignment.

The Project's transmission line's anticipated alignment is intended to minimize potential impacts relative to criteria identified in Minn. R. 7850.4100. The ~~actual right-of-way will final~~alignment must generally conform to the anticipated alignment identified on the ~~r~~Route ~~m~~Maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or as otherwise provided for by this route permit.

Any ~~right-of-way~~alignment modifications within the ~~D~~esignated ~~R~~oute shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the alignment right-of-way identified in this route permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 9.1 of this route permit.

Any alignment modifications that would result in right-of-way placement outside of the Designated Route shall be specifically reviewed and approved by the Commission.

Where the transmission line parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible; consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100 and the other requirements of this route permit; and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

4.1 — Route Width Variations

~~Route width variations may be allowed to accommodate the potential site specific constraints listed below. These constraints may arise from any of the following:~~

- ~~1. Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.~~
- ~~2. Federal or state agency requirements.~~
- ~~3. Existing infrastructure within the route, including but not limited to railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.~~

~~Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside of the designated route shall be specifically reviewed by the Commission under Minn. R. 7850.4900.~~

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the ~~transmission line and associated facilities~~Transmission Facility over the life of this route permit.

5.1 Route Permit Distribution

Within 30 days of ~~permit~~ issuance of this route permit, the Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this route permit and the Complaint Procedures. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the Designated Route.~~complaint procedures.~~ In no case shall ~~the a~~ landowner receive this route permit and Complaint Procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on

their property. ~~An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the permitted route.~~

~~At the time of first contact, the Permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of this route permit and the Complaint Procedures to the applicable regional development commissions, county environmental offices, and city and township clerks. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit the Department of its route permit and Complaint Procedures distribution within 30 days Commerce's Rights of issuance of this route permit. Way and Easements for Energy Facility Construction and Operation fact sheet.¹~~
~~the Department of Commerce's Rights of Way and Easements for Energy Facility Construction and Operation fact sheet.¹~~

5.2 Access to Property

The Permittee shall notify landowners prior to entering or conducting maintenance within their designee at least 14 days in advance but not greater than 60 days in advance of entering the property, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce (Commerce) or Commission staff, ~~or their designee at least 14 days in advance but not greater than 60 days in advance of entering the property.~~

5.3 Construction and Operation Practices

The Permittee shall ~~follow those specific~~ comply with construction practices, operation and maintenance practices, and material specifications described in [Permittee Name] Application to the Commission the permitting record for this Transmission Facility unless this a route permit for the [Project Name], dated [Date], and the record of the proceedings unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

5.3.1 Field Representative

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this route permit during construction of the project Transmission Facility. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative at least 14 days prior to commencing the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners, ~~residents~~, local government units and other interested

persons at least 14 days prior to the commencing pre-construction meeting. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, ~~residents~~, local government units and other interested persons. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of distribution of its field representative's contact information at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting and upon changes to the field representative.

5.3.2 Employee Training ~~and Education of~~Route Permit Terms and Conditions

¹ http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/Easements%20Fact%20Sheet_08.05.14.pdf

The Permittee shall ~~inform and educate~~train all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the Transmission Facility construction ~~and ongoing operation of the transmission line~~ of regarding the terms and conditions of this route permit. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.3 Independent Third-Party Monitoring

Prior to any construction, the Permittee shall propose a scope of work and identify an independent third-party monitor to conduct Transmission Facility construction monitoring on behalf of Commerce. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by Commerce. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of Commerce with costs borne by the Permittee.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the scope of work and the name, address, email, and telephone number of the third party-monitor at least 30 days prior to commencing any construction or right-of-way preparation and upon any change in contact information that may occur during construction of the Project and restoration of the right-of-way.

5.3.3.4 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements

During Transmission Facility construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these ~~will~~shall be temporary, and the Permittee ~~will~~shall restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee ~~will~~shall work with both landowners and local ~~agencies~~entities to determine the most appropriate mitigation measures if not already considered as part of this route permit.~~transmission structure placement.~~

~~The Permittee shall consult with landowners, townships, cities, and counties along the route and consider concerns regarding tree clearing, distance from existing structures, drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans.~~

The Permittee shall cooperate with ~~county and city~~ road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.4.5 Temporary Workspace

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and

additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way.

Temporary space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation. The Permittee shall obtain temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this route permit.

~~Temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.~~

The Permittee may construct Temporary driveways ~~may be constructed~~ between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact using the shortest route ~~possible~~feasible. The Permittee shall use Construction mats ~~should be used~~ to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas. The Permittee shall submit the location of temporary workspaces and driveways with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

5.3.55.3.6 Noise

The Permittee shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080. The Permittee shall limit Construction and maintenance activities ~~shall be limited~~ to daytime working hours to the extent practicable ~~to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded~~.

5.3.65.3.7 Aesthetics

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. ~~The Permittee shall use care~~Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the ~~project~~Transmission Facility during construction and maintenance. The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads. ~~Structures~~The Permittee shall ~~be placed~~place structures at a distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highways, or trail crossings.

5.3.75.3.8 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ([MPCA](#)) Construction Stormwater Program. If construction of the Transmission Facility disturbs more than one acre of land, or is sited in an area designated by the MPCA as having potential for impacts to water resources, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Construction Stormwater Permit from the MPCA that provides for the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that describes methods to control erosion and runoff.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the [Transmission Facility](#)ies shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

~~In accordance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Construction Stormwater permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.~~

5.3.85.3.9 Wetlands and Water Resources

The Permittee shall design wWetland impact avoidance measures ~~and implement them that shall be implemented~~ during ~~design and~~ construction of the [Transmission line Facility](#). Measures shall will include spacing and placing the power poles at variable distances to span

and avoid wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. To minimize impacts, the Permittee shall construction in wetland areas ~~shall occur~~ during frozen ground conditions where practicable and ~~shall be~~ according to permit requirements by the applicable permitting authority. When construction during winter is not possible, the Permittee shall use wooden or composite mats ~~shall be to protect wetland vegetation.~~

The Permittee shall contain soil

~~used to protect wetland vegetation. Soil~~ excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas ~~shall be contained~~ and not place ~~it~~ back into the wetland or riparian area. The Permittee shall access wetlands and riparian areas ~~shall be accessed~~ using the shortest route ~~possible~~ feasible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. The Permittee shall not place ~~No~~ staging or stringing set up areas ~~shall be placed~~ within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The Permittee shall assemble ~~power~~ pole structures ~~shall be assembled~~ on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

The Permittee shall restore wetland and water resource ~~Areas~~ disturbed by construction activities ~~shall be restored~~ to pre-construction conditions. ~~Restoration of the wetlands will be performed by the Permittee~~ in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements. The Permittee shall meet all requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local units of government.

~~All requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands under federal jurisdiction), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Public Waters/Wetlands), and County (wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act) shall be met.~~

5.3.95.3.10 Vegetation Management

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

The Permittee shall remove ~~t~~all growing species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission ~~facility line~~will be removed by the Permittee. The Permittee shall leave undisturbed, to the extent possible, existing low growing species in the right-of-way or replant such species in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission ~~facility line~~ or impede construction.

5.3.105.3.11 Application of Pesticides

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, ~~Minnesota Department of Natural~~

[ResourcesDNR](#), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage adjacent properties including crops, orchards, tree farms, apiaries, or gardens. The Permittee shall contact the landowner at least 14 days prior to pesticide application on their property. The Permittee may not apply any pesticide if the landowner request that there be no application within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to landowners and beekeepers operating known apiaries within three miles of the pesticide application area at least 14 days prior to such application. The Permittee shall keep pesticide communication and application records and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.~~or designee to obtain approval for the use~~

~~of pesticide at least 14 days prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of pesticides on any part of the site within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to affected landowners and known beekeepers operating apiaries within three miles of the project site at least 14 days prior to such application.~~

5.3.115.3.12 Invasive Species

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities. The Permittee shall develop an Invasive Species Prevention Plan and file it with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall comply with the most recently filed Invasive Species Prevention Plan.

5.3.125.3.13 Noxious Weeds

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance ~~consult with this section~~ landowners on the selection and provide them upon request of Commerce or Commission staff ~~use of seed for replanting.~~

5.3.135.3.14 Roads

The Permittee shall advise the appropriate governing bodies having jurisdiction over all state, county, city or township roads that will be used during the construction phase of ~~the project~~ the Transmission Facility. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with construction of the Transmission Facility ~~facility~~. Oversize or overweight loads associated with the Transmission Facility ~~facility~~ shall not be hauled across public roads without required permits and approvals.

The Permittee shall construct the least-fewest number of site access roads ~~it can~~ required. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ways without the required permits and approvals. Access roads shall be constructed in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits.

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when accessing construction workspace, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected

landowner.

~~5.3.14~~5.3.15 **Archaeological and Historic Resources**

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to ~~identified~~ archaeological and historic resources when constructing the ~~t~~Transmission F~~acility~~. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall ~~contact and~~ consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), ~~and~~ the State Archaeologist, and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize Transmission Facility project impacts on the resource consistent with ~~State Historic Preservation Office~~SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, ~~workers the Permittee~~ shall ~~be trained~~train workers about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement, ~~and~~ the State Archaeologist, and MIAC. ~~Construction The Permittee shall not resume construction~~ at such location ~~shall not proceed~~ until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

~~5.3.155.3.16~~ 5.3.155.3.16 Avian Protection

The Permittee in cooperation with the ~~Minnesota Department of Natural Resources~~DNR shall identify areas of the ~~project transmission line~~ where bird flight diverters will be incorporated into the transmission line design to prevent large avian collisions attributed to visibility issues. Standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductors and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices. The Permittee shall submit documentation of its avian protection coordination with the DNR with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

~~5.3.165.3.17~~ 5.3.165.3.17 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary works ~~paces~~, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the Transmission Facility transmission line. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall ~~file with~~advise the Commission ~~in writing a Notification of the completion of such activities~~Restoration Completion.

~~5.3.175.3.18~~ 5.3.175.3.18 Cleanup

The Permittee shall remove and properly dispose of A~~all~~ waste and scrap ~~that is the product of~~

~~construction shall be removed~~ from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted ~~and properly disposed of~~

upon completion of each task. The Permittee shall remove and properly dispose of all personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities ~~shall be removed~~ on a daily basis.

5.3.185.3.19 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

The Permittee shall take All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment ~~must be taken by the Permittee~~. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

5.3.195.3.20 Damages

The Permittee shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.4 Electrical Performance Standards

5.4.1 Grounding

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner so that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code. The Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

5.4.2 Electric Field

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line ~~shall be designed, constructed, and operated~~ in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

5.4.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the ~~transmission line~~Transmission Facility, the Permittee shall take whatever action is necessary to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the Transmission Facility. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff~~line~~.

5.5 Other Requirements

5.5.1 Safety Codes and Design Requirements

The Permittee shall design ~~The~~ transmission line and associated facilities ~~shall be designed~~ to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

5.5.2 Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project Transmission Facility and comply with the conditions of those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations. ~~A list of the permits known to be required is included in the permit application.~~ The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits ~~to upon~~ the request of Commerce or Commission ~~upon request~~staff.

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission an Other Permits and Regulations Submittal that contains a detailed status of all permits, authorizations, and approvals that have been applied for specific to the Transmission Facility. The Other Permits and Regulations Submittal shall also include the permitting agency or authority, the name of the permit, authorization, or approval being sought, contact person and contact information for the permitting agency or authority, brief description of why the permit, authorization, or approval is needed, application submittal date, and the date the permit, authorization, or approval was issued or is anticipated to be issued.

6 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

~~The~~ special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this route permit should

there be a conflict.

[Add Special Conditions in accordance with the record of the docket]

6.1 Vegetation Retention

The Permittee shall disturb or clear vegetation on the site only to the extent necessary to assure suitable access for construction, and for safe operation and maintenance of the project. The existing vegetative buffer specifically between the St. Louis County 345 kV/230 kV Substation and Morris Thomas Road shall be retained during construction of the project and for the life of the project.

6.2 HVDC Converter Station Aesthetics

The Permittee shall color its HVDC Converter Station to blend in with the natural landscape with a neutral color such as a shade of brown or green.

6.3 Noise Study

The Permittee shall file a pre-construction noise study at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The pre-construction noise study shall include assumptions made, baseline noise conditions in the area, planned minimization and mitigation efforts, and equipment studied. The Permittee must complete and file the pre-construction noise study with the Commission before commencing construction.

6.4 Right-of-Way Restoration Near Trout Streams

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, forested habitat along existing right-of-ways, and any right-of-ways to be decommissioned affected by construction of the Transmission Facility. Restoration within the right-of-way near trout streams shall be coordinated with DNR fisheries staff to ensure that restoration in these areas provide adequate resource protection.

6.5 Steep Slopes

To avoid indirect impacts to surface waters from steep slopes, increased impervious surfaces, erosion, and altered drainage patterns, the Permittee shall use rip rap or a similar material to stabilize steep slopes after construction to ensure the existing drainage pattern remains. The Permittee shall maintain a well vegetated buffer between West Rocky Run Creek and graded areas. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.6 Lighting

To reduce harm to birds, insects, and other animals, the Permittee shall utilize downlit and shielded lighting at the site entrances and inverters. Lighting utilized shall minimize blue hue. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request

of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.7 Dust Control

To protect plants and wildlife from chloride products that do not break down in the environment, the Permittee is prohibited from using dust control products containing calcium chloride or magnesium chloride during construction and operation. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.8 Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control

The Permittee shall use only “bio-netting” or “natural netting” types and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives.

6.9 Vegetation Management Plan

The Permittee shall develop a vegetation management plan (VMP), in coordination with the Vegetation Management Working Group (VMWG), using best management practices established by the DNR and BWSR. The Permittee shall file the VMP and documentation of the coordination efforts between the Permittee and the coordinating agencies with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the plan and profile required under this route permit. The Permittee shall provide all landowners along the route with copies of the VMP. The Permittee shall file an affidavit of its distribution of the VMP to landowners with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the plan and profile. The VMP shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- a) management objectives addressing short term (year 0-5, seeding and establishment) and long term (year 5 through the life of the Project) goals;
- b) a description of planned restoration and vegetation activities, including how the route will be prepared, timing of activities, and how seeding will occur (broadcast, drilling, etc.), and the types of seed mixes to be used;
- c) A description of tree removal/planting activities and the timing of such activities;
- d) a description of how the route will be monitored and evaluated to meet management goals;
- e) a description of management tools used to maintain vegetation (e.g., mowing, spot spraying, hand removal, etc.), including timing/frequency of maintenance activities;
- f) identification of the third-party (e.g., consultant, contractor, site manager, etc.) contracted for restoration, monitoring, and long-term vegetation management of the site;
- g) identification of on-site noxious weeds and invasive species (native and non-native) and the monitoring and management practices to be utilized; and
- h) a plan showing how the route will be revegetated and corresponding seed mixes.

Best management practices should be followed concerning seed mixes, seeding rates, and cover

[crops.](#)

7 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this [route](#) permit the Permittee shall file a [Failure to Construct](#) ~~Report~~ on the failure to construct and the Commission shall consider suspension of this [route](#) permit in accordance with Minn.

R. 7850.4700.

8 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

At least 14 days prior to the ~~start of pre~~-construction ~~meeting~~, the Permittee shall ~~submit to file with~~ the Commission the ~~complaint~~ procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The ~~complaint~~ procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this ~~route~~ permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist ~~the Commerce or~~ Commission ~~staff~~ with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

9 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this ~~route~~ permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this ~~route~~ permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

9.1 Pre-Construction Meeting

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall participate in a pre-construction meeting with Commerce and Commission staff to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of construction and site restoration activities. Within 14 days following the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittee shall indicate in the filing the anticipated construction start date.

9.1.2 Plan and Profile

At least 3~~140~~ days ~~prior to the pre-before right-of-way preparation for~~ construction ~~begins on any segment or portion of the project~~~~meeting~~, the Permittee shall ~~provide file with~~ the Commission, ~~and provide Commerce, and the [Environmental department(s) of the county(s)] where the Transmission Facility, or portion of the Transmission Facility, will be constructed~~ with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per this ~~route~~ permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the earlier of (i) 30 days after the pre-construction meeting has expired or (ii) 30 days has expired or until the Commission staff has notified ~~advised~~ the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this route permit. If the Commission notifies the Permittee in writing within 30 days after the pre-construction meeting that it has completed its review of the documents and planned construction, and finds that the planned construction is not consistent with this route permit, the Permittee may submit additional and/or revised documentation and may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this route permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, Commerce, and county staff at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this route permit.

9.29.3 Status Reports

The Permittee ~~shall report to the Commission on progress during finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than~~ file monthly Construction Status Reports ~~shall begin~~ beginning with the pre-construction meeting and submittal of the plan and profile for the project and continue until completion of restoration. Construction Status Reports shall describe construction activities and progress, activities undertaken in compliance with this route permit, and shall include text and photographs.

If the Permittee does not commence construction of the Transmission Facility within six months of this route permit issuance, the Permittee shall file Pre-Construction Status Reports on the anticipated timing of construction every six months beginning with the issuance of this route permit until the pre-construction meeting.

9.39.4 Notification to Commission~~In-Service Date~~

At least three days before the transmission line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the transmission line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

9.49.5 As-Built

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the Transmission Facility construction project.

9.59.6 GPS Data

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the Transmission line Facility and each substation connected.

9.7 Right of Entry

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards:

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.

(b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.

(c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.

(d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this route permit.

10 ROUTE PERMIT AMENDMENT

This route permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this route permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

11 TRANSFER OF ROUTE PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this route permit to another person or entity (transferee). In its request, the ~~The~~ Permittee ~~shall~~ must provide the Commission with:

(a) The name and description of the ~~person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the~~ transferee;

(b) the reasons for the transfer;

(c) -a description of the facilities affected;

(d) -and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The transferee must

~~provide the Commission with a certification that it has read, understands and is able to such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the plans and procedures filed for the Transmission Facility and all conditions of this route permitthe permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new Permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.~~

~~The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new Permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.~~

12 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THIS ROUTE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this route permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100, to revoke or suspend this route permit.

ATTACHMENT 1

Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

SAMPLE PERMIT

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting and resolving complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance.

B. Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

D. Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site or route preparation, cleanup or restoration, or other permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved to one or both of the parties.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private; however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing

1. The permittee shall designate a representative responsible for filing complaints to the Commission's eDocket system. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals. The name and contact information for the representative shall be kept current in eDockets.
2. A person presenting the complaint should, to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
 - b. initial date of the complaint;
 - c. tract, parcel number, or address of the complaint;
 - d. a summary of the complaint; and
 - e. whether the complaint relates to a permit violation, a construction practice issue, or other type of complaint.
3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
 - a. docket number and project name;
 - b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
 - c. precise description of property or parcel number;
 - d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
 - e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
 - f. summary of activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
 - g. a statement on the final disposition of the complaint.

F. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit, unless otherwise required below. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. For e-mail reporting, the email

subject line should read “PUC EFP Complaint” and include the appropriate project docket number.

Monthly Reports: During project construction, restoration, and operation, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed by the 15th of each month to Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>. If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

If a project has submitted twelve consecutive months of complaint reports with no complaints, monthly reports can terminate by a letter to eDockets notifying the Commission of such action. If a substantial complaint is received (by the company or the Commission) following termination of the monthly complaint report, as noted above, the monthly reporting should commence for a period of one year following the most recent complaint or upon resolution of all pending complaints.

If a permittee is found to be in violation of this section, the Commission may reinstate monthly complaint reporting for the remaining permit term or enact some other commensurate requirement via notification by the Executive Secretary or some other action as decided by the Commission.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding the permit or issues related to site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, or operation and maintenance will be promptly sent to the permittee.

The permittee shall notify the Commission when the issue has been resolved. The permittee will add the complaint to the monthly reports of all complaints. If the permittee is unable to find resolution, the Commission will use the process outlined in the Unresolved Complaints Section to process the issue.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Complaints raising substantial and unresolved permit issues will be investigated by the Commission. Staff will notify the permittee and appropriate persons if it determines that the

complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, the permittee and complainant shall be required to submit a written summary of the complaint and its current position on the issues to the Commission. Staff will set a deadline for comments. As necessary, the complaint will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting

Complaints may be filed by mail or email to the permittee's designated complaint representative, or to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. The name and contact information for the permittee's designated complaint representative shall be kept current in the Commission's eDocket system.

ATTACHMENT 2
Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Commission energy facility permits.

B. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all known compliance filings required by permit.

C. Definitions

Compliance Filing: A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

D. Responsibilities

1. The permittee shall file all compliance filings with Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to file documents.

2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
 - a. Date
 - b. Name of submitter/permittee
 - c. Type of permit (site or route)
 - d. Project location
 - e. Project docket number
 - f. Permit section under which the filing is made
 - g. Short description of the filing

3. Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being electronically filed, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any electronically filed document.

SAMPLE PERMIT

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEE:

PERMIT TYPE:

PROJECT LOCATION:

PUC DOCKET NUMBER:

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.