



Image: Minnesota's 2025 Energy Action Plan <http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/mn-e2025-infographic.pdf>

Permitting reform under the Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act (MEIPA) is expected to cut permitting time for individual projects by nine months to a year, shortening the overall approval timeline by 50% or more.



MEIPA includes significant reforms to **streamline permitting for renewable energy and transmission** projects to assist with meeting Minnesota's 100% by 2040 goal.



- Consolidates certain permitting responsibilities under the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).
- Repeals and replaces the existing energy infrastructure permitting process established by the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act, effective July 1, 2025.
- Limits the types of energy projects that must obtain a certificate of need (CN) from the MPUC.
- Modernizes the MPUC's site and route permit processes into new categories: Major Review and Standard Review, reducing procedural steps and shortening the overall permitting timeline.



- Exempts wind and solar projects when an independent power producer submits a site permit application.
- Exempts wind and solar electrical facilities if the MPUC determines the project is a reasonable approach to meeting Minnesota's carbon-free standards.
- Exempts energy storage projects.



- Exempts transmission lines less than one mile in length.
- Exempts transmission lines between 200 kV and 300 kV unless the line is more than 10 miles in length in Minnesota.
- Eliminates CN requirement for any transmission line 100 kV or greater that crosses a state line.
- Exempts transmission lines that directly interconnect wind, solar or energy storage systems to the existing transmission grid.
- Exempts relocation of an existing high voltage transmission line to new right-of-way, as long as the new structures are not designed for and capable of operation at a higher voltage.



- Major Review is reserved for most non-renewable electric generating facilities greater than 80 MWs in size and high voltage transmission line projects greater than 300 kV with more than 30 miles of length in Minnesota.
- Applicants only need to propose a single route as part of a route permit application, and the MPUC may designate a portion of the hearing to be conducted as a contested case proceeding.
- The MPUC must make a final decision in a Major Review proceeding within one year of the date the MPUC determines the application is complete, although this timeline may be extended for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.



- Standard Review will be used to permit wind, solar, energy storage and power plants of less than 80 MWs in size, transmission lines between 100 and 300 kV, transmission lines over 300 kV with less than 30 miles of length in Minnesota, and transmission lines over 300 kV if at least 80% of the distance of the line in Minnesota follows existing transmission rights-of-way.
- Applicants will prepare and submit an environmental assessment as part of the initial application, and the MPUC will prepare an addendum to analyze any additional issues or alternatives raised during scoping.
- MPUC must make a final decision under Standard Review within six months of determining an application is complete, although this timeline may be extended by up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.

Minnesota's Goals

2035

55% renewable energy from an *eligible energy technology*

2040

100% carbon-free electricity

2050

Reduce statewide GHG emissions to net zero

Permitting Roadblocks

The average time from application acceptance to permit issuance is:

250 days for small transmission lines

358 days for wind farms

378 days for solar farms

673 days for larger transmission lines

According to the report "Powering Progress," published by North Star Policy Action, to reach the 100% by 2040 goal, nearly all the remaining growth in electric generation will need to come from zero or low-carbon resources, primarily wind and solar generation.



SITING+
PERMITTING

Fredrikson

