

THE MN PUC PERMITTING PROCESS EXPLAINED

January 2025

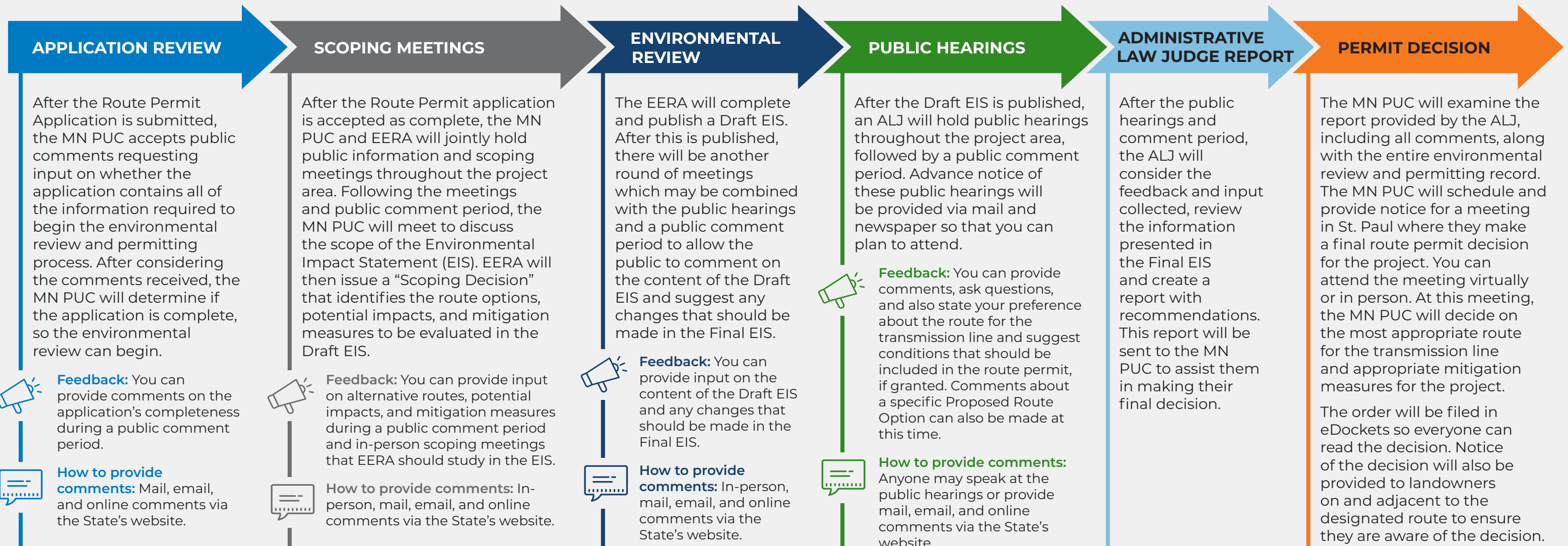


The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) determines the final route for proposed transmission lines. The MN PUC will thoroughly review the entire record before making a decision.

- **Route Permit Application Review:** The MN PUC evaluates the submitted application for the transmission line project.
- **Environmental Impacts Review:** The Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA), which is a unit under the Minnesota Department of Commerce, analyzes impacts of different route options and recommends mitigation measures through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- **Public and Stakeholder Feedback:** Input from the public and other stakeholders is gathered during comment periods, scoping meetings, draft EIS meetings, and public hearings to inform the MN PUC in making a decision.
- **Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Report:** An independent report is provided by an ALJ from the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) offering recommendations to the MN PUC based on the entire record.

THE PROCESS

During the process, you will have several opportunities to provide input that will help the MN PUC determine the final route of the transmission line. This handout outlines the steps involved in the process, explains how you can participate, and provides guidance on when and how to submit your comments.



RECEIVE UPDATES

- 1. Sign up for the State's project mailing list**
 - a.** Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call (651) 201-2246.
 - b.** For the Route Permit mailing list, email consumer.puc@state.mn.us or call (651) 296-0406 or (800) 657-3782.
 - c.** Please include the docket number (E017, ET10/TL-23-160), your full name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
- 2. Subscribe to the Docket**
 - a.** Visit: www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling, select Subscribe to eDockets and follow the prompts to include the docket number (E017, ET10/TL-23-160).
- 3. Contact the State:**
 - a.** MN PUC Staff Analyst, Sam Lobby, at sam.lobby@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2205 or (800) 657-3782 or visit www.mn.gov/puc
 - b.** MN DOC Environmental Review Manager, Jenna Ness, at jenna.ness@state.mn.us or (651) 539-1693 or (800) 657-3710 or visit www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

OTHER WAYS TO LEARN MORE

Here are more ways to stay informed, but we highly recommend that landowners subscribe to the state's project list (see the blue box) to receive the most up-to-date information.



1. Our project website

- a.** We will continue to share information about the regulatory process and engagement opportunities on our project website.



2. Talk to a right-of-way agent

- a.** If you've been in contact with a right-of-way agent, you can reach out to them with your questions or for more information.



3. Local newspapers

- a.** Notice of meetings/hearings will be posted in local newspapers prior to the meeting date.



4. The EERA Project webpage

- a.** eera.web.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15867



PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENTS

A Notice of Public Comment Period is issued whenever the MN PUC opens a comment period for public input. The notice will include prompt questions, key topics, and a guide to what information is most helpful to gather from the public about the case.

Each comment period timeframe is unique depending on where in the process you're providing comments. We encourage people to comment early and visit the MN PUC eDocket site for the latest information.



Mail comments to:
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Attn Jenna Ness
85 7th PACE East, Suite 280
Saint Paul MN 55101-2198



Email comments to the Environmental Review Manager: jenna.ness@state.mn.us



Use the online comment form: [PLACEHOLDER FOR LINK]