

California Transmission Siting Information

General Information

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has exclusive authority to certify sites and transmission lines. [PRC 15-1-25500](#). For lines built by utilities, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) imposes additional requirements.

Siting Entities:

- CA Energy Commission (CEC)
- CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Authorizations Needed:

The CEC must certify the site and transmission project. The PUC must issue a CPCN for utility projects.

Preemption of local siting authority:

General Siting Process:

An entity that wishes to apply for certification must first file a Notice of Intention to File an Application for Certification. The notice is an attempt to preliminarily determine the suitability of the proposed sites to “accommodate the facilities and to determine the general conformity of the proposed sites and related facilities with standards of the commission and assessments of need...” [PRC 15-1-25502](#). Once the notice is received the CEC will publish a summary in all affected county papers, transmit a copy to the CPUC for lines that require a CPCN, and forward a copy to the Attorney General. The CEC will request comments from all affected local authorities.

Within 45 days of the filing of the notice the CEC will hold information presentations in the affected counties. Not more than 15 days after the presentations end, the CEC will hold a nonadjudicatory hearing to determine the issues that may be eliminated from further consideration and the issues that will be heard at the certification hearing. The CEC will then publish a summary and hearing order. This must be done no more than 150 days after the filing of the notice. Adjudicatory hearing may follow no sooner than 30 days after the publishing of the summary. The CEC then has 300 days to review the notice and issue its final report. Then, within 30 days the CEC will hold hearing on the approval of the notice. The CEC must issue its written decision within one year of the original filing.

Next the entity must submit an application for the project certification. The CEC has 18 months to make a decision on certifying the project, or 12 months if the application is filed within one year of the approval of the notice of intent. A denial is the end of process and judicial review may be sought. An approval is not the end of the process.

Proceedings for the PUC CPCN can be started at the same time as those under the CEC, however, the PUC may not issue a CPCN unless the CEC has issued its certification.

Application Requirements:

The Notice must include 3 alternative sites, one of which must not include any coastal land. [PRC 15-1-25503](#). In addition the notice must include statements of environmental, technical and economic advantages and disadvantages as well as a report on the compatibility of the project with the most recent electricity report issued pursuant to PRC 15-1-25308.