

Nevada Transmission Siting Information

General Information:

The Nevada Public Utilities Commission is the siting authority for all lines greater than or equal to 200kV. Entities must obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and a permit under the Utilities Environmental Permit Act (UEPA). The Division of Environmental Protection of State Department of Conservation of Natural Resources reviews all applications for permits in conjunction with the PUC. The PUC is the only body that is allowed to consider need when making their determination on an application.

Power cooperatives are considered utilities. A “utility facility” is defined as “electric generating plants and their associated facilities that are or will be located entirely within the boundaries of a county whose population is 100,000 or more,” OR “which use or will use renewable energy, as defined in [NRS 704.7811](#), as their primary source of energy to generate electricity and which have or will have a generating capacity of not more than 35 megawatts.” [NRS 704.860](#). “Associated facilities” include transmission lines \geq 200kV. [NRS 704.860\(2\)\(a\)](#).

Siting Entities:

- Nevada PUC
- Division of Environmental Protection (review only)

Authorizations Necessary:

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. In order for an entity to build a “utility facility” it must obtain a UEPA permit. In addition, other permits pertaining to other agencies might be necessary.

Preemption of local siting authority:

The PUC is the only body authorized to consider need in the application review and permitting process.

General Siting Process:

If a utility is proposing a line for which there is no federal environmental analysis necessary, then the applicant may submit its application with a summary of the environmental analyses completed. If a federal analysis is necessary, the applicant must submit to the PUC, no later than the date on which the applicant files with the respective federal agency, an application for approval that contains a summary of any studies the applicant anticipates will be conducted. The applicant must then file an amended application with the analysis summary, no later than 30 days after the completion of such analysis. [NRS 704.870](#).

Upon receipt of the application, the PUC has 5 days to issue notice, in which it will set a deadline for protests and the inclusion of parties. If no protests are filed during the time allotted

by the PUC then the PUC may forego any hearing and make its decision. The PUC has 150 days to render a decision on an application and 120 days on an amended application. All other necessary permits (from other agencies) must also be decided within 150/120 day time limit if those applications were filed before or at the same time as the permit application.

Application Requirements:

For UEPA permits, the application need include a summary of any environmental studies completed. [NRS 704.870](#). A permit may only be granted if the applicant can determine: (1) the nature of the probable effect on the environment; (2) extent to which the facility is needed to ensure reliable utility service to customers in this State; (3) that the need for the facility balances any adverse effect on the environment; (4) that the facility represents the minimum adverse effect on the environment, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives; (5) that the location of the facility as proposed conforms to applicable state and local laws and regulations issued thereunder and the applicant has obtained, or is in the process of obtaining, all other permits, licenses and approvals required by federal, state and local statutes, regulations and ordinances; and (6) that the facility will serve the public interest. [NRS 704.890](#).

Interstate Cooperation:

The PUC is the entity that communicates with other states and federal agencies and is charged with making joint investigations, holding joint hearings, and issuing joint order with other states' agencies when appropriate.

Federal Issues:

The application process is pegged to the completion of any federal environmental analyses. The application must be amended by the applicant upon completion of the federal analysis and the timeline for decisions on the amended applications does not start until the amended application is submitted.