CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE

Minnesota Policy Priorities

Permitting Reform

Permitting reform will be essential to the success of Minnesota's new 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040 standard.

Key Reforms to support:

- Allow designated PUC staff to determine when a permit application is complete rather than requiring an order from PUC.
- Exempt all wind and solar projects from Certificate of Need Requirements
- Move permitting for wind, solar, and storage under one clear-cut standard review process.

Grid-Enhancing Technology

Minnesota has insufficient transmission capacity to support our changing electric needs, contributing to expensive congestion in grid operations and interconnection delays. Grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) offer a cost-effective, short- and medium-term solution to bridge the growing gap between transmission capacity and demand.

GETs include:

- Dynamic Line Rating
- Advanced Power Flow Control
- Topology Optimization

NextGen Highways

Significant new transmission infrastructure is essential to enable the thousands of new megawatts of wind, solar, and storage that will be needed to meet Minnesota's 2040 carbon-free energy requirements, but new high voltage transmission lines average 7-10 years from MISO approval to operations. Ensuring that transmission owners have the right to site these lines in all types of Highway Rights-of-Way can help expedite this process, reducing the number and size of easements needed to construct the projects.

State Agency Deadlines

State agencies issue a variety of permits after the PUC makes its decision on a project. These permits are essential to the diligent siting of renewables and allow agencies to advocate for the resources they oversee. Establishing deadlines for these permits will establish greater business certainty for developers. We need to use all available resources to comply with the ambitious carbon-reduction standards we've set. This is an all-hands-on-deck effort; legislators, utilities and regulators, industry and labor, NGOs, and notably, state agencies, need to participate.