

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 35-A: PUBLIC UTILITIES
Chapter 31: GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3132-A. CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSMISSION PROJECTS PROHIBITED WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION

A person may not construct any transmission project without approval from the commission. For the purposes of this section, "transmission project" means any proposed transmission line and its associated infrastructure capable of operating at less than 69 kilovolts and projected to cost in excess of \$20,000,000. [2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW).]

1. Submission requirement. A person that proposes to undertake in the State a transmission project must provide the commission with the following information:

A. Results of an investigation by an independent 3rd party, which may be the commission or a contractor selected by the commission, of nontransmission alternatives to construction of the proposed transmission project. The investigation must set forth the total projected costs of the transmission project as well as the total projected costs of the nontransmission alternatives over the effective life of the proposed transmission project; and [2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW).]

B. A description of the need for the proposed transmission project. [2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW).]

[2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW) .]

2. Approval; consideration of nontransmission alternatives. In order for a transmission project to be approved, the commission must consider whether the identified need over the effective life of the proposed transmission project can be economically and reliably met using nontransmission alternatives at a lower total cost. During its review the commission shall give preference to nontransmission alternatives that are identified as able to address the identified need for the proposed transmission project at lower total cost to ratepayers. Of the identified nontransmission alternatives, the commission shall give preference to the lowest-cost nontransmission alternatives. When the costs to ratepayers of the identified nontransmission alternatives are reasonably equal, the commission shall give preference to the alternatives that produce the lowest amount of local air emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions.

[2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW) .]

3. Exception. A transmission project that is constructed, owned and operated by a generator of electricity solely for the purpose of electrically and physically interconnecting the generator to the transmission system of a transmission and distribution utility is not subject to this section.

[2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2013, c. 369, Pt. C, §8 (NEW).

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