

Rural Minnesota Energy Board Meeting July 24, 2023

Site Permitting, Route Permitting, and Permit Compliance

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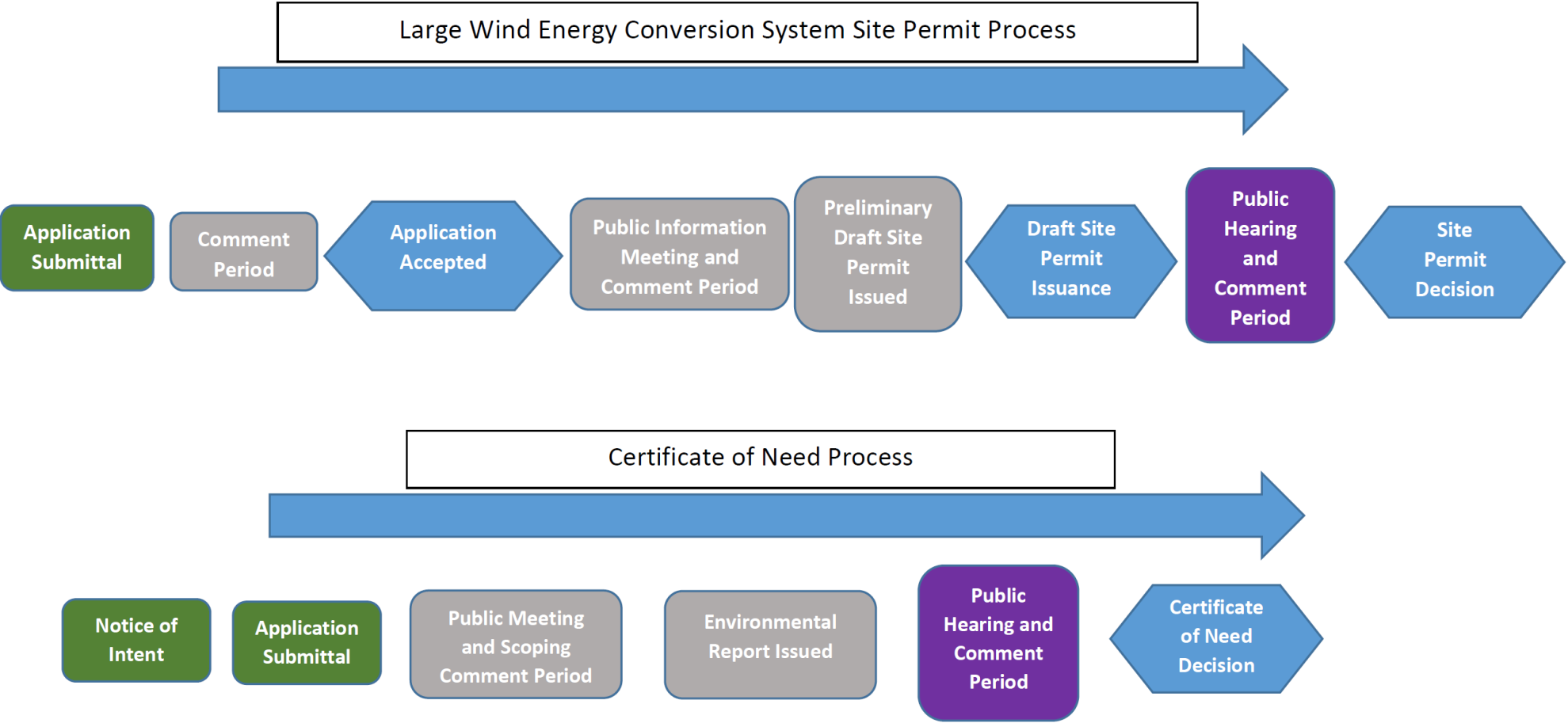


DOC-EERA's Roles and Responsibilities

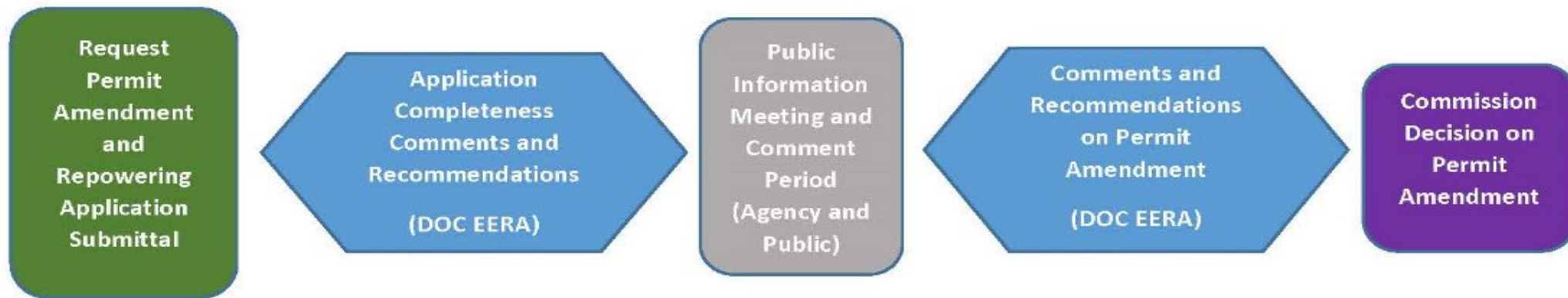
- Shepherd applications for site and route permits through the State permitting process
- Provide the Commission with technical expertise and environmental review
- Coordinate with other Agencies and Tribes
- Public Engagement
- Guidance Document Development
- Permit Compliance

- Certificate of Need
 - Number of legislative changes to this topic
- LWECS Site Permitting
- Solar Facility Site Permitting
- HVTL Route Permitting
 - Includes Gen-tie Lines
- Pipeline Route Permitting

State LWECs Site Permitting and CN Processes



LWECS Repowering Process



Site Permit Applications - Comparison

Wind SPA (MN Rule 7854)

- The Wind SPA is the Environmental Review Document
- Avian Bat Protection Plan (ABPP)
- Noise Modeling
- Shadow Flicker Modeling
- Wind Access Buffers (AKA the 3 x 5)
- Interference Analysis
- Decommissioning Plan

Solar SPA (MN Rule 7850)

- The Solar SPA is NOT the Environmental Review Document
- Prime Farmland Impacts
- Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
- Decommissioning Plan

County Inputs to the Site Permit Process

- EERA provides the Commission recommendations on including County Ordinance restrictions, setbacks, and requirements into the Preliminary Draft Site Permit (Wind)
 - Turbine – Road Setbacks, Shadow Flicker, Noise Requirements, Wetland Setbacks, Residence and Property Line Setbacks
- County Staff and Commissioners are encouraged to provide comments to EERA during public comment periods
- Road Use Agreement and/or Development Agreement
- County staff receives Site Plans
- Encouraged to attend the Pre-Construction and Pre-Operation Meetings

Permit Application Guidance Documents

- [Application Guidance for Site Permitting of Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems \(LWECS\) in Minnesota](#)
- [Avian and Bat Survey Protocols For Large Wind Energy ...](#)
- [Solar Energy Production and Prime Farmland: Guidance for Evaluating Prudent and Feasible Alternatives](#)
- [Guidance for Developing a Vegetation Establishment and Management Plan for Solar Facilities - March 2021](#)
- [How to Suggest Alternative Power Plant Sites or Transmission Line Routes](#)
- [Rights-of-Way and Easements for Energy Facility Construction and Operation](#)

Permit Compliance Guidance Documents

- [Oct 2012 Guidance for Large Wind Energy Conversion System Pre-Construction Compliance, minor edits to 10052012 version](#)
- [Energy Production Annual Report, EXAMPLES, Excel spreadsheet V2 06262013](#)
- [Guidance for Large Wind Energy Conversion System Noise Study Protocol and Report, July 2019](#)
- [Avian and Bat Survey Protocols For Large Wind Energy ...](#)
- [Compliance e-Filing Conventions, Wind Examples V2 06262013](#)
- [Solar Energy Production Report Form](#)
- [Plan and Profile Guidance for Transmission Lines, July 2013](#)
- [Compliance e-Filing Conventions for Energy Facility Route Permits, V2 07092013](#)

Thank You

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