

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: S.F. 2652 **DATE:** March 15, 2000
Version: First Engrossment, as passed by the Senate
Authors: Wolf
Subject: Power Plant Siting
Analyst: Jeanne M. Cochran, 651-296-8961

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Currently, a proposed electric power generating plant of 50 megawatts or more can only be constructed in the state after the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) designates a site for the facility through a siting process. In certain circumstances, the board can grant an exemption from the siting process but only for facilities between 50 and 80 megawatts.

This bill would allow existing coal fired and nuclear power electric facilities that are retrofitting or repowering to burn gas or a similar clean fuel to also apply for an exemption from the siting process, but does not guarantee an exemption. The facility still must meet the other requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act exemption provision to qualify for an exemption.

- 1 **Siting process exemption.** Modifies the power plant siting exemption process to allow existing coal fired and nuclear power electric plants that are retrofitting or repowering to generate electricity with gas or a similar clean fuel to be eligible for an exemption. The EQB still has the discretion of whether to grant the exemption. The EQB may only grant the exemption after the facility proposer provides notice to affected persons and the EQB makes a finding that the facility will not have a significant human or environmental impact.
- 2 **Effective date.** Provides that section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.