

Subject Electric Transmission

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Summary

House File 3704, as amended by the H3704A3 amendment, requires owners of more than 500 miles of transmission lines in Minnesota to submit plans to the Public Utilities Commission identifying major points of congestion on their transmission system and analyzing how the deployment of cost-efficient grid enhancing technologies (GETs) can reduce congestion and save ratepayers money by allowing the least costly sources of electricity to be delivered to them.

GETs are hardware and software technologies that allow for expanded capacity and flexibility of the transmission system at relatively low cost.

The plans prepared by transmission owners – who include all three investor-owned utilities in the state (Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Otter Tail Power) and the state’s largest generation and transmission cooperative, Great River Energy – are to analyze both the technical and economic feasibility of installing GETs to reduce congestion. The commission will review the plans and issue an order regarding implementation. Plans are to be filed biennially by public utilities, and once every three years by other transmission owners. Public utilities may recover prudent costs of implementing the plans from ratepayers upon approval of the commission.