

**CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY WASTE REDUCTION ACT (EXCERPT)**

**Act 295 of 2008**

**PART 4.**

**WIND ENERGY RESOURCE ZONE**

**460.1141 Definitions.**

Sec. 141.

As used in this part:

(a) "Construction" means any substantial action constituting placement or erection of the foundations or structures supporting a transmission line. Construction does not include preconstruction activity or the addition of circuits to an existing transmission line.

(b) "Route" means real property on or across which a transmission line is constructed or proposed to be constructed.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

**460.1143 Wind energy resource zone board; membership.**

Sec. 143.

Within 60 days after the effective date of this act, the commission shall create the wind energy resource zone board. The board shall consist of 9 members, as follows:

- (a) 1 member representing the commission.
- (b) 2 members representing the electric utility industry.
- (c) 1 member representing alternative electric suppliers.
- (d) 1 member representing the attorney general.
- (e) 1 member representing the renewable energy industry.
- (f) 1 member representing cities and villages.
- (g) 1 member representing townships.
- (h) 1 member representing independent transmission companies.
- (i) 1 member representing a statewide environmental organization.
- (j) 1 member representing the public at large.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

**460.1145 Wind energy resource zone board; powers, duties, and decision-making authority; report.**

Sec. 145.

(1) The wind energy resource zone board shall exercise its powers, duties, and decision-making authority under this part independently of the commission.

(2) The board shall do all of the following:

(a) In consultation with local units of government, study all of the following:

(i) Wind energy production potential and the viability of wind as a source of commercial energy generation in this state.

(ii) Availability of land in this state for potential utilization by wind energy conversion systems.

(b) Conduct modeling and other studies related to wind energy, including studying existing wind energy

conversion systems, estimates for additional wind energy conversion system development, and average annual recorded wind velocity levels. The board's studies should include examination of wind energy conversion system requests currently in the applicable regional transmission organization's generator interconnection queue.

(3) Within 240 days after the effective date of this act, issue a proposed report detailing its findings under subsection (2). The board's proposed report shall include the following:

(a) A list of regions in the state with the highest level of wind energy harvest potential.

(b) A description of the estimated maximum and minimum wind generating capacity in megawatts that can be installed in each identified region of this state.

(c) An estimate of the annual maximum and minimum energy production potential for each identified region of this state.

(d) An estimate of the maximum wind generation capacity already in service in each identified region of this state.

(4) The board shall submit a copy of the proposed report under subsection (3) to the legislative body of each local unit of government located in whole or part within any region listed in subsection (3)(a). The legislative body may submit comments to the board on the proposed report within 63 days after the proposed report was submitted to the legislative body. After the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed report, the board shall hold a public hearing on the proposed report. The board may hold a separate public hearing in each region listed under subsection (3)(a). The board shall give written notice of a public hearing under this subsection to the legislative body of each local unit of government located in whole or part within the region or regions that are the subject of the hearing and shall publish the notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the region or regions.

(5) Within 45 days after satisfying the requirements of subsection (4), the board shall issue a final report as described in subsection (3).

(6) After the board issues its report under subsection (5), electric utilities, affiliated transmission companies and independent transmission companies with transmission facilities within or adjacent to regions of this state identified in the board's report shall identify existing or new transmission infrastructure necessary to deliver maximum and minimum wind energy production potential for each of those regions and shall submit this information to the board for its review.

(7) The board is dissolved 90 days after it issues its report under subsection (5).

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

#### **460.1147 Wind energy resource zone; designation; creation; preparation of order; report.**

Sec. 147.

(1) Based on the board's findings as reported under section 145, the commission shall, through a final order, designate the area of this state likely to be most productive of wind energy as the primary wind energy resource zone and may designate additional wind energy resource zones.

(2) A wind energy resource zone shall be created on land that is entirely within the boundaries of this state and shall encompass a natural geographical area or region of this state. A wind zone shall exclude land that is zoned residential when the board's proposed report is issued under section 145, unless the land is subsequently zoned for nonresidential use.

(3) In preparing its order, the commission shall evaluate projected costs and benefits in terms of the long-term production capacity and long-term needs for transmission. The order shall ensure that the designation of a wind zone does not represent an unreasonable threat to the public convenience, health, and safety and that any adverse impacts on private property values are minimal. In determining the location of a wind zone, the commission shall consider all of the following factors pursuant to the findings of the board:

(a) Average annual wind velocity levels in the region.

(b) Availability of land in the region that may be utilized by wind energy conversion systems.

(c) Existing wind energy conversion systems in the region.

(d) Potential for megawatt output of combined wind energy conversion systems in the region.

(e) Other necessary and appropriate factors as to which findings are required by the commission.

(4) In conjunction with the issuance of its order under subsection (1), the commission shall submit to the legislature a report on the effect that setback requirements and noise limitations under local zoning or other ordinances may have on wind energy development in wind energy resource zones. The report shall include any recommendations the commission may have for legislation addressing these issues. Before preparing the report, the

commission shall conduct hearings in various areas of the state to receive public comment on the report.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

#### **460.1149 Electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company; expedited siting certificate; application; approvals.**

Sec. 149.

(1) To facilitate the transmission of electricity generated by wind energy conversion systems located in wind energy resource zones, the commission may issue an expedited siting certificate for a transmission line to an electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company as provided in this part.

(2) An electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company may apply to the commission for an expedited siting certificate. An applicant may withdraw an application at any time.

(3) Before filing an application for an expedited siting certificate for a proposed transmission line under this part, an electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company must receive any required approvals from the applicable regional transmission organization for the proposed transmission line.

(4) Sixty days before seeking approval from the applicable regional transmission organization for a transmission line as described in subsection (3), an electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company shall notify the commission in writing that it will seek the approval.

(5) The commission shall represent this state's interests in all proceedings before the applicable regional transmission organization for which the commission receives notice under subsection (4).

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

#### **460.1151 Expedited siting certificate; application; contents.**

Sec. 151.

An application for an expedited siting certificate shall contain all of the following:

(a) Evidence that the proposed transmission line received any required approvals from the applicable regional transmission organization.

(b) The planned date for beginning construction of the proposed transmission line.

(c) A detailed description of the proposed transmission line, its route, and its expected configuration and use.

(d) Information addressing potential effects of the proposed transmission line on public health and safety.

(e) Information indicating that the proposed transmission line will comply with all applicable state and federal environmental standards, laws, and rules.

(f) A description and evaluation of 1 or more alternate transmission line routes and a statement of why the proposed route was selected.

(g) Other information reasonably required by commission rules.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

#### **460.1153 Notice; conduct of proceeding; determination by commission that requirements are met;**

**precedence; certificate as conclusive and binding; time period for granting or denying certificate.**

Sec. 153.

(1) Upon applying for a certificate, an electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company shall give public notice in the manner and form the commission prescribes of an opportunity to comment on and participate in a contested case with respect to the application. Notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the relevant wind energy resource zone within a reasonable time period after an application is provided to the commission and shall be sent to each affected municipality, electric utility, affiliated transmission company, and independent transmission company and each affected landowner on whose property a portion of the proposed transmission line will be constructed. The notice shall be written in plain, nontechnical, and easily understood terms and shall contain a title that includes the name of the electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company and the words "Notice of Intent to Construct a Transmission Line to Serve a Wind Energy Resource Zone".

(2) The commission shall conduct a proceeding on the application for an expedited siting certificate as a contested case under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. Upon receiving an application for a certificate, each affected municipality and each affected landowner shall be granted full intervener status as of right in commission proceedings concerning the proposed transmission lines.

(3) The commission shall grant an expedited siting certificate if it determines that all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The proposed transmission line will facilitate transmission of electricity generated by wind energy conversion systems located in a wind energy resource zone.

(b) The proposed transmission line has received federal approval.

(c) The proposed transmission line does not represent an unreasonable threat to the public convenience, health, and safety.

(d) The proposed transmission line will be of appropriate capability to enable the wind potential of the wind energy resource zone to be realized.

(e) The proposed or alternate route to be authorized by the expedited siting certificate is feasible and reasonable.

(4) If the commission grants an expedited siting certificate for a transmission line under this part, the certificate takes precedence over a conflicting local ordinance, law, rule, regulation, policy, or practice that prohibits or regulates the location or construction of the transmission line. A zoning ordinance or limitation imposed after an electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company files for a certificate shall not limit or impair the transmission line's construction, operation, or maintenance.

(5) In an eminent domain or other related proceeding arising out of or related to a transmission line for which a certificate is issued, a certificate issued under this act is conclusive and binding as to the public convenience and necessity for that transmission line and its compatibility with the public health and safety or any zoning or land use requirements in effect when the application was filed.

(6) The commission has a maximum of 180 days to grant or deny an expedited siting certificate under this section.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

**460.1155 Repealed. 2016, Act 342, Eff. Apr. 20, 2017.**

**Compiler's Notes:** The repealed section pertained to annual report of commission.

**460.1157 Construction of transmission line not prohibited.**

Sec. 157.

This part does not prohibit an electric utility, affiliated transmission company, or independent transmission company from constructing a transmission line without obtaining an expedited siting certificate.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

#### **460.1159 Commission order subject to review; administration of part.**

Sec. 159.

(1) A commission order relating to any matter provided for under this part is subject to review as provided in section 26 of 1909 PA 300, MCL 462.26.

(2) In administering this part, the commission has only those powers and duties granted to the commission under this part.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."

#### **460.1161 Eminent domain not conferred.**

Sec. 161.

This part does not confer the power of eminent domain.

**History:** 2008, Act 295, Imd. Eff. Oct. 6, 2008

**Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 295 of 2008 provides: "Enacting section 1. As provided in section 5 of 1846 RS 1, MCL 8.5, this act is severable."