

(1) make recommendations to the utilities regarding the proposed methods and assumptions to be used in the technical study;

(2) in conjunction with the appropriate utilities, hold public meetings on each phase of the study in each electricity transmission planning zone prior to the beginning of each phase of study, after the impact analysis is completed, and when a draft final report is available;

(3) establish procedures for handling commercially sensitive information; and

(4) review the initial and final drafts of the study and make recommendations for improvement, including problems associated with the interconnections among utility systems that may be amenable to solution through cooperation between the utilities in each zone. During each phase of the study, the technical review committee may recommend that the installation of dispersed generation projects be moved to new locations that cause fewer undesirable transmission system impacts.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 18. WIND DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY AGREEMENTS; STUDY.

The Legislative Electric Energy Task Force shall study whether the state should regulate easements, leases, and other agreements to acquire an interest in real property for the purpose of wind energy development. The purpose of the study is to determine whether the duration and other terms of those interests should be limited to promote wind energy development. The task force must report the results of its study and any recommendations to the chairs of the energy finance and policy committees of the legislature by February 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 19. C-BED ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

Subdivision 1. **Members.** The Legislative Electric Energy Task Force shall oversee and appoint an advisory task force on community-based energy development (C-BED) under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 6, consisting of representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Public Utilities Commission, public utilities, independent power producers, municipal utilities, rural cooperatives, landowners currently engaged in C-BED and non-C-BED wind development projects, advocacy organizations for wind developers, and environmental organizations, as well as wind energy experts, tribal representatives, and clean energy advocates.

Subd. 2. **Issues.** The task force shall study and make recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over energy policy in a report submitted by January 15, 2008, on the following issues:

(1) the definition of a C-BED qualifying owner;

(2) the definition of gross revenues with respect to community benefits;

(3) the ability of Minnesota and non-Minnesota financial institutions to provide capital;

(4) compliance and enforcement;

(5) wind easements;

(6) feed-in tariffs for community energy;

(7) community energy models/project structure;

(8) credits toward utility renewable energy standard requirements for utility participation;

(9) utility compensation for additional work for community ownership projects;

(10) types of incentives, compensation, and encouragement for utility participation;
and

(11) other topics related to and impacting the C-BED program, as determined by the task force.

Subd. 3. **Expiration.** This section, and the advisory task force on community-based energy development, expires January 16, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 20. **TRANSFERRING RELIABILITY ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**

All responsibilities, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 15.039, subdivision 1, held by the Public Utilities Commission relating to the reliability administrator under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.052, are transferred to the Minnesota Department of Commerce under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.039.

Sec. 21. **TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY AND INTERCONNECTION EVALUATIONS.**

The reliability administrator shall, in consultation with interested stakeholders:

(1) review the structures, powers, and duties for constructing, owning, maintaining, and operating transmission facilities of state transmission authorities established in Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, and evaluate whether the existence of a similar organization in Minnesota would have the potential to increase the reliability and efficiency of the electrical grid in the state; hasten the development of needed transmission lines; accelerate the development of renewable energy projects, especially in rural areas of the state; and reduce delivered energy costs to Minnesota ratepayers; and

(2) assess the potential for and barriers to interconnecting dispersed generation projects to locations on the electric grid where a generator interconnection would not be subject to the interconnection rules of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Midwest Independent System Operator.

No technical or engineering analyses are necessary in order to complete these duties. The reliability administrator must report its findings and any recommendations to the chairs of the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy policy by February 15, 2008.