

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Siting Process and Opportunities for You to Participate

Preparing for the Application for Siting Approval

- > As the project is being designed, members of the project team meet with officials in the towns and cities along the possible routes and with other interested parties.
- > The project team provides those towns and cities that may be affected by the project with copies of a report explaining what will be proposed to the state siting authority. The towns and cities have the opportunity to give their comments to the project team.
- > With the support of the town/city officials, the project team may conduct an open house to acquaint the town/city residents with the project proposal and discuss their questions and concerns.
- > A notice of the application is published prior to the filing in a newspaper having general circulation in the towns and cities potentially affected by the project.
- > The project team provides copies of its siting application to the officials in those towns and cities that may be affected by the project, as well as to other state officials.

After a Request for Siting Approval Has Been Filed

- > The state siting authority's staff examines the application for completeness and sets a procedural schedule.
- > The state siting authority gathers additional record information by means of interrogatory questions and consultations with other state agencies.
- > The state siting authority conducts public comment hearings in communities along the project route, and evidentiary hearings later at a location nearer to their office.
- > Individuals and groups (including towns and cities) are given the opportunity to participate in public comment hearings and, in accordance with the state siting authority rules, can participate in the subsequent evidentiary hearings during which sworn testimony is received and recorded.
- > The state siting authority renders its decision, based upon its factual record of the proceedings, and imposes conditions on any approval decision.



If Siting Approval Is Granted

- > The project team completes the finished design, taking into account conditions imposed by the state siting authority.
- > The project team completes all necessary permits and construction plan approvals, from the appropriate local, state and federal agencies, many of which have their own opportunities for public participation.



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