



## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA



### 17.20.1304 ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES, EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

- (1) An application must contain an evaluation of the nature and economics of relevant alternatives to the proposed facility, which could in whole or in part address the problem or opportunity that the proposed facility is designed to address, including transmission alternatives, alternative energy resources, alternative transmission technologies, alternative levels of reliability, and nonconstruction alternatives. The no action alternative must be evaluated. The evaluation must also include a comparison of alternatives leading to the selection of a preferred alternative and an explanation of the reasons for the selection of the proposed facility.
- (2) An application for an electric transmission line must include an evaluation of transmission alternatives, including alternative end points and intermediate substation locations for the transmission line and upgrading or replacing an existing facility that would serve to provide the needed reinforcement that would be provided by the proposed facility. An application may also evaluate alternative timing of other electric transmission lines planned by the applicant, which in whole or in part would address the problem situation or opportunity or provide the needed reinforcement that would be provided by the proposed facility.
- (3) Alternative energy resources and energy conservation alternatives are those that can individually or in combination offset or postpone the need for the proposed facility, or provide services comparable to the proposed facility. The evaluation must include a description of each alternative energy resource or energy conservation measure, the location and quantity available, any constraints to its availability and predictable daily and seasonal variations in the availability of the energy resource, if applicable.
- (4) Alternative transmission technologies are those capable of providing comparable services or addressing the problem or opportunity the proposed facility is designed to address.
- (5) Nonconstruction alternatives include the use of curtailable and interruptible load contracts with customers and load management.
- (6) The no action alternative means no facility would be constructed to meet the need or provide the services the proposed facility is designed to meet or provide.

**Authorizing statute(s):** 75-20-105, MCA

**Implementing statute(s):** 75-20-211, MCA

---

**History:** NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; AMD, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05; AMD, 2024 MAR p. 1879, Eff. 7/27/24.