ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION 201: Siting Transmission: Route Selection Process

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Goal of Route Selection

- Understand the opportunities and constraints in a study area
- Develop feasible alternative routes
- Evaluate all potential impacts
- Identify a proposed route
Routing/Siting/NEPA

Right of Way

NEPA/Permitting

Engineering

Construction Management

Public Involvement

Application Submittal

Application Approval

Permitting Complete / Construction Begins

RELATIVE EFFORT

TIME

ENERGIZE 3
The Routing Process

• Study Area
  – Initial broad level routing guidelines

• Potential Route Development
  – More detailed guidelines utilized

• Alternative Routes
  – Specific alignments developed

• Proposed Route
  – Documentation to support route
Guidelines Checklist

- Maximize paralleling or existing rights-of-way
- Minimize impacts to natural and human environment
- Minimize route length and cost
- Minimize impact existing residences
- Avoid new crossings of large lakes, rivers or large wetland complex areas
- Minimize crossing 345 kV and 500 kV lines
- Maximize separation distances from residences, schools, cemeteries, historical resources, recreation sites, and other important cultural sites
- Minimize crossing designated natural resource lands such as state forests, national and state parks, and wildlife management areas
Preference Approach for Siting

- Upgrade or double circuit an existing line
- Parallel an existing line
- Parallel roads, railroads and pipelines
- Green field solutions
Eminent Domain

- Lengthy and contentious process when used
- More likely to be exercised when schedule is compressed and few options are available for routing project
- Requirements for eminent domain proceedings vary by jurisdiction
- Proponents generally wish to avoid, but power of eminent domain strengthens proponent’s negotiating position
- Option of last resort