



ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION 201: Siting Transmission: Route Selection Process

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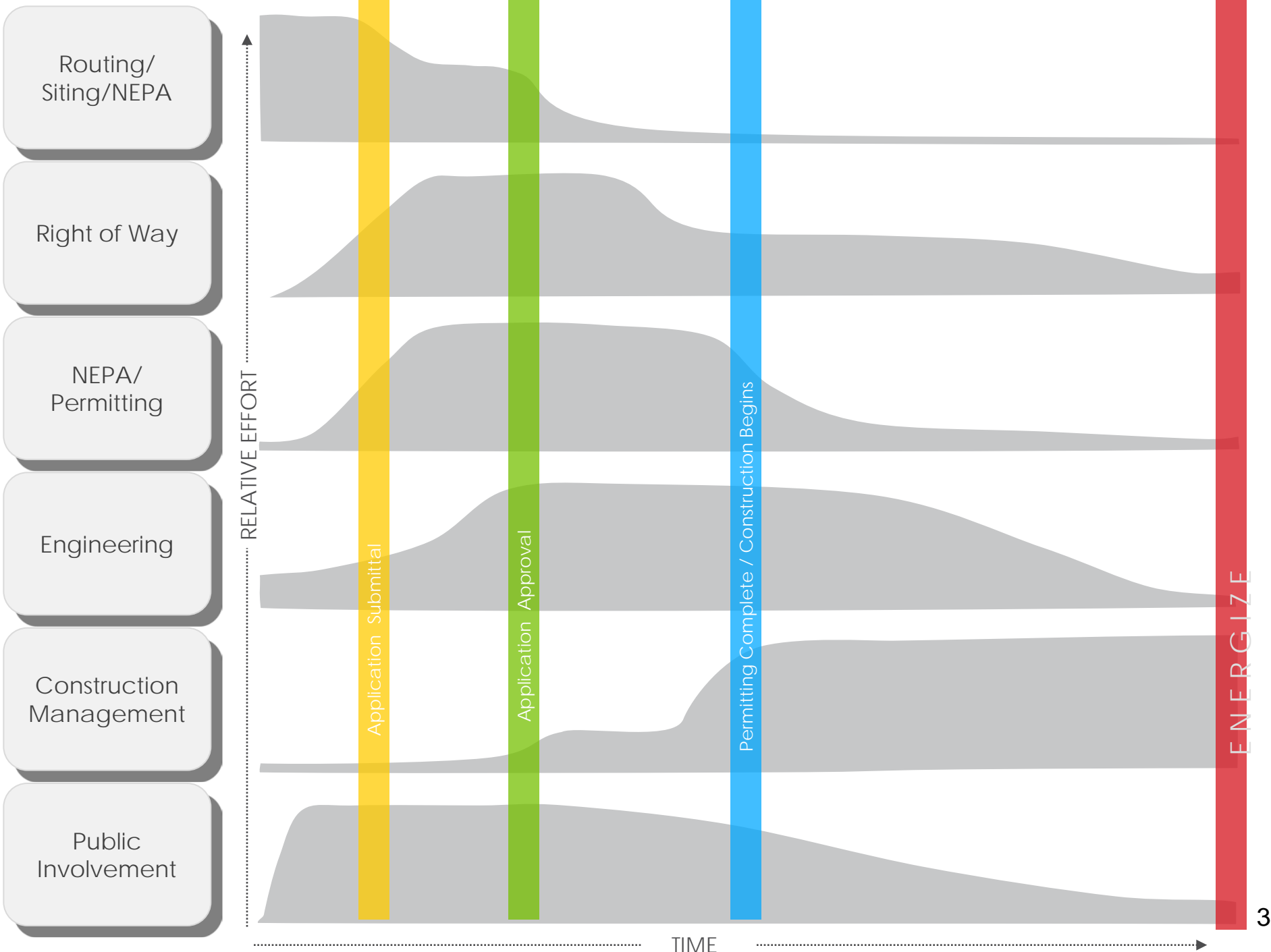
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Goal of Route Selection

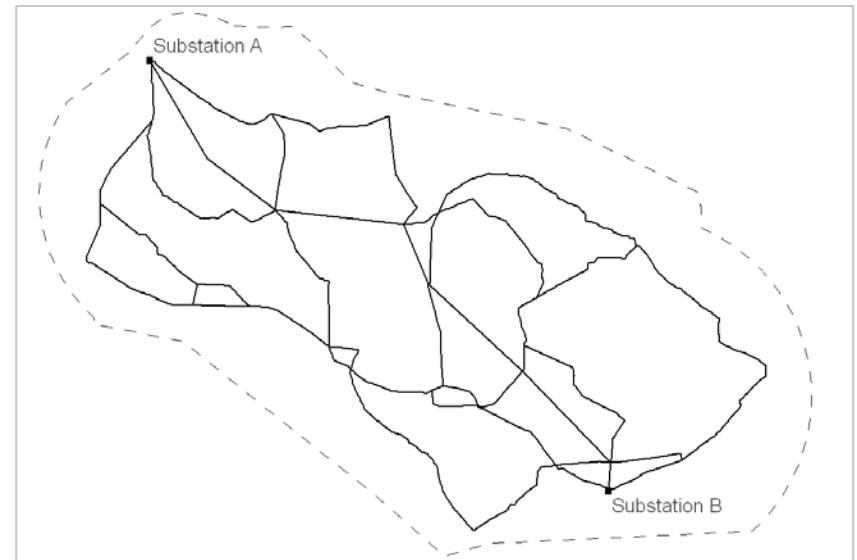
- **Understand the opportunities and constraints in a study area**
- **Develop feasible alternative routes**
- **Evaluate all potential impacts**
- **Identify a proposed route**





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