

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHAPTER 20

MAJOR FACILITY SITING

Sub-Chapter 14

Application Requirements: Alternative Siting Study and  
Baseline Data Requirements

- Rule 17.20.1401 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
General Requirements of the Alternative  
Siting Study
- 17.20.1402 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Preferred Site Criteria
- 17.20.1403 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Exclusion Areas
- 17.20.1404 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Sensitive Areas
- 17.20.1405 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Areas of Concern
- Rules 17.20.1406 and 17.20.1407 reserved
- 17.20.1408 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Delineation of the Study Area
- 17.20.1409 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Analysis of Delivered Cost of Energy in the  
Study Area
- 17.20.1410 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Identification of Economically Feasible  
Siting Areas
- 17.20.1411 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Reconnaissance
- 17.20.1412 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Selection of Candidate Siting Areas
- Rules 17.20.1413 and 17.20.1414 reserved
- 17.20.1415 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Inventory, General Requirements
- 17.20.1416 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities,  
Inventory, Environmental Information

- Rule 17.20.1417 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities, Selection of Alternative Sites (repealed)
- 17.20.1418 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities, Baseline Study, General Requirements
- 17.20.1419 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities, Baseline Data Requirements and Impact Assessment (repealed)
- 17.20.1420 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities, Comparison of Alternative Sites (repealed)
- 17.20.1421 Energy Generation and Conversion Facilities, Selection of the Preferred Site (repealed)
- Rules 17.20.1422 through 17.20.1425 reserved
- 17.20.1426 Linear Facilities, General Requirements of the Alternative Siting Study
- 17.20.1427 Linear Facilities, Preferred Route Criteria (repealed)
- 17.20.1428 Linear Facilities, Exclusion Areas (repealed)
- 17.20.1429 Linear Facilities, Electric Transmission Lines, Sensitive Areas (repealed)
- 17.20.1430 Linear Facilities, Electric Transmission Lines, Areas of Concern (repealed)
- 17.20.1431 Linear Facilities, Pipelines, Sensitive Areas and Areas of Concern (repealed)
- Rules 17.20.1432 and 17.20.1433 reserved
- 17.20.1434 Linear Facilities, Delineation of the Study Area (repealed)
- 17.20.1435 Linear Facilities, Reconnaissance (repealed)
- 17.20.1436 Linear Facilities, Selection of Study Corridors (repealed)
- 17.20.1437 Linear Facilities, Inventory, General Requirements (repealed)
- 17.20.1438 Linear Facilities, Inventory, Environmental Information (repealed)
- Rule 17.20.1439 Linear Facilities, Selection of Alternative Routes (repealed)

17.20.1440 Linear Facilities, Baseline Study, General Requirements (repealed)

Rules 17.20.1441 through 17.20.1443 reserved

17.20.1444 Linear Facilities, Electric Transmission Lines, Baseline Data Requirements and Impact Assessment (repealed)

17.20.1445 Linear Facilities, Pipelines, Baseline Data Requirements and Impact Assessment (repealed)

17.20.1446 Linear Facilities, Comparison of Alternative Routes (repealed)

17.20.1447 Linear Facilities, Selection of the Preferred Route (repealed)

## Subchapter 14

Application Requirements: Alternative Siting  
Study and Baseline Data Requirements

17.20.1401 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALTERNATIVE SITING STUDY (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1402 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, PREFERRED SITE CRITERIA (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1403 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, EXCLUSION AREAS (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1404 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, SENSITIVE AREAS (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1405 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, AREAS OF CONCERN (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

Rules 17.20.1406 and 17.20.1407 reserved

17.20.1408 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, DELINEATION OF THE STUDY AREA (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1409 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, ANALYSIS OF DELIVERED COST OF ENERGY IN THE STUDY AREA (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1410 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, IDENTIFICATION OF ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE SITING AREAS (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1411 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, RECONNAISSANCE (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1412 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, SELECTION OF CANDIDATE SITING AREAS (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

Rules 17.20.1413 and 17.20.1414 reserved

17.20.1415 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, INVENTORY, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1416 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, INVENTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1417 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE SITES (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1418 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, BASELINE STUDY, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (1) An application must contain a baseline study of the proposed sites and the proposed and any alternate locations of off-site associated facilities and their impact zones to gather baseline data

describing the existing environment, to assess impacts associated with the proposed facility, and to identify mitigation strategies for potentially significant adverse impacts.

17-1242

12/31/01

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA  
MAJOR FACILITY SITING

17.20.1418

(2) The applicant shall depict the proposed site and its boundaries, and the proposed and any alternate locations of all on-site and off-site associated facilities, as appropriate, using symbols or lines approximately one-half millimeter or less in width drawn on a 1:24,000 topographic base map. This base map shall indicate any upgrade, replacement or removal of existing equipment or installation(s) that would be necessary for construction or operation of the proposed facility and associated facilities. The applicant shall provide one mylar copy of this base map to the department and an electronic equivalent acceptable to the department. Each electronic submittal shall be accompanied by metadata describing the submittal.

(3) An application must contain one set of 1:4800 topographic maps and an electronic equivalent acceptable to the department showing the locations, as applicable, of the generators, emission control devices, condensers, shift conversion facilities, reactors, stacks, catalyst production and regeneration facilities, cooling towers, water storage ponds, waste disposal ponds, roads, parking areas, railroad spurs, substations, pumping stations, on-site pipelines, storage facilities, any other structures or buildings, nonlinear associated facilities, and any existing structures for the proposed site, noting structures that would be relocated or destroyed.

(4) An application must contain an overlay or overlays and an electronic equivalent(s) acceptable to the department, as appropriate, to the base map required by (2) of this rule of the baseline data required by department Circular MFSA-1 that can be mapped and are within the impact zones associated with the proposed site and the proposed and any alternate locations of associated facilities. The applicant shall organize the information according to the requirements of department Circular MFSA-1 and shall present the information on the minimum number of overlays to the base map. The applicant shall provide one mylar copy of each overlay to the department. All overlays shall clearly show section lines or corners and township and range locations.

(5) An application must contain one set of color contact prints at a scale of approximately 1:48,000 or 1:24,000 that provide complete aerial stereo coverage of the proposed sites, the geographic area within a five mile radius of the proposed site, and within a 1/2 mile buffer of the proposed and any alternate locations of off-site associated facilities. These photos shall be taken during a season of full foliage

no more than three years prior to filing the application unless

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA  
17.20.1418

12/31/01  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

17-1243

otherwise approved by the department. An application must contain advance or final USGS 7.5 minute orthophoto quads, where available, for the impact zones or portions of impact zones that are not covered by the aerial photos. However, this requirement does not apply to the impact zones associated with assessment of social and economic impacts required by section 3.6 of department Circular MFSA-1.

(6) For the proposed site, the applicant must certify in the application that purchase options or access for purposes of conducting the studies required by these rules have been obtained. For off-site associated facilities, the applicant shall describe the location(s) where options or access for the purpose of conducting these studies have been denied and the reason(s) for denial.

(7) An application must contain a summary of the results of consultation with appropriate government agencies to identify their concerns about the proposed facility's possible effects on the environment, and the way the applicant considered these concerns in identifying mitigating measures to address potentially significant impacts of the facility.

(8) An application may contain any valid and useful existing studies, reports, or data prepared on the energy generation or conversion facility and may be submitted by the applicant towards fulfilling the requirements of department Circular MFSA-1 but shall be subject to supplementation and shall be used by the department only to the extent it considers them applicable.

(9) An application must contain, for the proposed site and the proposed and any alternate locations of off-site associated facilities, information required by the department or board necessary to make or issue any decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit required under laws administered by the department, other than those contained in the Act pursuant to 75-20-216(3), MCA.

(10) An application must identify and discuss available alternative levels and types of mitigation to reduce or eliminate potentially significant adverse impacts of the facility at the proposed site and the proposed and any alternate locations of off-site associated facilities, including, but not limited to:

(a) alternative pollution control and waste disposal strategies, equipment and/or facilities;

(b) alternative strategies, equipment and/or facilities for reducing water consumption;

(c) alternative locations of associated facilities; and

17-1244

12/31/01

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA  
MAJOR FACILITY SITING

17.20.1418

(d) plans to reduce adverse impacts on local communities including, but not limited to, plans for meeting the service needs of the work force and maintaining the existing quality of services.

(11) An application must contain the estimated cost of implementing each level and type of mitigating measure to reduce or eliminate potentially significant adverse impacts that would occur during construction, operation, or decommissioning of the proposed facility and associated facilities. Estimated costs of mitigation measures for potentially significant adverse impacts also must be included for associated facilities whose operations would be modified to serve the proposed facility.

(12) An application must contain a summary of the baseline study and impact assessment for the proposed site and for each off-site associated facility which includes the following:

(a) a summary of potentially significant adverse impacts of the proposed site and off-site associated facilities, and the impact zones around them as determined by the baseline study conducted pursuant to department Circular MFSA-1;

(b) description of mitigating measures, if any, proposed for potentially significant adverse impacts;

(c) an evaluation of any increased impact to other resources resulting from implementation of each mitigating measure;

(d) a summary of potentially significant adverse impacts at the proposed site and off-site associated facilities for which no mitigation has been identified;

(e) a summary of any unmitigated impacts of the proposed site and off-site associated facilities that may pose a threat of serious injury or damage to the environment, social and economic conditions of inhabitants of the affected area or the health, safety, or welfare of area inhabitants;

(f) a comparison of the estimated cost and the degree of mitigation achieved, for each alternative level and type of mitigation measure considered to address each potentially adverse significant impact; and

(g) an explanation of the applicant's reasons for selecting the proposed mitigating measures and an explanation of the applicant's reasons for not selecting other mitigating measures.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA  
17.20.1419

12/31/01

17-1245

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(13) Information for (12)(a) through (g) above must be provided for the impact categories listed in department Circular MFSA-1.

(14) The board hereby adopts and incorporates by reference department Circular MFSA-1, which sets forth the baseline study requirements and impact assessment to be included in an application for a proposed energy generation and conversion facility and associated facilities. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901. (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; AMD, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1419 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, BASELINE DATA REQUIREMENTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT (REPEALED)  
(History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p.

1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1420 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE SITES (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

17.20.1421 ENERGY GENERATION AND CONVERSION FACILITIES, SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED SITE (REPEALED) (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2001 MAR p. 2410, Eff. 12/7/01.)

Rules 17.20.1422 through 17.20.1425 reserved

NEXT PAGE IS 17-1289

17-1246

12/31/01

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA  
MAJOR FACILITY SITING

17.20.1426

17.20.1426 LINEAR FACILITIES, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALTERNATIVE SITING STUDY (1) An application for a linear facility must contain an alternative siting study and baseline environmental data as specified in Circular MFSA-2.

(2) The board adopts and incorporates by reference department Circular MFSA-2, "Application Requirements for Linear Facilities", which sets forth the requirements for an alternative siting study and the baseline study requirements and impact assessment to be included in an application for a linear facility. Copies may



1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1428 LINEAR FACILITIES, EXCLUSION AREAS IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1429 LINEAR FACILITIES, ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES, SENSITIVE AREAS IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1430 LINEAR FACILITIES, ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES, AREAS OF CONCERN IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1431 LINEAR FACILITIES, PIPELINES, SENSITIVE AREAS AND AREAS OF CONCERN IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

Rules 17.20.1432 and 17.20.1433 reserved

17.20.1434 LINEAR FACILITIES, DELINEATION OF THE STUDY AREA IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1435 LINEAR FACILITIES, RECONNAISSANCE IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1436 LINEAR FACILITIES, SELECTION OF STUDY CORRIDORS IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1437

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

17.20.1437 LINEAR FACILITIES, INVENTORY, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1438 LINEAR FACILITIES, INVENTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1439 LINEAR FACILITIES, SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1440 LINEAR FACILITIES, BASELINE STUDY, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

Rules 17.20.1441 through 17.20.1443 reserved

17.20.1444 LINEAR FACILITIES, ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES, BASELINE DATA REQUIREMENTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1445 LINEAR FACILITIES, PIPELINES, BASELINE DATA REQUIREMENTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1446 LINEAR FACILITIES, COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

17.20.1447 LINEAR FACILITIES, SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED ROUTE IS REPEALED (History: 75-20-105, MCA; IMP, 75-20-211, 75-20-503, MCA; NEW, 1984 MAR p. 1844, Eff. 12/28/84; TRANS, from DNRC, 1996 MAR p. 2863; REP, 2005 MAR p. 252, Eff. 2/11/05.)

NEXT PAGE IS 17-1351

17-1292

3/31/05

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA

