

Chapter 49 - Energy Conversion & Transmission Facility Siting Act

Section 49-22-03. Definitions.

In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

...

3. "Construction" includes any clearing of land, excavation, or other action that would affect the environment of the site after April 9, 1975, but does not include activities:

- a. Conducted wholly within the geographic location for which a utility has previously obtained a certificate or permit under this chapter, or on which a facility was constructed before April 9, 1975, if:
 - (1) The activities are for the construction of the same type of facility as the existing type of facility as identified in a subdivision of subsections 5 or 12 of this section and the activities are:
 - (a) Within the geographic boundaries of a previously issued certificate or permit;
 - (b) For an energy conversion facility constructed before April 9, 1975, within the geographic location on which the facility was built; or
 - (c) For a transmission facility constructed before April 9, 1975, within a width of three hundred fifty feet [106.68 meters] on either side of the centerline;
 - (2) Except as provided in subdivision b, the activities do not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area;
 - (3) The activities are for the construction:
 - (a) Of a new energy conversion facility;
 - (b) Of a new gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility;
 - (c) To improve the existing energy conversion facility or gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility; or
 - (d) To increase or decrease the capacity of the existing energy conversion facility or gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility; and
 - (4) Before conducting any activities, the utility certifies in writing to the commission that:
 - (a) The activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area;
 - (b) The activities are for the construction:
 - [1] Of a new energy conversion facility;
 - [2] Of a new gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility;
 - [3] To improve the existing energy conversion or gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility; or
 - [4] To increase or decrease the capacity of the existing energy conversion facility or gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility; and
 - (c) The utility will comply with all applicable conditions and

- protections in siting laws and rules and commission orders previously issued for any part of the facility.
- b. Otherwise qualifying for exclusion under subdivision a, except that the activities are expected to affect a known avoidance area and the utility before conducting any activities:
- (1) Certifies in writing to the commission that:
 - (a) The activities will not affect any known exclusion area;
 - (b) The activities are for the construction:
 - [1] Of a new energy conversion facility;
 - [2] Of a new gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility;
 - [3] To improve the existing energy conversion facility or gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility; or
 - [4] To increase or decrease the capacity of the existing energy conversion facility or gas, liquid, or electric transmission facility; and
 - (c) The utility will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in siting laws and rules and commission orders previously issued for any part of the facility;
 - (2) Notifies the commission in writing that the activities are expected to impact an avoidance area and provides information on the specific avoidance area expected to be impacted and the reasons why impact cannot be avoided; and
 - (3) Receives the commission's written approval for the impact to the avoidance area, based on a determination that there is no reasonable alternative to the expected impact. If the commission does not approve impacting the avoidance area, the utility must obtain siting authority under this chapter for the affected portion of the site or route. If the commission fails to act on the notification required by this subdivision within thirty days of the utility's filing the notification, the impact to the avoidance area is deemed approved.
- c. Incident to preliminary engineering or environmental studies.

Chapter 49 - Energy Conversion & Transmission Facility Siting Act

Section 49-22-16.3. Route adjustment before or during construction for gas or liquid transmission line.

1. Before or during construction, a utility, without any action by the commission, may adjust the route of a gas or liquid transmission line within the designated corridor if, before conducting any construction activities associated with the adjustment, the utility files with the commission certification and supporting documentation that:
 - a. The construction activities will be within the designated corridor;
 - b. The construction activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas within the designated corridor; and
 - c. The utility will comply with the commission's order, laws, and rules designating the corridor and designating the route.

2. Before or during construction, a utility may adjust the route of a gas or liquid transmission line within the designated corridor that may affect an avoidance area if, before conducting any construction activities associated with the adjustment, the utility:
 - a. Files with the commission certification and supporting documentation that:
 - (1) The construction activities are within the designated corridor;
 - (2) The construction activities will not affect any known exclusion areas within the designated corridor;
 - (3) The construction activities are expected to impact an avoidance area with a specific description of the avoidance area expected to be impacted;
 - (4) Each owner of real property on which the adjustment is to be located and any applicable governmental entity with an interest in the same adjustment area do not oppose the adjustment, unless the utility previously received authorization from the commission for the impact to the avoidance area;
 - (5) For an impact for which the utility does not already have approval or has not filed the approval in paragraph 4, the utility has good cause and a specific reason to impact the avoidance area, and a reasonable alternative does not exist; and
 - (6) The utility will comply with the commission's order, laws, and rules designating the corridor and designating the route.

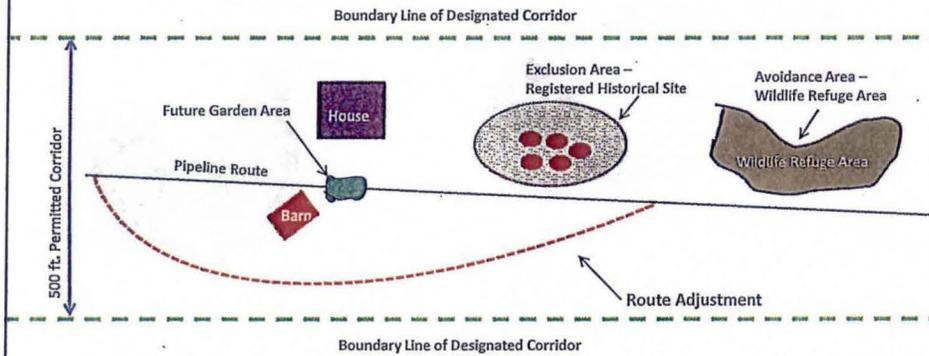
 - b. Receives the commission's written authorization that the utility may impact the avoidance area. If the commission does not authorize the impact to the avoidance area, the utility must obtain siting authority for the affected portion of the route adjustment. If the commission fails to act within ten working days of receipt of the utility's filing of the certification and supporting documentation under subdivision a of subsection 2, the route adjustment is deemed approved.

3. Before or during construction, a utility, without any action by the commission, may adjust the route of a gas or liquid transmission line outside the designated corridor if, before conducting any construction activities associated with the adjustment, the utility:
 - a. Files with the commission certification and supporting documentation that:
 - (1) The construction activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas;
 - (2) The route outside the corridor is no longer than one and one-half miles [2.41 kilometers];
 - (3) The utility will comply with the commission's order, laws, and rules designating the corridor and designating the route; and
 - (4) Each owner of real property on which the adjustment is to be located and any applicable governmental entity with an interest in the same adjustment area do not oppose the adjustment.
 - b. Files detailed field studies indicating exclusion and avoidance areas for an area encompassing the route outside the designated corridor equal to the length of the adjustment of the proposed corridor.
4. Before or during construction, a utility may adjust the route of a gas or liquid transmission line outside the designated corridor that may affect an avoidance area if, before conducting any construction activities associated with the adjustment, the utility:
 - a. Files with the commission certification and supporting documentation that:
 - (1) The construction activities will not affect any known exclusion areas;
 - (2) The construction activities are expected to impact an avoidance area with a specific description of the avoidance area expected to be impacted;
 - (3) The utility has good cause and a specific reason to impact the avoidance area, and a reasonable alternative does not exist;
 - (4) The route outside the corridor is no longer than one and one-half miles [2.41 kilometers];
 - (5) The utility will comply with the commission's order, laws, and rules designating the corridor and designating the route; and
 - (6) Each owner of real property on which the adjustment is to be located and any applicable governmental entity with an interest in the same adjustment area do not oppose the adjustment.
 - b. Files detailed field studies indicating exclusion and avoidance areas for an area encompassing the route outside the designated corridor equal to the length of the adjustment of the proposed corridor.
 - c. Receives the commission's written authorization that the utility may impact the avoidance area. If the commission does not authorize the impact to the avoidance area, the utility must obtain siting authority for the affected portion of the route adjustment. If the commission fails to act within ten working days of receipt of the utility's filing of the certification and supporting documentation under subdivisions a and b of subsection 4, the route adjustment is deemed approved.
5. The commission may not be required to hold a public hearing or publish a notice of opportunity for a public hearing for any route adjustment under this section.

Section 49-22-16.3 Subsection 1

Route Adjustment *within* Designated Corridor

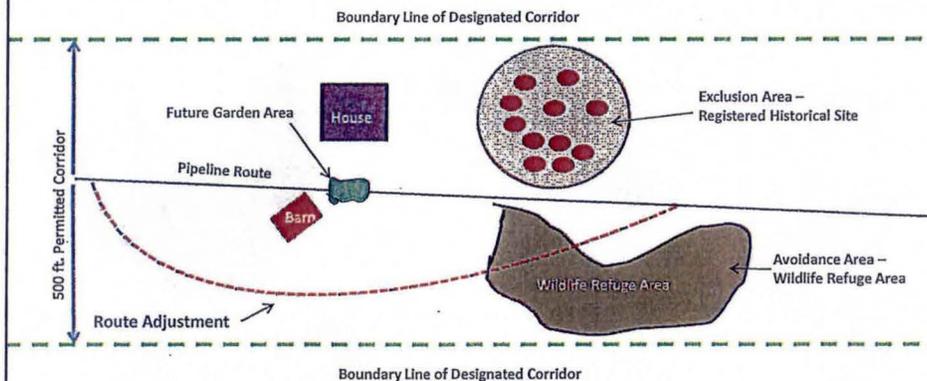
Will Not Affect Known Exclusion or Avoidance Areas



Section 49-22-16.3 Subsection 2

Route Adjustment *within* Designated Corridor

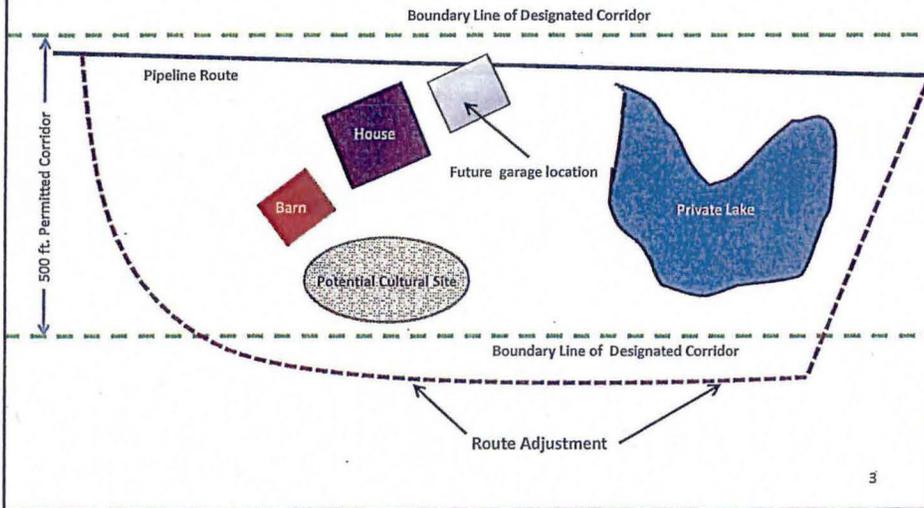
May Affect Avoidance Area



Section 49-22-16.3 Subsection 3

Route Adjustment *outside* Designated Corridor

Will Not Affect Known Exclusion or Avoidance Areas



Section 49-22-16.3 Subsection 4

Route Adjustment *outside* Designated Corridor

May Affect Known Avoidance Area

