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S.F. No. 3949 - Placement of high voltage transmission lines in highway right-of-way establishment (as proposed to be amended by A10 delete-everything)

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S.F. 3949 authorizes the construction and siting of high-voltage transmission lines across or along certain highways within the Department of Transportation's jurisdiction (MnDOT) subject to certain conditions.

Section 1 authorizes the placement of high-voltage transmission lines in the public right-of-way along any trunk highway, federally aided state trunk highway, controlled access highway, interstate highway, or roadway if authorized by MnDOT. If MnDOT rejects a request for an electric line colocation request, they must submit reasons for the denial to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over transportation and energy, the Public Utilities Commission executive secretary, and the commissioner of commerce within 90 days of the denial.

Section 2 requires coordination activities between electric utilities and MnDOT upon the request of a utility seeking potential permitted locations for siting transmission lines along a highway right of way.

Section 3 requires a constructability report if the commissioner and a utility identify a permissible route along a highway corridor for possible colocation of transmission lines. The report is used to plan and approve colocation projects. The report must be approved by both the commissioner and the utilities before the commissioner approves a permit for use of the highway right-of-way. Provides requirements for when a commissioner determines relocation of a transmission line is necessary under a constructability agreement.

Section 4 prohibits a high voltage transmission line receiving a route permit is not eligible for relocation reimbursement expenses from MnDOT should relocation be necessary, however, the utility may recover prudently incurred costs in a transmission cost adjustment.

Section 5 adds the term “high voltage transmission line” to the statute pertaining to relocation of utility facilities.

Section 6 makes technical changes to the relocation of utility facilities section of statute and adds a cross reference to the prohibition on high voltage transmission lines receiving reimbursement expenses in **section 4**.

Section 7 adds “high voltage transmission lines” to the legislative intent section governing the siting of electric power facilities.

Section 8 provides an effective date of final enactment and applies to applications for route permits on or after that date.