

the date, time and place of the meeting of the staff, who have been treating the patient, to discuss discharge and discharge planning; (3) that the patient will be present at the meeting; (4) that the next of kin may attend the designated staff meeting and present any information relevant to the discharge of the patient. The notice shall be sent to the next of kin at least one week prior to the date designated for the meeting.

(b) The head of any hospital, upon the provisional discharge, partial hospitalization, or release of any patient hospitalized under sections 253A.01 to 253A.21, shall notify the welfare board and in the event the patient is a drug dependent person the community mental health center of the county of such patient's residence before the patient is to leave the hospital ; ~~and the welfare board shall thereupon notify the patient's family~~ . Whenever possible said notice shall be given at least one week before the patient is to leave the hospital. The commissioner shall provide by regulation the procedure and methods whereby such patient shall be helped to receive all public assistance benefits provided by state or federal law to which his residence and circumstances entitle him. Such regulations shall be uniformly applied in all counties, and all counties shall provide temporary relief whenever necessary to meet the intent of this ~~section-subdivision~~ .

Approved April 13, 1976.

CHAPTER 303—S.F.No.919

[Coded]

An act relating to the environment; directing creation of an environmental permits coordination unit within the environmental quality council; authorizing an optional consolidated application and hearing procedure for certain permits; appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [116C.22] ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROCEDURES ACT; CITATION. Sections 1 to 14 may be cited as the Minnesota environmental coordination procedures act.

Sec. 2. [116C.23] PURPOSES. It shall be the purpose of sections 1 to 14:

(a) to provide an optional procedure to assist those who, in the course of satisfying the requirements of state government prior to undertaking a project which contemplates the use of the state's air, land, or water resources, must obtain more than one state permit, by establishing a mechanism in state government which will coordinate administrative decision-making procedures, and related quasi-judicial and ju-

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dicial review, pertaining to these permits;

(b) to provide to the members of the public a better and easier opportunity to present their views comprehensively on proposed uses of natural resources and related environmental matters prior to the making of decisions on these uses by state or local agencies;

(c) to provide to the members of the public a greater degree of certainty in terms of permit requirements of state and local government;

(d) to provide better coordination and understanding between state and local agencies in the administration of the various programs relating to air, water, and land resources; and

(e) to establish the opportunity for members of the public to obtain information pertaining to requirements of federal and state law which must be satisfied prior to undertaking a project in this state.

Sec. 3. **[116C.24] DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 1 to 14, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Council" means the Minnesota environmental quality council.

Subd. 3. "Coordination unit" means the environmental coordination unit established pursuant to section 4.

Subd. 4. "Local governmental unit" means a county, city, town, or special district with legal authority to issue a permit.

Subd. 5. "Permit" means a license, permit, certificate, certification, approval, compliance schedule, or other similar document pertaining to a regulatory or management program related to the protection, conservation, or use of, or interference with, the natural resources of land, air or water, which is required to be obtained from a state agency prior to constructing or operating a project in this state.

Nothing in sections 1 to 14 shall relate to the granting of a proprietary interest in publicly owned property through a sale, lease, easement, use permit, license or other conveyance.

Subd. 6. "Person" means an individual, an association or partnership, or a cooperative, or a municipal, public or private corporation, including but not limited to a state agency and a county.

Subd. 7. "Project" means a new activity or an expansion of or addition to an existing activity, which is fixed in location and for which permits are required from an agency prior to construction or operation, including but not limited to industrial and commercial operations

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and developments. Sections 1 to 14 shall not apply to projects which are:

(a) Covered by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 93, Minnesota Statutes, Sections 116C.51 to 116C.69 or Minnesota Statutes, Section 116H.13; or

(b) Initiated for the purpose of taconite tailings disposal or mining, or the producing or beneficiating of copper, nickel or copper-nickel.

Subd. 8. "Agency" means a state department, commission, board or other agency of the state however titled or a local governmental unit or instrumentality, only when that unit or instrumentality is acting within existing legal authority to grant or deny a permit that otherwise would be granted or denied by a state agency.

Sec. 4. [116C.25] CREATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS COORDINATION UNIT. The council shall establish an environmental permits coordination unit to implement and administer the provisions of sections 1 to 14 and the chairman of the council shall employ necessary staff to work for the coordination unit on a continuous basis.

Sec. 5. [116C.26] MASTER APPLICATION PROCEDURE. Subdivision 1. A person proposing a project which may require more than one permit may, prior to the initial construction of the project or prior to the initial operation of the project if construction of the project required no state permits, submit a master application to the coordination unit requesting the issuance of all state permits necessary for construction and operation of the project. The master application shall be on a form furnished by the coordination unit and shall contain precise information as to the location of the project, and shall describe the nature of the project including any contemplated discharges of wastes therefrom and any uses of, or interferences with, natural resources. No master application shall be accepted for processing by the coordination unit pursuant to sections 1 to 14, unless it is accompanied by the certifications issued not more than 120 days prior to the date of the master application as required by section 10. No master application shall be accepted for processing by the coordination unit pursuant to sections 1 to 14, unless it is accompanied by a certification from the council that either an environmental impact statement concerning the project has been completed or that an environmental impact statement is not required concerning the project.

Subd. 2. Upon receipt of a completed master application, the coordination unit shall immediately notify in writing each agency having a possible interest in the master application arising from requirements pertaining to a permit program under its jurisdiction. The notification from the coordination unit shall be accompanied by a copy of the master application together with the date by which the agency shall respond to the notice. Each notified agency shall respond in writing to

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the coordination unit within the specified date, not exceeding 20 days from receipt, as determined by the coordination unit, advising whether the agency does or does not have an interest in the master application. If an agency timely responds that it has an interest in the master application, the response shall include information concerning the specific permit programs under its jurisdiction which are pertinent to the project described in the master application. The agency response shall also advise the coordination unit whether a public hearing concerning the master application as provided in section 7 would or would not be required or of value considering the overall public interest.

Subd. 3. Each notified agency which responds within the specified date that it does not have an interest in the master application or which does not respond as required by subdivision 2 within the specified date, shall not subsequently require a permit of the applicant for the project described in the master application; provided the bar to requiring a permit subsequently shall not be applicable if:

(a) The master application provided to the notified agency contained false, misleading, or deceptive information, or lacked information, which would reasonably lead an agency to misjudge its interest in a master application; or

(b) Subsequent laws or rules require additional permits; or

(c) Unusual circumstances prevented the agency from notifying the coordination unit and the agency can establish that failure to require a permit would result in substantial harm to the public health or welfare, in which case the council may order that the permit be required.

Subd. 4. The coordination unit shall submit application forms concerning the permit programs identified in the affirmative responses under subdivision 2 to the applicant with a direction to complete and return them to the coordination unit within 90 days.

Subd. 5. Within ten days of receipt of the full set of completed application forms by the coordination unit, each application shall be transmitted to the appropriate agency for the performance of its responsibilities of decision making in accordance with the procedures of sections 1 to 12.

Subd. 6. If an agency has a procedure for setting priorities in issuing a permit according to the date of the application for the permit, the date used shall be the date upon which a master application is received by the coordination unit.

Sec. 6. **[116C.27] NOTICE.** Subdivision 1. The coordination unit immediately after transmittal of the completed applications to the appropriate agency shall cause a notice to be published at the applicant's expense once each week on the same day of the week for three consec-

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utive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within each county in which the project is proposed to be constructed or operated. The notice shall describe the nature of the master application including, with reasonable specificity, the project proposed, its location, the various permits applied for, and the agency having jurisdiction over each permit. Except as provided in subdivision 2, the notice shall also state the time and place of the public hearing, to be held not less than 20 days after the date of last publication of the notice. It shall further state that a copy of the master application and a copy of all permit applications for the project are available for public inspection in the office of the county auditor of each county in which the project is proposed to be constructed or operated, as well as in other locations which the coordination unit may designate.

Subd. 2. If the responses to the master application received by the coordination unit from the state agencies unanimously state the position that a public hearing in relation to a master application would not be of value in consideration of the overall public interest and are not required by any other law or rule, the provisions of subdivision 1 pertaining to the time and place of a public hearing shall not be included in the notice. In place thereof the notice shall state that members of the public may present relevant views and supporting materials in writing to the coordination unit concerning any of the permits applied for within 30 days after the last date of publication of the notice in a newspaper.

Sec. 7. **[116C.28] PUBLIC HEARING.** Subdivision 1. When one or more agencies notifies the coordination unit that a public hearing is required or appropriate on matters relating to the project described in the master application, the coordination unit shall set the time and place for a hearing in which each of the affected agencies shall participate. The hearing shall be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 15 and section 6 of this act.

Subd. 2. Each participating state agency shall be represented at the public hearing by its chief administrative officer or his designee. The representative of any state agency within whose jurisdiction a specific application lies shall participate in the portion of the hearing pertaining to submission of information, views, and supporting materials which are relevant to its application. The hearing examiner may, when appropriate, continue a hearing from time to time and place to place. The hearing shall be recorded in any manner suitable for transcription pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 15.

Subd. 3. Within 60 days of receipt of the hearing examiner's report, each state agency which is a party to the hearing shall forward its final decision on permit applications within its jurisdiction to the coordination unit, provided that this date may be extended by the chairman of the council for reasonable cause. Every final decision shall set forth the basis for the decision together with a final order denying the permit or granting the permit including the specifying of any condi-

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tions under which the permit is issued.

Subd. 4. If notice has been published pursuant to section 6, subdivision 2, and no public hearing is conducted, the coordination unit shall, not less than 30 days after the last notice publication in the newspaper, submit a copy of all views and supporting material received by it to each agency having jurisdiction concerning any permit application described in the notice. Concurrently therewith, the coordination unit shall notify each state agency, in writing, of the date not to exceed 60 days by which final decisions on applications shall be forwarded to the coordination unit; provided that this date may be extended by the chairman of the council for reasonable cause. Each final decision shall set forth the information required by subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. As soon as all final decisions are received by the coordination unit from the various participating state agencies, the coordination unit shall immediately incorporate them, without modification, into one document and shall transmit the document to the applicant either personally or by registered mail.

Sec. 8. **[116C.29] WITHDRAWAL OF AGENCY PARTICIPATION.** After an agency has responded that it has an interest in the master application, it may withdraw from further participation in the processing of that master application at any time by written notification to the coordination unit, if it subsequently appears to the agency that it has no permit programs under its jurisdiction which are applicable to the project.

Sec. 9. **[116C.30] APPLICATION.** Subdivision 1. A person aggrieved by a final decision of an agency in granting or denying a permit shall seek redress directly and individually from that agency in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 15, or any other statute authorizing either judicial or administrative review of an agency decision.

Subd. 2. Each state agency having jurisdiction to approve or deny an application for a permit shall have continuing power as vested in it prior to the effective date of this section, to make such determinations. Nothing in sections 1 to 14 shall lessen or reduce such powers, and such sections shall modify only the procedures to be followed in the carrying out of such powers.

Subd. 3. A state agency may in the performance of its responsibilities of decision making under sections 1 to 12, request or receive additional information from an applicant.

Subd. 4. Fee schedules authorized by statute for an application or permit shall continue to be applicable even though the application or permit is processed under the provisions set forth in sections 1 to 12. The coordination unit shall not charge the applicant or participating agencies a fee for its services.

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Subd. 5. Sections 1 to 12 shall have no applicability to an application for a permit renewal, amendment, extension, or other similar document required subsequent to the completion of decisions and proceedings under sections 6 to 8, or to a replacement thereof or to a quasi-judicial or judicial proceeding held pursuant to an order of remand or similar order by a court in relation to a final decision of a state agency.

Subd. 6. Nothing in sections 1 to 14 shall modify in any manner whatsoever the applicability or inapplicability of any land use regulation statute or local zoning ordinance to the lands of any state agency.

Sec. 10. [116C.31] LOCAL CERTIFICATION. Subdivision 1. No master application shall be processed pursuant to sections 1 to 12 unless it is accompanied by a certification issued not more than 120 days prior to the date the master application is first received by the coordination unit, from the local governmental units in whose jurisdiction the proposed project is located, certifying that the project is in compliance with all zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and environmental regulations administered by the local governmental unit and certifying that the preparation of any environmental impact statement which the local governmental unit is authorized to require pursuant to local ordinance, state statute, or council rule, has been completed or deemed not necessary. If the local governmental unit has required any environmental impact statement concerning the project, a copy of the completed environmental impact statement shall be attached to the local governmental unit's certification. If the local governmental unit has no zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, or environmental regulations, the certification from the local governmental unit shall so state. A local governmental unit may accept applications for certifications as provided in this section and shall rule upon the same expeditiously to insure that the purposes of sections 1 to 12 are accomplished fully. After issuing a certification for the purposes of this section, no local government shall rescind it even though the local government may have changed its zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, or environmental regulations. A change of zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, or environmental regulations shall not invalidate a previously given certification for the purpose of securing a state permit under sections 1 to 12. Upon certification, the local government may change such zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, or environmental regulations, but not so as to affect the proposed project until the procedures of sections 1 to 12, including any administrative or judicial reviews, are completed.

Subd. 2. A ruling by a local governmental unit denying an application for certification shall not be appealable under sections 1 to 14. The denial of an application for certification by a local governmental unit shall not preclude the applicant from filing a permit application under any other available statute or procedure.

Sec. 11. [116C.32] RULES; COOPERATION. The council shall as soon as practicable adopt rules, not inconsistent with rules of proce-

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dure established by the office of hearing examiners, to implement the provisions of sections 1 to 14, including master application procedures, notice procedures, and public hearing procedures and costs.

Sec. 12. [116C.33] CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS. Subdivision 1. If in a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction, any part of sections 1 to 14 as enacted or administered is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a condition precedent to the allocation of federal funds authorized to this state, the conflicting part of sections 1 to 14 shall be void to the limited extent necessary to remove the conflict and the remainder of sections 1 to 14 shall remain effective.

Subd. 2. The council, to the limited extent necessary to comply with procedural requirements of federal statutes relating to permit systems operated by the state, may modify the notice, timing, hearing and related procedural matters provided in sections 1 to 14.

Sec. 13. [116C.34] PERMIT INFORMATION CENTERS. Subdivision 1. The council shall establish a permit information center in its office at St. Paul, which center shall establish and maintain an information and referral system to assist the public in the understanding and compliance with the requirements of state and local governmental regulations concerning the use of natural resources and protection of the environment. The system shall provide a telephone information service and disseminate printed materials. The council shall provide assistance to regional development commissions desiring to create a permit information center.

Subd. 2. The permit information center in St. Paul shall:

(a) Identify all existing state licenses, permit certifications, approvals, compliance schedules, or other programs which pertain to the use of natural resources and to protection of the environment.

(b) Standardize permit titles and assign designation codes to all such permits which would thereafter be imprinted on all permit forms.

(c) Develop permit profiles including applicable rules and regulations, copies of all appropriate permit forms, statutory mandate and legislative history, names of individuals administering the program, permit processing procedures, documentation of the magnitude of the program and of geographic and seasonal distribution of the workload, and estimated application processing time.

(d) Identify the public information procedures currently associated with each permit program.

(e) Identify the data monitored or acquired through each permit and ascertain current users of that data.

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(f) Recommend revisions to the list of natural resource management and development permits contained in the 1974 edition of Minnesota Statutes, Section 116D.04, Subdivision 5.

(g) Recommend legislative or administrative modifications of existing permit programs to increase their efficiency and utility.

Subd. 3. The auditor of each county shall post in a conspicuous place in his office the telephone numbers of the permit information centers established in St. Paul and in the office of the applicable regional development commission; copies of any master applications or permit applications forwarded to the auditor pursuant to section 6, subdivision 1; and copies of any information published by any permit information center pursuant to subdivision 1 of this section.

Sec. 14. **REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.** The council, after consultation with other agencies and local governments, shall submit to the legislature by January 1, 1978, a report setting forth the results of the experiences under sections 1 to 14 including any recommendations concerning methods to improve the procedures.

Sec. 15. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 1 to 4 and 10 to 16 shall be effective the date following final enactment. Sections 5 to 9 shall be effective on February 15, 1977.

Sec. 16. **APPROPRIATION.** The sum of \$140,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the director of the state planning agency for the biennium ending June 30, 1977, for purposes of sections 1 to 14 of this act. Of this amount, \$60,000 is appropriated for grants to regional development commissions, excluding the metropolitan council, for the purpose of establishing permit information centers. Not more than \$5,000 of this second amount may be awarded by the director to any regional development commission for the purpose of establishing a permit information center.

Approved April 13, 1976.

CHAPTER 304—S.F.No.1051

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to attorneys; authorizing change of attorney at any time; abolishing lien of an attorney upon money and papers of his client in his possession; providing for investigation of accusations against attorneys; amending Minnesota Statutes 1974, Sections 481.11; 481.13; 481.14; and 481.15, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1974, Section 481.11, is amended to

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