

January 15, 2021

Becker City Council and Staff
12060 Sherburne Avenue Becker
MN 55308



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RE: Requesting Comments on Sherco Solar in Sherburne County, Minnesota

Dear Becker City Council members and City Staff,

You previously received a letter in December 2020 regarding a proposed solar project in Sherburne County. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the project. Sherco Solar, LLC ("Sherco Solar"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC ("NG Renewables") is gathering information and requesting agency comments for a proposed utility-scale solar-energy project in Sherburne County, Minnesota (Project). Sherco Solar, in collaboration with Xcel Energy, will submit an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") for up to 600 MW of nameplate solar-energy capacity. Following permitting and development of the Project by NG Renewables, the Project is anticipated to be transferred, constructed, owned, and operated by Xcel Energy.

The Project's permanent facilities may include:

- Solar modules, inverters, and racking;
- Fencing;
- Access roads as required;
- Two collection substation facilities;
- Two 345 kilovolt (kV) gen-tie lines;
- On-site below-ground and above-ground electrical collection lines; and
- Weather stations (up to 20 feet tall).

The Project encompasses agricultural lands both east and west of the existing Sherco Coal Generation Station. Due to the unique layout of the site, Sherco Solar will interconnect to the electric grid via two separate 345 kV gen-tie lines to the existing substation within the existing Sherco Coal Generation Station footprint. Neither gen-tie line is anticipated to exceed 5 miles in length.

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of Sherco Solar's location, associated project boundary, and the potential routing areas for each gen-tie line. The exact alignment of the gen-tie lines have not yet been finalized, but are anticipated to be wholly contained within the potential routing areas. Sherco Solar continues to collect information to inform Project design. The racking layout, access roads, and electrical connections have not been finalized. Land cover within the Project area is predominantly agricultural with a mix of hay/pasture, row crops, and center-pivot-irrigated farmland, and the Project area does not contain any soils classified as prime farmland. The Project area is located within the following township, range, and sections.

(Continued on Page 2)

	Township	Range	Section
Solar Project	33N	28W	5, 7, 8, 16, 17
	34N	29W	18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34
	34N	30W	13, 24
West Gen-Tie Line Route Width	33N	29W	1, 2
	34N	29W	22, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36
East Gen-Tie Line Route Width	33W	28W	6, 7
	33W	29W	1

Upon receipt of applicable permits and permissions, Sherco Solar anticipates construction commencing as early as possible in 2022 and commencement of commercial operation by the end of 2023.

The purpose of this letter is to inform your organization of the proposed Project, seek your input regarding any permits and approvals that may be required, and identify interests your organization may have in the Project site or associated study area. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

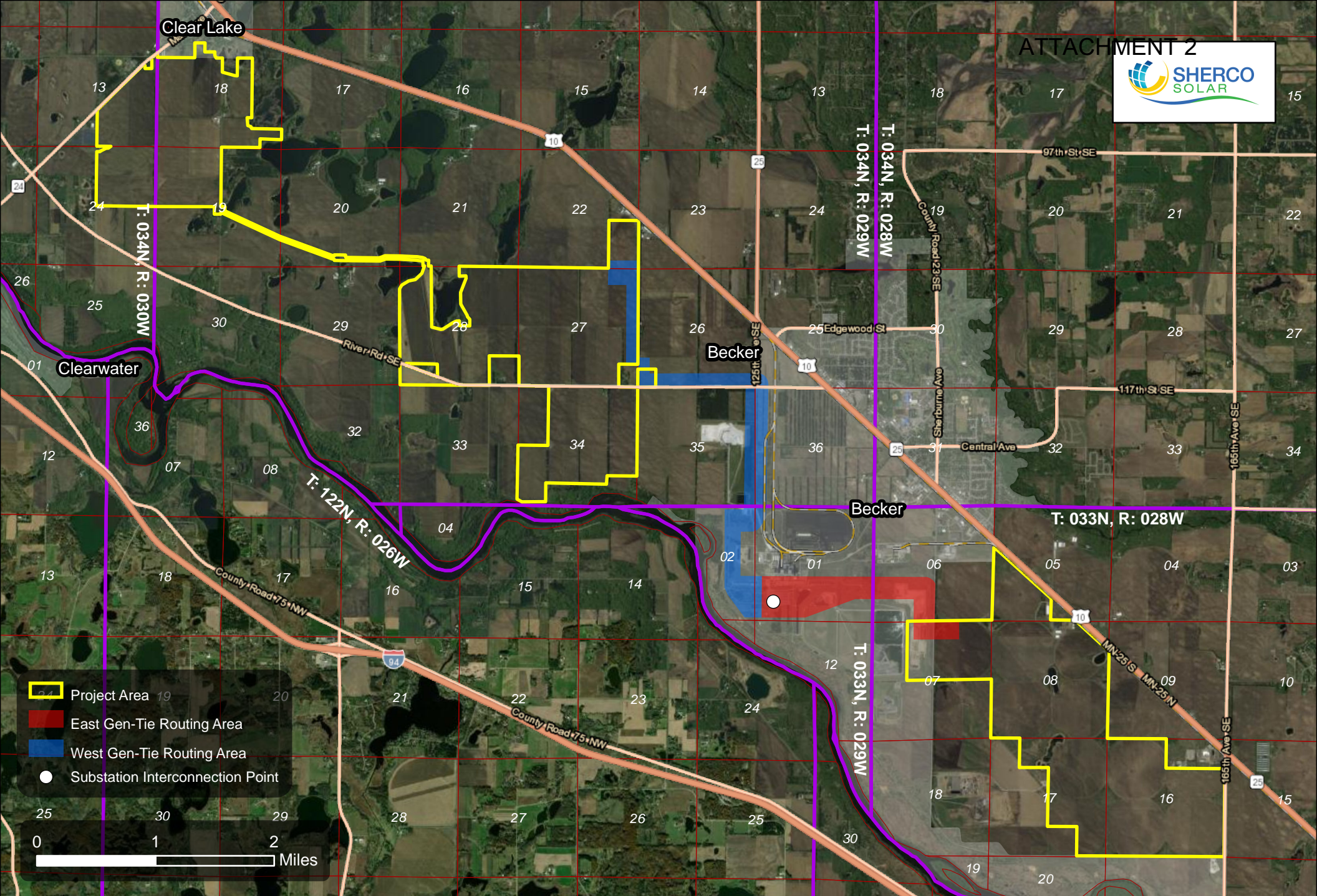
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-300-9476 or at wrisse@nationalgridrenewables.com.

Sincerely,



William Risse
 Permitting Specialist
 National Grid Renewables
 8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard Suite 1200
 Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:
 Sherco Location Map



Sherco Solar

Sherburne County, Minnesota