BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben Hwikwon Ham Valerie Means Joseph K. Sullivan John A. Tuma Chair Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit for the up to 150 MW Lake Wilson Solar and Associated Battery Storage Project in Murray County, Minnesota

 ISSUE DATE:
 April 23, 2024

 DOCKET NO.
 IP-7070/CN-21-791

 DOCKET NO.
 IP-7070/GS-21-792

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND ISSUING SITE PERMIT

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 16, 2021, Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC (Lake Wilson Solar)¹ filed a request for exemption from certain certificate of need (CN) application content requirements. On January 4, 2022, the Commission issued an order approving the requested exemptions.

On February 9, 2023, Lake Wilson Solar filed applications for a CN and a site permit for the Lake Wilson Solar Energy Center Project (the Project), an up to 150 megawatt (MW) solar energy generating system in Murray County.

On April 4, 2023, the Commission issued an order:

- Accepting the applications as complete;
- Authorizing the use of joint proceedings and environmental review for the applications;
- Authorizing the use of the informal review process under Minn. R. 7829.1200 for the CN application;
- Authorizing review of the site permit application under the alternative permit process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. 7850.2800–3900; and
- Requesting that an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings preside over a public hearing in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.3800 and prepare a report with findings and recommendations on both applications.

¹ Lake Wilson Solar is a wholly owned subsidiary of Invenergy Solar Development North America LLC and an affiliate of Invenergy LLC.

On April 24, 2023, the Commission and the Department of Commerce issued a Notice of Public Information and Environmental Assessment (EA) Scoping Meeting.

On May 10, 2023, the Department of Commerce's Energy, Environmental Review, and Analysis Unit (DOC EERA) and Commission staff held a public information and scoping meeting, followed by a virtual meeting on May 11, 2023.

By May 30, 2023, the Commission received comments on issues for consideration in the scoping decision from members of the public; the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); the Department of Transportation, DOC EERA; Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA); Local 49 Union of Operating Engineers (Local 49); and the Minnesota Land and Liberty Coalition.

On June 12, 2023, DOC EERA filed comments and recommendations on the scope of the EA to be prepared for the project, including that the EA should not include studies of alternative sites.

On July 25, 2023, the Commission issued an order varying Minn. R. 7850.3700, subp. 3, to allow additional time to issue the scoping decision. The Commission took no action on the site recommended for inclusion in the scope of the EA.

On August 8, 2023, DOC EERA filed its EA scoping decision.

On September 14, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Comment Period on the merits of the CN application.

On October 18, 2023, DOC EERA filed the EA and draft site permit for the project.

On October 30, 2023, DOC EERA issued a corrected map for the EA.

Also on October 30, 2023, the Commission issued a notice of public hearing and comment period.

By November 14, 2023, the Commission received comments from LIUNA, Local 49, and the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (DOC DER), and direct testimony filed by Lake Wilson Solar.

On November 21, 2023, Lake Wilson Solar filed reply comments.

On November 28 and 29, 2023, ALJ James Mortenson held public hearings on the applications in person in Murray County, Minnesota, and remotely via WebEx, respectively.

On December 5, 2023, DNR submitted comments on the EA content.

On December 11, 2023, DOC EERA filed post-public hearing comments on the decommissioning plan for the project and a summary of the proposed changes between the Sample Permit and the draft Site Permit attached to the EA. DOC EERA also provided a redlined version of the proposed draft site permit.

On December 18, 2023, DOC EERA filed a correction to the EA.

On December 21, 2023, Lake Wilson Solar filed proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations, and it also submitted reply comments.

DOC EERA also filed comments it received by email throughout this period.

On January 10, 2024, DOC EERA submitted reply comments.

On February 7, 2024, the ALJ filed his report with Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations.

By February 27, 2024, DOC EERA and Lake Wilson Solar filed exceptions to the ALJ's report.

On March 21, 2024, the matter came before the Commission.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. The Project

The proposed Lake Wilson Solar Energy Center Project includes an up to 150 MW solar energy generating system with an associated 95 MW/380 MWh alternating current (AC) battery energy storage 4-hour system. The Project will be located in Leeds Township, Murry County. Approximately 1,526 acres of the 2,621-acre project area will be designed to host the proposed project infrastructure.

The Project will consist of photovoltaic panels, an up to 95 MWac/380 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS), and an approximately 200- to 400-foot long 115 kV above-ground Gen-Tie Line. The Project will also include a wide variety of associated components, such as: solar modules and inverters, step-up and power transformers, electrical wiring, single-axis trackers, collection lines, security fencing and gates, access roads, associated stormwater treatment areas, an operations and maintenance facility, a supervisory control and data acquisition system, a project substation, and other necessary equipment and/or buildings.

The power generated by the project will be offered to wholesale customers, including Minnesota utilities and cooperatives or commercial and industrial customers. The solar system will connect to the electrical grid through the existing Northern States Power Fenton to Chanarambie 115-kV transmission line. Although Lake Wilson Solar is still working to secure a Power Purchase Agreement or other offtake agreement to sell the power generated by the Project, it has a signed June 2022 Generator Interconnection Agreement with the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) for up to 170 MWac to the grid at the Point of Interconnection. Lake Wilson Solar has applied for an additional 75 MWac BESS capacity through MISO's Surplus Interconnection Process.

Lake Wilson Solar expects the total installed capital cost for the Project to be approximately \$450 to \$500 million, with construction beginning in 2025 and commercial operations beginning in December 2026. Lake Wilson Solar estimates operating costs to be \$2.6 million per year.

II. ALJ Report

The ALJ prepared a well-reasoned and thorough report detailing the proceedings, evidence in the record, arguments of the parties and public commenters, and various issues discussed in the process of evaluating the need for the project and developing the site permit. The ALJ Report includes specific findings, conclusions, and recommendations that are discussed in further detail below in relation to the CN and site permit applications.

A. Exceptions to the ALJ's Report

EERA filed proposed changes to two findings and one conclusion in the ALJ's Report, as follows:

- i. In Finding 260–Vegetation, EERA recommended replacing the term "Project area" with "Preliminary Development Area" to ensure both distinction between the terms and the accuracy of this finding.
- ii. In Finding 147–Socioeconomic Effects, EERA recommended adding the following statement to ensure compliance with the prevailing wage rate statutory requirement: "These workers will be subject to pay no less than the prevailing wage rate as defined in Minnesota Statute § 177.42."
- iii. The EERA recommended adding the following statement as a Conclusion of Law to ensure compliance with Minn. R. 7850.3900, subp. 2: "The Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the project and the record created at the public hearing address the issues identified in the EA scoping decision."

Additionally, Lake Wilson Solar proposed changes to Finding 320, arguing that DNR did not specifically request that deer egress gates be included in the design and the finding should therefore not require the gates. Lake Wilson Solar proposed the following language for Finding 320, as modified:

The DNR is responsible for all wild animals in the state. Lake Wilson Solar asserts the EA found that potential impact to deer is expected to be minimal and as a result, the deer egress gates will not be included in the fencing design. However, the EA found that studies estimate that one hoofed mammal per year becomes entangled for every two and one-half miles of fence. Although deer can jump many fences, they can become tangled in both smooth and barbed-wire fences. Predators can use fences to corner and kill prey species. The DNR indicated Lake Wilson Solar's fence design meets DNR's standards. Lake Wilson Solar shall consult with the DNR on fencing design in accordance with site permit condition 4.3.31 to clarify the locations of the deer egress gates if they are going to be included in the site plan for the project.

B. Commission Action

Having examined the record and having considered the ALJ's Report, the Commission concurs with the ALJ's findings, conclusions, and recommendations, with modifications proposed in EERA's February 15, 2024 filing and Lake Wilson Solar's February 27, 2024 filing. Consistent with the decisions herein, the Commission will accept, adopt, and incorporate the attached Report, with EERA's modifications to Findings 260 and 147; the addition of EERA's new proposed Conclusion of Law; and the changes to Finding 320 proposed by Lake Wilson Solar, as modified.

III. Environmental Assessment

Minn. R. 7850.3700 requires the Department of Commerce to prepare an EA for each proposed project reviewed under the alternative permitting process. The rule specifies that the EA must include information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and any alternative sites or routes, along with information about mitigative measures that could be reasonably implemented to eliminate or minimize adverse impacts. The EA is developed after the Department of Commerce issues a scoping decision identifying issues to be addressed, including any alternative sites to be evaluated.

The review of a CN application requires the Department of Commerce to prepare an environmental report under Minn. R. 7849.1200. Alternatively, if a site permit application is concurrently pending for the same project, the environmental review requirement may be satisfied using the EA prepared under the site permit rules. In this case, the Commission authorized an EA instead of an environmental report.

In its Scoping Decision, EERA did not recommend any site or system alternatives for study. As a result, no site alternatives were considered in the EA.

The Commission concurs with the ALJ and the parties that the EA and the record created in this matter address the issues identified in DOC EERA's Scoping Decision and satisfy applicable statutory and rule requirements.

IV. Certificate of Need

Based on the record and the ALJ's Report – which includes a full accounting and discussion of the comments submitted concerning the CN and the need for the project – the Commission concurs that Lake Wilson Solar has met the requirements for a CN. The Commission will therefore grant a CN for the Project, finding that:

- the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(A), have been met and the probable result of denying the application would likely be an adverse effect upon the future adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of energy supply to the applicant, to the applicant's customers, or to the people of Minnesota and neighboring states;
- the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(B), have been met and a more reasonable and prudent alternative to the Project has not been demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence in the record;
- the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(C), have been met and the preponderance of the evidence in the record demonstrates that the Project will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health; and

• the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(D), have been met and the record does not demonstrate that the design, construction, or operation of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification of the proposed facility, will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.

V. Site Permit

The ALJ recommended that the Commission issue a site permit for the proposed project, along with permit conditions, finding that Lake Wilson Solar has met all applicable permitting requirements.

Having reviewed the ALJ's Report and the record, the Commission concurs with the ALJ that Lake Wilson Solar has satisfied all applicable permitting requirements. Therefore, the Commission will adopt the ALJ's Report, with the modifications proposed by Lake Wilson Solar and DOC EERA, as discussed above. The Commission will also issue a site permit for the project, as attached.

ORDER

- 1. The Commission determines that the Environmental Assessment and the record created in this matter address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision.
- 2. The Commission approves and adopts the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation, to the extent it is consistent with the Commission's final decisions.
- 3. The Commission adopts the modified findings and conclusions identified in EERA's February 15, 2024 filing regarding:
 - a. Finding 260 Vegetation
 - b. Finding 147 Prevailing Wage
 - c. A new Conclusion of Law The Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Project and the record created at the public hearing address the issues identified in the EA scoping decision.
- 4. The Commission adopts the change to Finding 320 Deer Egress Gates of the ALJ's Report identified in Lake Wilson's February 27, 2024 filing, as modified.
- 5. The Commission grants a certificate of need for the 150-megawatt Lake Wilson Solar and Associated 95 MWac Battery Energy Storage Project proposed in Murray County, Minnesota, finding that:
 - a. The factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(A), have been met and that denying the application would likely have an adverse effect upon the future adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of energy supply to the applicant, to the applicant's customers, or to the people of Minnesota and neighboring states;

- b. The factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(B), have been met and that a more reasonable and prudent alternative to the project has not been demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence in the record;
- c. The factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(C), have been met and that the preponderance of the evidence in the record demonstrates that the project will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health; and
- d. The factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(D), have been met and that the record does not demonstrate that the design, construction, or operation of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification of the proposed facility, will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.
- 6. The Commission issues the EERA Proposed Site Permit as included with EERA's January 10, 2024 reply comments (Attachment B) and recommended by the judge in the ALJ's Report as the Site Permit for the 150-megawatt Lake Wilson Solar and Associated 95 MWac Battery Energy Storage Project proposed in Murray County, Minnesota.
- 7. The permittee shall make a compliance filing within 60 days of the order explaining the production tax implications of the battery storage facility. The permittee shall work with Murray County, as best as possible, on the compliance filing to address any questions they may have regarding the production tax.
- 8. This order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

William Juffe

Will Seuffert Executive Secretary



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STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

SITE PERMIT FOR A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM

IN

MURRAY COUNTY

ISSUED TO LAKE WILSON SOLAR ENERGY LLC

PUC DOCKET NO. IP-7070/GS-21-792

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 this site permit is hereby issued to:

Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC

The Permittee is authorized by this site permit to construct and operate a 150-megawatt solar energy generating system with 95-megawatt battery energy storage system and associated facilities. The solar energy generating system and associated facilities shall be built and operated within the site identified in this permit and as portrayed in the official site maps, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

This site permit shall expire 30 years from the date of this approval.

Approved and adopted this 23rd day of April, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

William faffe

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

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CONTENTS

1		SITE PERM	IIT1	L
	1.1	Preempt	ion 1	
2		PROJECT D	DESCRIPTION 1	L
	2.1	Project L	ocation 1	
	2.2	Project C	Dwnership 2)
3		DESIGNAT	ED SITE)
4		GENERAL	CONDITIONS	;
	4.1	Permit D	vistribution	;
	4.2	Access to	o Property	;
4.3		Construc	ction and Operation Practices	;
		4.3.1	Field Representative	;
		4.3.2	Site Manager 4	ŀ
		4.3.3	Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions 4	ŀ
		4.3.4	Independent Third-Party Monitor 5	,
		4.3.5	Public Services and Public Utilities	,
		4.3.6	Temporary Workspace	;
		4.3.7	Noise	Ś
		4.3.8	Aesthetics)
		4.3.9	Topsoil Protection	Ś
		4.3.10	Soil Compaction	5
		4.3.11	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control)
		4.3.12	Public Lands	1
		4.3.13	Wetlands and Water Resources7	1
		4.3.14	Native Prairie	;
		4.3.15	Vegetation Removal	;
		4.3.16	Beneficial Habitat	;
		4.3.17	Vegetation Management Plan9)
		4.3.18	Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan 10)
		4.3.19	Application of Pesticides 10)
		4.3.20	Invasive Species)
		4.3.21	Noxious Weeds	
		4.3.22	Roads	
		4.3.23	Archaeological and Historic Resources 11	
		4.3.24	Interference	,
		4.3.25	Restoration)

		4.3.26 Cleanup	. 12	
		4.3.27 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes	. 13	
		4.3.28 Damages	. 13	
		4.3.29 Public Safety	. 13	
		4.3.30 Site Identification	. 13	
		4.3.31 Security Fencing	. 13	
	4.4	Feeder Lines	. 14	
	4.5	Other Requirements		
		4.5.1 Safety Codes and Design Requirements	. 14	
		4.5.2 Other Permits and Regulations	. 14	
		4.5.3 Prevailing Wage	. 15	
5		SPECIAL CONDITIONS	. 15	
	5.1	Facility Lighting	. 15	
	5.2	Dust Control	. 15	
	5.3	Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control	. 15	
6		DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION	. 15	
7		COMPLAINT PROCEDURES	. 16	
8		COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	. 16	
	8.1	Pre-Construction Meeting	. 16	
	8.2	Pre-Operation Meeting	. 16	
	8.3	Site Plan	. 16	
	8.4	Status Reports	. 17	
	8.5	Labor Statistic Reporting	. 18	
	8.6	In-Service Date	. 18	
	8.7	As-Builts	. 18	
	8.8	GPS Data	• • •	
	8.9	Project Energy Production		
	8.10	5 , I		
	8.11			
	8.12			
9		DECOMMISSIONING AND RESTORATION		
	9.1	Decommissioning Plan		
	9.2	Site Final Restoration		
	9.3	Abandoned Solar Installations		
1()	COMMISSION AUTHORITY AFTER PERMIT ISSUANCE		
	10.1			
	10.2	2 Expansion of Site Boundaries	. 22	

10.3	Periodic Review	22
10.4	Modification of Conditions	22
10.5	More Stringent Rules	22
10.6	Right of Entry	22
11	PERMIT AMENDMENT	23
	PERMIT AMENDMENT TRANSFER OF PERMIT	
12 ⁻		23
12 ⁻ 13	TRANSFER OF PERMIT	23 24

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedure for Permitted Energy Facilities Attachment 3 – Site Maps

1 SITE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this site permit to Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This permit authorizes Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC to construct and operate a 150-megawatt solar energy generating system with 95-megawatt battery energy storage system and associated facilities, and as identified in the attached site maps, hereby incorporated into this document (Lake Wilson Solar Energy Center Project, henceforth known as Project).

1.1 Preemption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this permit shall be the sole site approval required for the location, construction, and operation of the solar energy generating system and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is a 150 MW solar energy generating system with a 95-megawatt battery energy storage system and associated facilities on approximately 1,526 acres. The primary components of the solar energy generating system and associated facilities include:

- (a) photovoltaic panels affixed to a linear ground-mounted single-axis tracking system;
- (b) 95 MW of battery energy storage capacity
- (c) power inverters and transformers;
- (d) belowground electrical collection lines;
- (e) security fencing;
- (f) a project substation;
- (g) access roads and parking lot;
- (h) up to ten weather stations;
- (i) an operations and maintenance building;
- (j) stormwater treatment areas

2.1 Project Location

The project is located in the following:

County Township Name To	wnship Range	Sections
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Murray Leeds 106N 42W	15-17, 20-22, 27
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2.2 Project Ownership

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file a description of its ownership structure, identifying, as applicable:

- (a) the owner(s) of the financial and governance interests of the Permittee;
- (b) the owner(s) of the majority financial and governance interests of the Permittee's owners; and
- (c) the Permittee's ultimate parent entity (meaning the entity which is not controlled by any other entity).

The Permittee shall notify the Commission of:

- (a) a change in the owner(s) of the majority* financial or governance interests in the Permittee; or
- (b) a change in the owner(s) of the majority* financial or governance interests of the Permittee's owners; or
- (c) a sale which changes the ultimate parent entity of the Permittee
 * When there are only co-equal 50/50 percent interests, any change shall be considered a change in majority interest.

Also, in the event of an ownership change, the Permittee must provide the Commission with a certification that it has read, understands and is able to comply with the plans and procedures it filed and all conditions of this permit.

3 DESIGNATED SITE

The site maps show the Project Boundary and the approximate location of the solar energy generating system and associated facilities within the Project Boundary. The Commission sought to locate the solar energy generating system and associated facilities in a way that minimizes the overall potential human and environmental impacts of the Project, which were evaluated in the permitting process. The Project Boundary serves to provide the Permittee with the flexibility to make minor adjustments to the layout to accommodate requests by landowners, local government units, federal and state agency requirements, and unforeseen conditions encountered during the detailed engineering and design process. The Permittee shall make any modification to the location of the solar energy generating system or associated

facilities in such a manner to have comparable overall human and environmental impacts relative to the siting factors of Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 and shall specifically identify them in the site plan pursuant to Section 8.3.

4 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the solar energy generating system and associated facilities over the life of this permit.

4.1 Permit Distribution

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall send a copy of the permit and the complaint procedures to any regional development commission, county auditor and environmental office, and city and township clerk in which any part of the site is located.

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures. In no case shall the landowner receive this site permit and complaint procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on their property. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the permitted site.

4.2 Access to Property

The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance within the site, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3 Construction and Operation Practices

The Permittee shall comply with the construction practices, operation and maintenance practices, and material specifications described in the record of the proceedings unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.3.1 Field Representative

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction of the project. This person shall be accessible

by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners within or adjacent to the Project Boundary, local government units and other interested persons 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, local government units and other interested persons. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of distribution of its field representative's contact information at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting and upon changes to the field representative.

4.3.2 Site Manager

The Permittee shall designate a site manager responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during the commercial operation and decommissioning phases of the project. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours for the life of this permit.

The Permittee shall file the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the site manager with the Commission within 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting. The Permittee shall provide the site manager's contact information to landowners within or adjacent to the Project Boundary, local government units and other interested persons at least 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting. The Permittee may change the site manager at any time upon notice to the Commission, landowners within or adjacent to the Project Boundary, local government units, and other interested persons. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of distribution of its site manager's contact information at least 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting and upon changes to the site manager.

4.3.3 Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions

The Permittee shall train and educate all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the solar energy generating system of the terms and conditions of this permit. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.4 Independent Third-Party Monitor

Prior to any construction, the Permittees shall propose a scope of work and identify one independent third party monitor on behalf of the Department of Commerce. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by the Department of Commerce. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of the Department of Commerce with costs borne by the Permittee. The Permittee shall file the scope of work, and the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the third-party monitor with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, and upon changes to the scope of work or third-party monitor contact information.

4.3.5 Public Services and Public Utilities

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services and public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these will be temporary, and the Permittee will restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate mitigation measures if not already considered as part of this permit.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.6 Temporary Workspace

The Permittee shall select temporary workspace and equipment staging areas that limit the removal and impacts to vegetation. The Permittee shall not site temporary workspace in wetlands or native prairie as defined in sections 4.3.13 and 4.3.14. The Permittee shall site temporary workspace to comply with standards for development of the shorelands of public waters as defined in Section 4.3.13. The Permittee shall obtain temporary easements outside of the authorized Project Boundary from affected landowners through rental agreements as these are not provided for in this permit.

4.3.7 Noise

The Permittee shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080, at all times and at all appropriate locations during operation of the Project. Construction and maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours to the extent practicable.

4.3.8 Aesthetics

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners and the local unit of government having direct zoning authority over the area in which the Project is located. The Permittee shall use care to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the Project during construction and operation.

4.3.9 Topsoil Protection

The Permittee shall implement measures to protect and segregate topsoil from subsoil on all lands.

4.3.10 Soil Compaction

The Permittee shall implement measures to minimize soil compaction of all lands utilized for Project construction and travelled on by cranes, heavy equipment, and heavy trucks.

4.3.11 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Permittee shall implement erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Construction Stormwater Program. If construction of the facility disturbs more than one acre of land, or is sited in an area designated by the MPCA as having potential for impacts to water resources, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Construction Stormwater Permit from the MPCA that provides for the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that describes methods to control erosion and runoff.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by

promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate revegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

4.3.12 Public Lands

In no case shall photovoltaic tracker rows and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, be in the public lands identified in Minn. R. 7850.4400, subp. 1, or in federal waterfowl production areas. Photovoltaic tracker rows and associated facilities shall not be in the public lands identified in Minn. R. 7850.4400, subp. 3, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative.

4.3.13 Wetlands and Water Resources

The Permittee shall not place the solar energy generating system or associated facilities in public waters and public waters wetlands, as shown on the public water inventory maps prescribed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103G, except that electric collector or feeder lines may cross or be placed in public waters or public waters wetlands subject to permits and approvals by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and local units of government as implementers of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act. The Permittee shall locate the solar energy generating system and associated facilities in compliance with the standards for development of the shorelands of public waters as identified in Minn. R. 6120.3300, and as adopted, Minn. R. 6120.2800, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative.

The Permittee shall construct in wetland areas during frozen ground conditions, to the extent feasible, to minimize impacts. When construction during winter is not possible, wooden or composite mats shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. The Permittee shall contain and manage soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas in accordance with all applicable wetland permits. The Permittee shall access wetlands and riparian areas shall be accessed using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts.

The Permittee shall restore wetland and water resource areas disturbed by construction activities to pre-construction conditions in accordance with the requirements of applicable

state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements. The Permittee shall meet the USACE, DNR, and local units of government requirements.

4.3.14 Native Prairie

The Permittee shall not place the solar energy generating system or associated facilities in native prairie, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 84.02, subd. 5, unless addressed in a prairie protection and management plan and not located in areas enrolled in the Native Prairie Bank Program. The Permittee shall not impact native prairie during construction activities, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216E.01, unless addressed in a prairie protection and management plan.

The Permittee shall prepare a prairie protection and management plan in consultation with the DNR if native prairie, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 84.02, subd. 5, is identified within the Project Boundary. The Permittee shall file the prairie protection and management plan with the Commission at least 30 days prior to submitting the site plan required by Section 8.3 of this permit. The prairie protection and management plan shall address steps that will be taken to avoid impacts to native prairie and mitigation to unavoidable impacts to native prairie by restoration or management of other native prairie areas that are in degraded condition, by conveyance of conservation easements, or by other means agreed to by the Permittee, the DNR, and the Commission.

4.3.15 Vegetation Removal

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees removed in selecting the site layout specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and other vegetation, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or interfere with the safe operation of the Project.

4.3.16 Beneficial Habitat

The Permittee shall implement site restoration and management practices that provide for native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat beneficial to gamebirds, songbirds, and pollinators; and that enhances soil water retention and reduces storm water runoff and erosion. To ensure continued management and recognition of beneficial habitat, the Permittee is encouraged to meet the standards for Minnesota's Habitat Friendly Solar Program by submitting project plans, seed mixes, a completed project planning assessment form, and any other applicable documentation used to meet the standard to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). If the Permittee chooses to participate in Minnesota's Habitat-Friendly Solar

Program, it shall file documents required to be filed with BWSR for meeting and maintaining Habitat Friendly Solar Certification with the Commission.

4.3.17 Vegetation Management Plan

The Permittee shall develop a vegetation management plan (VMP), in coordination with the Department of Commerce, and the Vegetation Management Working Group (VMWG), using best management practices established by the DNR and BWSR. The Permittee shall file the VMP and documentation of the coordination efforts between the Permittee and the coordinating agencies with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. Landowner-specific vegetation requests resulting from individual consultation between the Company and a landowner need not be included in the Vegetation Management Plan. The Permittee shall provide all landowners within the Project Boundary with copies of the VMP. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of its distribution of the VMP to landowners at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

The VMP must include the following:

- (a) management objectives addressing short term (year 0-5, seeding and establishment) and long term (year 5 through the life of the Project) goals;
- (b) a description of planned restoration and vegetation management activities, including how the site will be prepared, timing of activities, how seeding will occur (broadcast, drilling, etc.), and the types of seed mixes to be used;
- (c) a description of how the site will be monitored and evaluated to meet management goals;
- (d) a description of the management tools used to maintain vegetation (*e.g.*, mowing, spot spraying, hand removal, fire, grazing, etc.), including the timing and frequency of maintenance activities;
- (e) identification of the third-party (*e.g.*, consultant, contractor, site manager, etc.) contracted for restoration, monitoring, and long-term vegetation management of the site;
- (f) identification of on-site noxious weeds and invasive species (native and non-native) and the monitoring and management practices to be utilized; and

(g) a marked-up copy of the site plan showing how the site will be revegetated and that identifies the corresponding seed mixes.

Best management practices should be followed concerning seed mixes, seeding rates, and cover crops.

4.3.18 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan

The Permittee shall develop an agricultural impact mitigation plan (AIMP) in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). The Permittee shall provide landowners within the Project Boundary with a copy of the AIMP. The Permittee shall file with the Commission the AIMP and an affidavit of the AIMP distribution to landowners at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

4.3.19 Application of Pesticides

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the MDA, DNR, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage adjacent properties including crops, orchards, tree farms, apiaries, or gardens. The Permittee shall contact the landowner at least 14 days prior to pesticide application on their property. The Permittee may not apply any pesticide if the landowner request that there be no application within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to adjacent landowners and beekeepers operating known apiaries within three miles of the Project Boundary at least 14 days prior to such application. The Permittee shall keep pesticide communication and application records and provide them upon the Commission's request.

4.3.20 Invasive Species

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities. The Permittee shall develop an Invasive Species Prevention Plan to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities and file with the Commission 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

4.3.21 Noxious Weeds

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.22 Roads

The Permittee shall advise the appropriate governing bodies having jurisdiction over all state, county, city or township roads that will be used during the construction phase of the project. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with construction of the Project. The Permittee shall not haul oversize or overweight loads associated with the Project on public roads without required permits and approvals.

The Permittee shall locate all perimeter fencing and vegetative screening in a manner that does not interfere with routine road maintenance activities and allows for continued safe travel on public roads.

The Permittee shall construct the fewest number of site access roads it can. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ways without the required permits and approvals. Access roads shall be constructed in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits.

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when accessing construction workspace, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.23 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when constructing the facility. If a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Archaeologist. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an

effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with the SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, the Permittee shall train workers about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall not resume construction at such location until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.24 Interference

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the project, the Permittee shall take whatever action is feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the project. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.25 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the areas affected by construction of the Project to the condition that existed immediately before construction began to the greatest extent possible. The time period to complete restoration may be no longer than 12 months after the completion of construction, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. Restoration shall be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance and inspection of the Project. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall notify the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

4.3.26 Cleanup

The Permittee shall remove and properly dispose of all construction waste and scrap from the site and all premises on which construction activities were conducted upon completion of each task. The Permittee shall remove and properly dispose of all personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities on a daily basis.

4.3.27 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment shall be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and operation of the facility.

4.3.28 Damages

The Permittee shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.29 Public Safety

The Permittee shall provide educational materials to landowners within and adjacent to the Project Boundary and, upon request, to interested persons about the Project and any restrictions or dangers associated with the Project. The Permittee shall also implement any necessary safety measures such as placing warning signs and gates for traffic control or to restrict public access. The Permittee shall submit the location of all underground facilities, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216D.01, subd. 11, to Gopher State One Call following the completion of the construction of the Project. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.3.30 Site Identification

The Permittee shall mark the solar energy generating system with a clearly visible identification number and or street address.

4.3.31 Security Fencing

The Permittee shall design the security fence surrounding the solar energy generating system to minimize the visual impact of the Project while maintaining compliance with the National Electric Safety Code. The Permittee shall develop a final fence plan for the specific site in coordination with EERA and the DNR. The final fence plan shall be submitted to the Commission as part of the site plan pursuant to Section 8.3.

4.4 Feeder Lines

The Permittee may use a hybrid electrical collection system of aboveground and belowground conductors to balance direct and indirect aesthetic impacts, electrical interference potential, bird collisions and electrocution, and soil impacts.

The Permittee may use overhead or underground feeder lines that carry power from an internal project interconnection point to the project substation or interconnection point on the electrical grid. The Permittee shall place overhead and underground feeder lines that parallel public roads within the public right-of-way or on private land immediately adjacent to the road. The Permittee shall obtain approval from the landowner or government unit responsible for the affected right-of-way.

The Permittee shall locate feeder lines in such a manner as to minimize interference with agricultural operations including, but not limited, to existing drainage patterns, drain tile, future tiling plans, and ditches. The Permittee shall place safety shields on all guy wires associated with overhead feeder lines. The Permittee shall submit the engineering drawings of all collector and feeder lines with the site plan pursuant to Section 8.3.

4.5 Other Requirements

4.5.1 Safety Codes and Design Requirements

The Permittee shall design the solar energy generating system and associated facilities to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. standards, the National Electric Safety Code, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation requirements. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with these standards and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

4.5.2 Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

4.5.3 Prevailing Wage

The Permittee, its contractors, and subcontractors shall pay no less than the prevailing wage rate as defined in Minnesota Statute 177.42, and shall be subject to the requirements and enforcement provisions under Minnesota Statute sections 177.27, 177.30, 177.32, 177.41 to 177.435, and 177.45.

5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit should there be a conflict.

5.1 Facility Lighting

The Permittee must use shielded and downward facing lighting and LED lighting that minimizes blue hue at the project substation and operations and maintenance facility. Downward facing lighting must be clearly visible on the site plan submitted for the project.

5.2 Dust Control

The Permittee shall utilize non-chloride products for dust control activities.

5.3 Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control

The Permittee shall use only "bionetting" or "natural netting" types and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives.

6 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the site within four years after the date of issuance of this permit the Permittee shall file a report on the failure to construct and the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

7 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

8 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

8.1 Pre-Construction Meeting

Prior to the start of any construction, the Permittee shall participate in a pre-construction meeting with the Department of Commerce and Commission staff to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of construction and site restoration activities. Within 14 days following the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees with the Commission. The Permittee shall indicate in the filing the construction start date.

8.2 Pre-Operation Meeting

At least 14 days prior to commercial operation of the Project, the Permittee shall participate in a pre-operation meeting with the Department of Commerce and Commission staff to coordinate field monitoring of operation activities for the Project. Within 14 days following the pre-operation meeting, the Permittee shall file a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees with the Commission.

8.3 Site Plan

At least 30 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission, and provide the Department of Commerce, and Murray County with a site plan

that includes specifications and drawings for site preparation and grading; specifications and locations of the solar energy generating system and associated facilities; and procedures for cleanup and restoration. The documentation shall include maps depicting the Project Boundary, solar energy generating system and associated facilities layout in relation to that approved by this permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the earlier of (i) 30 days after the preconstruction meeting or (ii) until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Commission notifies the Permittee in writing within 30 days after the pre-construction meeting that it has completed its review of the documents and planned construction, and finds that the planned construction in not consistent with this permit, the Permittee may submit additional and/or revised documentation and may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit.

If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes to its site plan or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, the Department of Commerce, and Murray County at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

8.4 Status Reports

The Permittee shall file monthly status reports on progress regarding site construction with the Commission. Reports shall begin with the issuance of the site permit and continue until completion of restoration. Reports shall describe construction activities and progress, and activities undertaken in compliance with this permit. Reports shall include text and photographs.

If the Permittee does not commence construction of the Project within six months of the permit issuance, the Permittee shall file status reports on the anticipated timing of construction every six months beginning with the issuance of this permit until the pre-construction meeting. The status updates shall include information on the Project's Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) interconnection process.

8.5 Labor Statistic Reporting

The Permittee shall file quarterly reports with the Commission within 45 days of the end of the quarter regarding construction workers that participated in the construction of the Project. The reports shall:

- (a) detail the Permittee's efforts and the site contractor's efforts to hire Minnesota workers; and
- (b) provide an account of:
 - (i) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are Minnesota residents, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 290.01, subd. 7;
 - (ii) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are residents of other states, but maintain a permanent residence within 150 miles of the Project; and
 - (iii) the total gross hours worked or total full-time equivalent workers. Permittee shall work with its contractor to determine the suitable reporting metric. The report may not include personally identifiable data.

8.6 In-Service Date

At least three days before the facility is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the facility will be placed into service and the date on which construction was completed.

8.7 As-Builts

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

8.8 GPS Data

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the solar energy generating system.

8.9 Project Energy Production

The Permittee shall, by February 1st following each complete or partial year of project operation, file a report with the Commission on the monthly energy production of the facility including:

- (a) the installed nameplate capacity of the permitted facility;
- (b) the total daily energy generated by the facility in MW hours;
- (c) the total monthly energy generated by the facility in MW hours;
- (d) the monthly capacity factor of the facility;
- (e) yearly energy production and capacity factor for the facility;
- (f) the average monthly and average annual solar strength gradient measured in kWh/m²/Day observed at the facility;
- (g) the operational status of the facility and any major outages, major repairs, or performance improvements occurring in the previous year; and
- (h) any other information reasonably requested by the Commission.

This information shall be considered public and must be filed electronically.

8.10 Emergency Response

The Permittee shall prepare an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) in consultation with the emergency responders having jurisdiction over the Project prior to construction. The Permittee shall file the ERP, along with any comments from emergency responders, to the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting and a revised ERP, if any, at least 14 days prior to the pre-operation meeting. At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting the Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of the distribution of the ERP to emergency responders and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) with jurisdiction over the Project. The Permittee shall obtain and register the Project address or other location indicators acceptable to the emergency responders and PSAP having jurisdiction over the Project.

8.11 Extraordinary Events

Within 24 hours of discovery of an occurrence, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of any extraordinary event. Extraordinary events include but shall not be limited to: fires, solar panel collapse, acts of sabotage, collector or feeder line failure, and injured worker or private person. The Permittee shall, within 30 days of the occurrence, file a report with the Commission describing the cause of the occurrence and the steps taken to avoid future occurrences.

8.12 Wildlife Injuries and Fatalities

The Permittee shall report any wildlife injuries and fatalities to the Commission quarterly.

9 DECOMMISSIONING AND RESTORATION

9.1 Decommissioning Plan

The Permittee shall comply with the provisions of the most recently filed and accepted decommissioning plan. The initial version of the decommissioning plan was submitted for this project as Appendix G to the Site Permit Application. The Permittee shall file an updated decommissioning plan incorporating comments and information from the permit application process and any updates associated with the final construction plans with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall update and file the decommissioning plan with the Commission every five years following the commercial operation date.

The decommissioning plan shall provide information identifying all surety and financial securities established for decommissioning and site restoration. The decommissioning plan shall provide an itemized breakdown of costs of decommissioning all Project components, which shall include labor and equipment. The plan shall identify cost estimates for the removal of solar panels, racks, underground collection cables, access roads, transformers, substations, and other Project components. The decommissioning plan may also include anticipated costs for the replacement of panels or repowering the Project by upgrading equipment.

The Permittee shall also submit the decommissioning plan to the local unit of government having direct zoning authority over the area in which the Project is located. The Permittee shall ensure that it carries out its obligations to provide for the resources necessary to fulfill its requirements to properly decommission the Project at the appropriate time. The Commission may at any time request the Permittee to file a report with the Commission describing how the Permittee is fulfilling this obligation.

9.2 Site Final Restoration

Upon expiration of this permit or upon termination of operation of the project, the Permittee shall have the obligation to dismantle and remove from the site all solar panels, mounting steel posts and beams, inverters, transformers, overhead and underground cables and lines, foundations, buildings, and ancillary equipment in accordance with the most recently filed and accepted decommissioning plan. To the extent feasible, the Permittee shall restore and reclaim the site to pre-project conditions. Landowners may require the site be returned to agricultural production or may retain restored prairie vegetation, or other land uses as agreed to between the landowner and the Permittee. All access roads shall be removed unless written approval is given by the affected landowner requesting that one or more roads, or portions thereof, be retained. All such agreements between the Permittee and the affected landowner shall be submitted to the Commission prior to completion of restoration activities. The site shall be restored in accordance with the requirements of this condition within 18 months of termination.

The Permittee shall restore the site in accordance with the requirements of this condition and file a notification of final restoration completion to the Commission within 18 months of termination of operation of the Project.

9.3 Abandoned Solar Installations

The Permittee shall notify the Commission of any solar equipment that is abandoned prior to termination of operation of the Project. Equipment shall be considered abandoned after one year without energy production and the land restored pursuant to Section 9.2 unless a plan is submitted to and approved by the Commission outlining the steps and schedule for returning the equipment to service.

10 COMMISSION AUTHORITY AFTER PERMIT ISSUANCE

10.1 Final Boundaries

After completion of construction the Commission shall determine the need to adjust the final Project Boundary required for the Project. This permit may be modified, after notice and

opportunity for hearing, to represent the actual Project Boundary required by the Permittee to operate the Project authorized by this permit.

10.2 Expansion of Site Boundaries

No expansion of the site boundary described in this permit shall be authorized without the approval of the Commission. The Permittee may submit to the Commission a request for a change in the boundary of the site for the project. The Commission will respond to the requested change in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

10.3 Periodic Review

The Commission shall initiate a review of this permit and the applicable conditions at least once every five years. The purpose of the periodic review is to allow the Commission, the Permittee, and other interested persons an opportunity to consider modifications in the conditions of this permit. No modification may be made except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

10.4 Modification of Conditions

After notice and opportunity for hearing this permit may be modified or amended for cause, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) violation of any condition in this permit;
- (b) endangerment of human health or the environment by operation of the project; or
- (c) existence of other grounds established by rule.

10.5 More Stringent Rules

The issuance of this permit does not prevent the future adoption by the Commission of rules or orders more stringent than those now in existence and does not prevent the enforcement of these more stringent rules and orders against the Permittee.

10.6 Right of Entry

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards:

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.
- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

11 PERMIT AMENDMENT

This permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

12 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity (transferee). In its request, the Permittee must provide the Commission with:

- (a) the name and description of the transferee;
- (b) the reasons for the transfer;
- (c) a description of the facilities affected; and
- (d) the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The transferee must provide the Commission with the name and contact information for the site manager, as described in Section 4.3.2, and either a current version with e-docket reference, or a revised version of the following:

- (a) VMP as described in Section 4.3.17;
- (b) complaint procedures, as described in Section 7 and Attachment 1;
- (c) ERP, as described in Section 8.10; and
- (d) decommissioning plan, as described in Section 9

13 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100, to revoke or suspend the permit.

14 EXPIRATION DATE

This permit shall expire 30 years after the date this permit was approved and adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1 Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting and resolving complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance.

B. Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

D. Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site or route preparation, cleanup or restoration, or other permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved to one or both of the parties.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private; however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing

- The permittee shall designate a representative responsible for filing complaints to the Commission's eDocket system. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals. The name and contact information for the representative shall be kept current in eDockets.
- 2. A person presenting the complaint should, to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
 - b. initial date of the complaint;
 - c. tract, parcel number, or address of the complaint;
 - d. a summary of the complaint; and
 - e. whether the complaint relates to a permit violation, a construction practice issue, or other type of complaint.
- 3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
 - a. docket number and project name;
 - b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
 - c. precise description of property or parcel number;
 - d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
 - e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
 - f. summary of activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
 - g. a statement on the final disposition of the complaint.

F. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit, unless otherwise required below. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. For e-mail reporting, the email

subject line should read "PUC EFP Complaint" and include the appropriate project docket number.

Monthly Reports: During project construction, restoration, and operation, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed by the 15th of each month to Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp. If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

If a project has submitted twelve consecutive months of complaint reports with no complaints, monthly reports can terminate by a letter to eDockets notifying the Commission of such action. If a substantial complaint is received (by the company or the Commission) following termination of the monthly complaint report, as noted above, the monthly reporting should commence for a period of one year following the most recent complaint or upon resolution of all pending complaints.

If a permittee is found to be in violation of this section, the Commission may reinstate monthly complaint reporting for the remaining permit term or enact some other commensurate requirement via notification by the Executive Secretary or some other action as decided by the Commission.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding the permit or issues related to site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, or operation and maintenance will be promptly sent to the permittee.

The permittee shall notify the Commission when the issue has been resolved. The permittee will add the complaint to the monthly reports of all complaints. If the permittee is unable to find resolution, the Commission will use the process outlined in the Unresolved Complaints Section to process the issue.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Complaints raising substantial and unresolved permit issues will be investigated by the Commission. Staff will notify the permittee and appropriate persons if it determines that the

complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, the permittee and complainant shall be required to submit a written summary of the complaint and its current position on the issues to the Commission. Staff will set a deadline for comments. As necessary, the complaint will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting

Complaints may be filed by mail or email to the permittee's designated complaint representative, or to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. The name and contact information for the permittee's designated complaint representative shall be kept current in the Commission's eDocket system. ATTACHMENT 2 Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Commission energy facility permits.

B. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all known compliance filings required by permit.

C. Definitions

Compliance Filing: A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

D. Responsibilities

 The permittee shall file all compliance filings with Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to file documents.

- 2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
 - a. Date
 - b. Name of submitter/permittee
 - c. Type of permit (site or route)
 - d. Project location
 - e. Project docket number
 - f. Permit section under which the filing is made
 - g. Short description of the filing

 Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being electronically filed, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any electronically filed document.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEE: Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC PERMIT TYPE: Solar Energy Generating System Site Permit PROJECT LOCATION: Murray County, Minnesota PUC DOCKET NUMBER: IP-7070/GS-21-792

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
	4.1	Permit Distribution	30 days after permit issuance
	4.3.1	Field Representative	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	4.3.2	Site Manager	14 days prior to pre- operation meeting
	4.3.4	Independent Third-Party Monitor	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	4.3.17	Vegetation Management Plan	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	4.3.18	Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	4.3.19	Application of Pesticides	14 days prior to application
	4.3.20	Invasive Species Plan	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	4.3.25	Site Restoration Notification	60 days after completion of all restauration activities

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
	4.3.31	Security Fencing Plan	With Site Plan
	4.4	Feeder and Collector Line Drawings	With Site Plan
	6	Delay in Construction	Four years after permit issuance, as needed
	7	Complaint Procedures	Prior to construction
	8.1	Pre-construction Meeting Summary	14 days after the meeting
	8.2	Pre-operation Meeting Summary	14 days after the meeting
	8.3	Site Plan	30 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	8.3	Changes to Site Plan after Authorization	Five days prior to implementing changes
	8.4	Status Reports	Monthly
	8.5	Labor Statistic Reporting	Quarterly
	8.6	In-Service Date	Three days before
	8.7	As-Builts	90 days after completion of construction

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
	8.8	GPS Data	90 days after completion of construction
	8.9	Energy Production Report	Yearly on February 1 st
	8.10	Emergency Response Plan	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	8.11	Extraordinary Events	Notification within 24 hours of discovery and report 30 days after occurrence
	8.12	Wildlife Injuries and Fatalities	Quarterly
	9.1	Decommissioning Plan	14 days prior to pre- construction meeting
	9.2	Site Final Restoration	Within 18 months of project termination
	Complaint Reporting	Monthly Complaint Reports	Attachment 1 to Site Permit
	Complaint Reporting	Immediate Complaint Reports	Attachment 1 to Site Permit

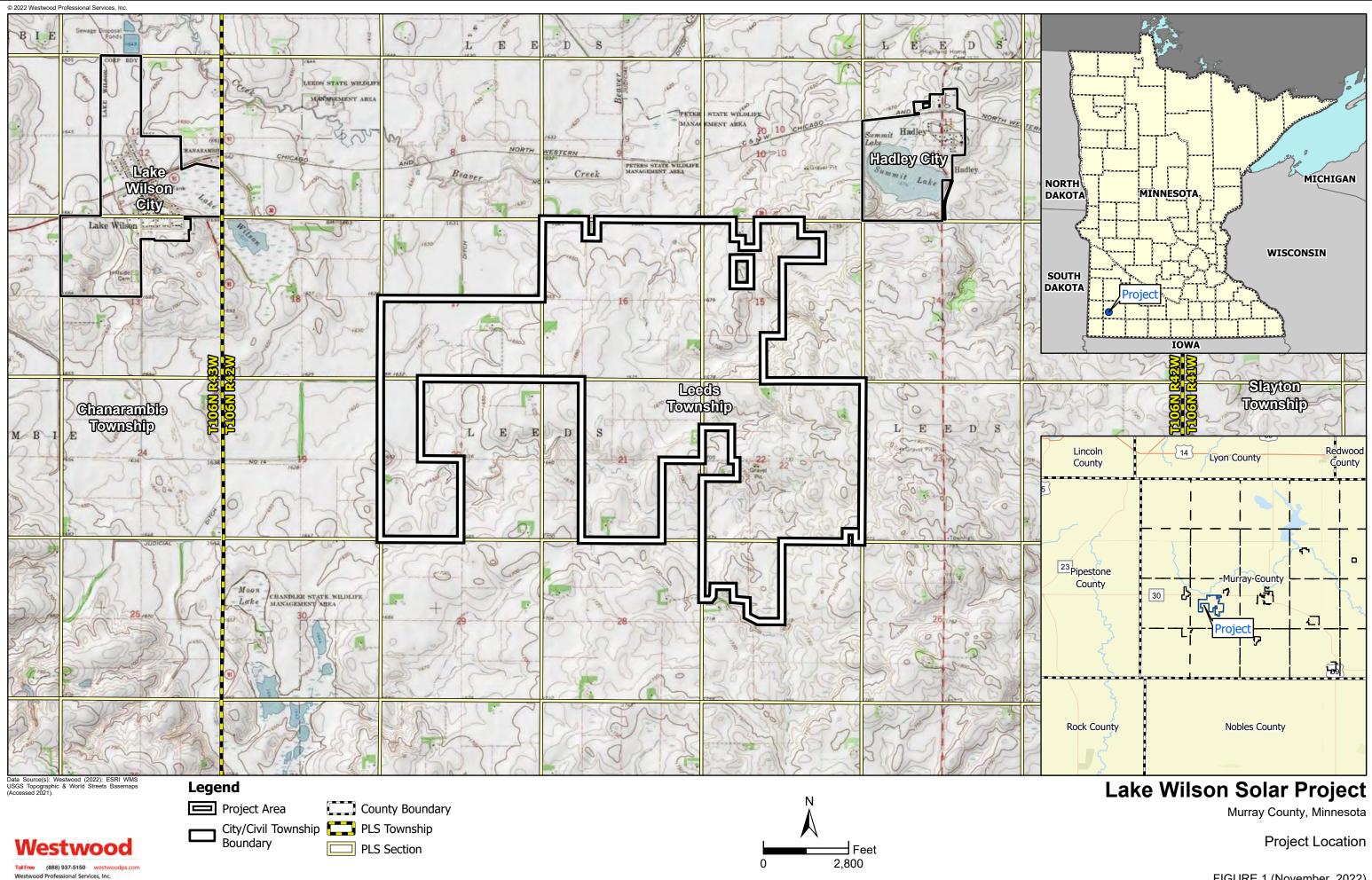
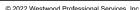
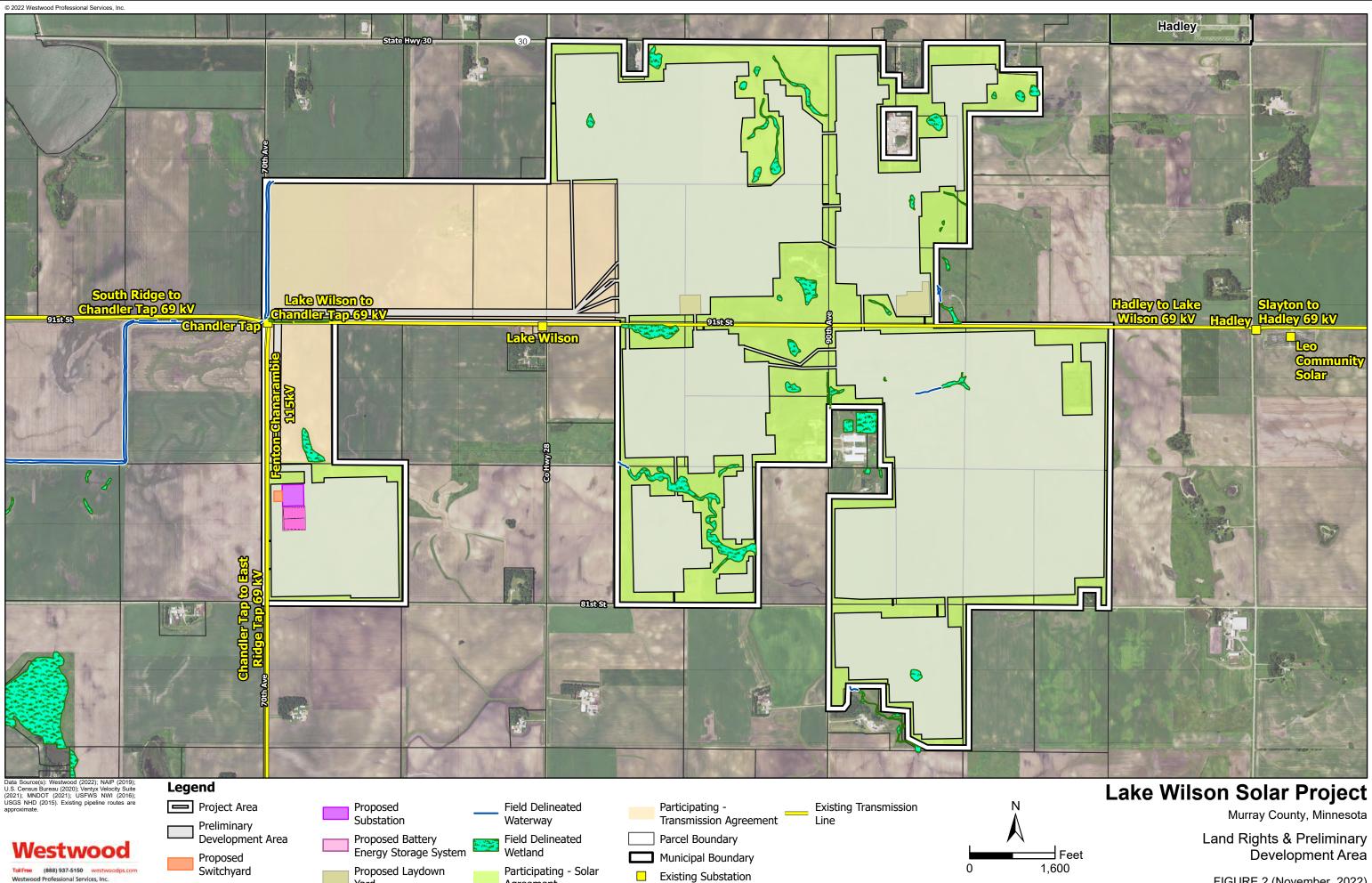


FIGURE 1 (November, 2022)



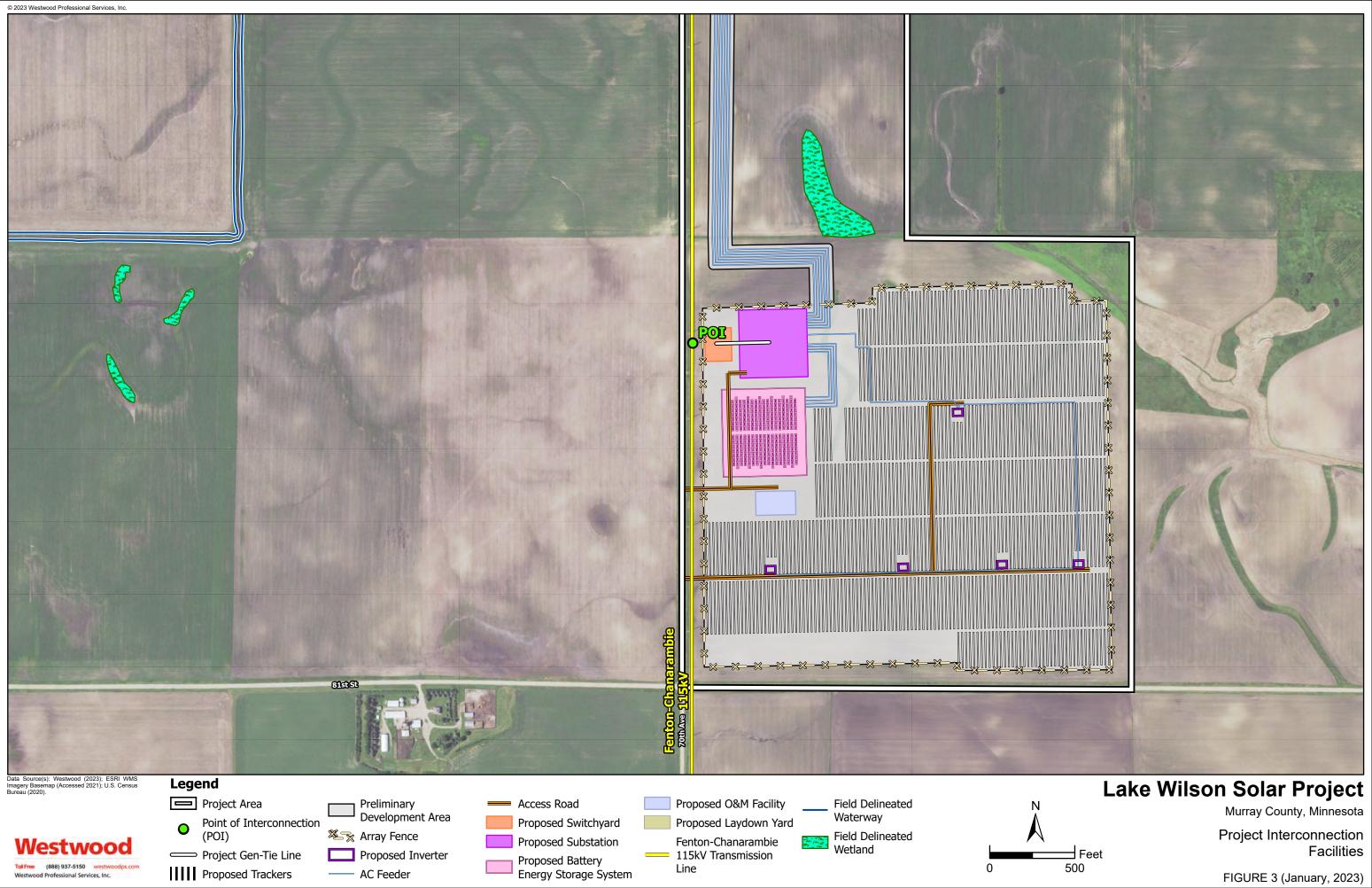


Westwood Professional Services, Inc.

Yard

Agreement

FIGURE 2 (November, 2022)





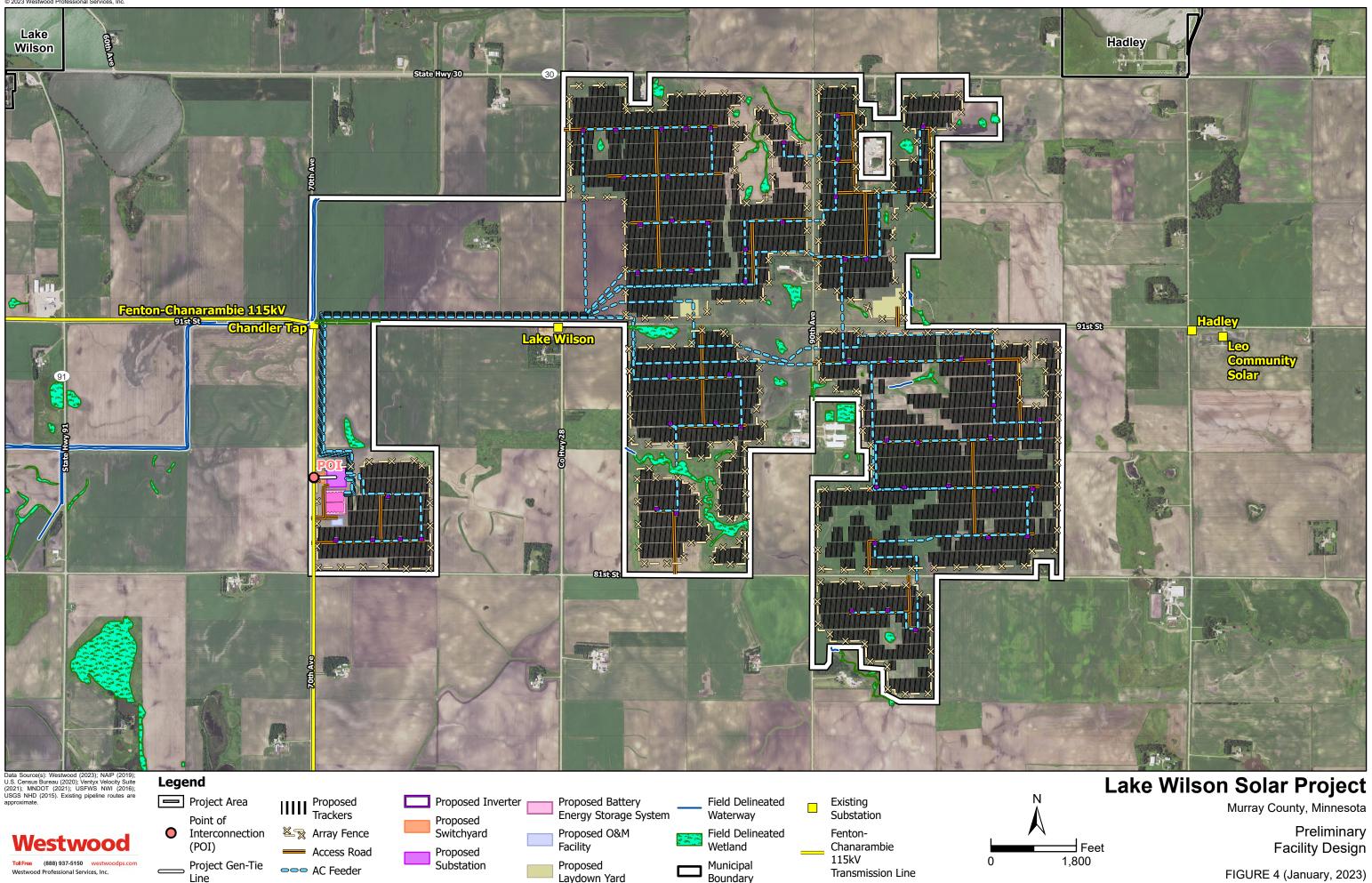


FIGURE 4 (January, 2023)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mai Choua Xiong, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND ISSUING SITE PERMIT

Docket Number **IP-7070/CN-21-791; IP-7070/GS-21-792** Dated this 23rd day of April, 2024

/s/ Mai Choua Xiong

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
David	Bell	david.bell@state.mn.us	Department of Health	POB 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Mark D	Crowl	MCrowl@invenergy.com	Invenergy, LLC	1401 17th St Ste 1100 Denver, CO 80202	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Randall	Doneen	randall.doneen@state.mn.u S	Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Rd, PO Box 25 Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Richard	Dornfeld	Richard.Dornfeld@ag.state .mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Minnesota Attorney General's Office 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1800 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Jeremy	Duehr	jduehr@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Adam	Duininck	aduininck@ncsrcc.org	North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters	700 Olive Street St. Paul, MN 55130	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Bret	Eknes	bret.eknes@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Kate	Fairman	kate.frantz@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 551554032	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix- gerth@state.mn.us		Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Todd	Green	Todd.A.Green@state.mn.u s	Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry	443 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul, MN 55155-4341	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Kari	Howe	kari.howe@state.mn.us	DEED	332 Minnesota St, #E200 1ST National Bank Bl St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service dg	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Craig	Janezich	craig.janezich@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E #350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Ray	Kirsch	Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Chad	Konickson	chad.konickson@usace.ar my.mil	U.S.Army Corps of Engineers	180 5th St <i>#</i> 700 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Stacy	Kotch Egstad	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Dawn S	Marsh	dawn_marsh@fws.gov	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Offices 4101 American Blvd E Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
James	Mortenson	james.mortenson@state.m n.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	PO BOX 64620 St. Paul, MN 55164-0620	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Jenna	Ness	jenna.ness@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th place east St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Cezar	Panait	Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.stat e.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Nathaniel	Runke	nrunke@local49.org	International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49	611 28th St. NW Rochester, MN 55901	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Joe	Sedarski	joe.sedarski@westwoodps. com	Westwood	12701 Whiewater Dr Ste 300 Minnetonka, MN 55343	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.co m	Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield, MN 55423	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Jayme	Trusty	execdir@swrdc.org	SWRDC	2401 Broadway Ave #1 Slayton, MN 56172	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Jen	Tyler	tyler.jennifer@epa.gov	US Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Planning & Evaluation Unit 77 W Jackson Blvd. Mailstop B-19J Chicago, IL 60604-3590	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.m n.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Alan	Whipple	sa.property@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department Of Revenue	Property Tax Division 600 N. Robert Street St. Paul, MN 551463340	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Jonathan	Wolfgram	Jonathan.Wolfgram@state. mn.us	Office of Pipeline Safety	445 Minnesota St Ste 147 Woodbury, MN 55125	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791
Robert	Young	Ryoung@invenergy.com	Invenergy, LLC	One S Wacker Dr Ste 1800 Chicago, IL 60606	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-791_IP7070- CN-21-791

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Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Mark D	Crowl	MCrowl@invenergy.com	Invenergy, LLC	1401 17th St Ste 1100 Denver, CO 80202	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Richard	Dornfeld	Richard.Dornfeld@ag.state .mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Minnesota Attorney General's Office 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1800 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Jeremy	Duehr	jduehr@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Bret	Eknes	bret.eknes@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Craig	Janezich	craig.janezich@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E #350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792

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Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-792_IP7070- GS-21-792
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