

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND
AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Issued: April 9, 2025

In the Matter of the Application of Snowshoe BESS, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 150 MW Snowshoe Energy Storage Project in Olmsted County, Minnesota.

PUC Docket Number: IP-7138/ESS-24-279

OAH Docket Number: 21-2500-40522

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on Snowshoe BESS, LLC's (Snowshoe) application for a site permit to construct an up to 150-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) battery energy storage system with approximately 600 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy capacity in Kalmar Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota. (see attached map).

Snowshoe BESS, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Spearmint Renewable Development Company, LLC (Spearmint Energy). In addition to the battery energy storage system, the applicant may construct an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility at the site or may lease existing space nearby for an O&M facility.

In-Person Hearings

Date: April 23, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm (Open House) 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (public hearing)

Location: Somerby Golf Club
975 Somerby Parkway N.E.
Byron, MN 55920

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WoDZQmWrWTwYQztT9>

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Online Hearing via WebEx

Date: April 24, 2025

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m765c918c2232a8d9665565faaf956efa>

Webinar Number: 2483 662 2232

Webinar Password: snow2024 (76692024 from phone)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free **Access Code:** 2483 662 2232

If you are joining the meeting via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat or raised-hand functions to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at:

<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Public Hearing Information

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Kimberly Middendorf, an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input on the proposed project and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the site permit application. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the applicant; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project and on the environmental assessment; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in the site and route permit.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online hearings.
- The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first.

- Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **May 8, 2025 by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- Should the Commission grant a site permit for the proposed battery energy storage system?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the site permit?

Submit Comments

Online <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>
Email consumer.puc@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail Consumer Affairs Office
 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
 121 7th Place East, Suite 350
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Environmental Assessment

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) issued an environmental assessment (EA) for the project on April 9, 2025. The purpose of the EA is to provide information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, possible mitigations for identified impacts, and evaluation of any alternatives contained in the scoping decision. The EA is available on the Department's website at: <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15868>, and on eDockets (see below).

In addition to being available on eDockets and Project websites, the EA will be available at the Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd Street SE, Rochester, MN.

Print copies of the EA are also available from the Department upon request; please contact Suzanne Steinhauer at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or 651-539-1843.

Additional Information

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under (Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3500). The rules and statutes are available for review at:
www.revisor.mn.gov

Review Process. Information on the review processes for certificates of need and site and route permits for large electric power facilities is available on the Commission's website at:
<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/>

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling:
mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at
mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets*, enter 24-279 and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number 24-279, your name, mailing address, and email address.

Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Jacques Harvieux at jacques.harvieux@state.mn.us or 651-201-2233.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Snowshoe Energy Storage Project

Project Location & USGS Topography

Figure 1 (June, 2024)

Legend

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundary
- State Boundary
- NHD Waterbody
- County Boundary
- NHD Flowline
- PLSS Township Boundary
- Major Road
- PLSS Section Boundary
- Road
- Civil Township Boundary
- Railroad

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