

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Applications of
Benton Solar, LLC for a Site Permit
for the 100 MW Solar Energy
Generating System, a Site Permit for
the 100 MW Battery Energy Storage
System and a Route Permit for the
115-kV High-Voltage Transmission
Line Associated with the Benton Solar
Project in Benton County, Minnesota

Docket No. IP7115/GS-23-423
Docket No. IP7115/ESS-24-283
Docket No. IP7115/TL-23-425
OAH Docket No. 25-2500-40508

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

Anthony Bass

On Behalf of

BENTON SOLAR, LLC

June 30, 2025

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Schedule 1 – Resume of Anthony Bass

I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Anthony Bass. My business address is 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, FL 33408.

Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I am employed as a Senior Project Manager by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (“NEER”) in the Engineering and Construction business unit.

Q. For whom are you testifying?

A. I am submitting testimony on behalf of Benton Solar, LLC (“Benton Solar”).

Q. What is your role with respect to the Benton Solar Project?¹

A. I am the lead preconstruction project manager supporting the Engineering and Construction department for Benton Solar.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to detail the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Solar Facility, BESS, and Transmission Line. My testimony is organized into four parts: (i) Solar Facility and BESS technical specifications, construction, and operation; (ii) Transmission Line technical specifications, construction, and operation; (iii) the engineering, construction, and procurement (“EPC”) work required to construct the Solar Facility, BESS, and Transmission Line; and (iv) responses to public comments about the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Q. What conclusions do you reach in your testimony?

¹ My testimony refers to the up to 100-megawatt (“MW”) capacity solar energy conversion facility as the “Solar Facility,” the up to 100-MW battery energy storage system as the “BESS,” and the approximately 0.5 mile, 115-kilovolt high-voltage transmission line as the “Transmission Line.” My testimony uses the term “Project” to refer to all three components collectively (i.e., the Solar Facility, the BESS, and the Transmission Line).

1 A. For the reasons I provide in this testimony, I conclude that the Project will be constructed,
2 operated, and decommissioned in a safe and efficient manner that is compliant with
3 generally accepted engineering standards and applicable conditions anticipated in the Site
4 Permits for the Solar Facility and the BESS and Route Permit for the Transmission Line
5 (“Route Permit”).

6 **Q. Please summarize your qualification and experience.**

7 A. I have been employed by NEER since September 2018. From that time until January 2023,
8 I worked in the estimating department. In January 2023, I began a new role with the project
9 management department where I have overseen and managed the preconstruction of
10 numerous solar projects across the U.S.

11 **Q. What Sections of the Joint Site Permit Application and Route Permit Application**
12 **(“Applications”) are you sponsoring?**

13 A. I sponsor all portions of the Applications related to the construction, operation, and
14 decommissioning of the Project.

15 **Q. What schedules are attached to your testimony?**

16 A. Attached to my testimony are the following schedules:

- 17 • Schedule 1 – Resume of Anthony Bass

18 **Q. Was this testimony drafted by you or under your supervision?**

19 A. Yes.

20 **II. SOLAR FACILITY AND BESS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS,**
21 **CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION**

22 **Q. Can you provide an overview of the Solar Facility configuration?**

1 A. The Solar Facility portion of the Project will use solar panels to collect energy from the
2 sun to produce direct current (“DC”) electrical power. Each row of panels will be connected
3 in series to one another, becoming what is referred to as a string. A group of several strings
4 will be connected and routed adjacent to the panels via DC cable that will be either
5 aboveground in a hanging harness system or belowground in a filled trench. This DC cable
6 will travel to a power conversion unit (“PCU”), which will convert the DC power from the
7 panels to alternating current (“AC”) power and step up the power to 34.5 kilovolts (“kV”)
8 AC power. A system of collection cables will then carry the generated power to the Project
9 substation.

10 As explained in more detail in the Joint Site Permit Application, the underground
11 collection system will deliver the power to the Project substation where the power is
12 converted to transmission voltage of 115 kV. The power is then transferred to the
13 Transmission Line, which will further transfer the power to Great River Energy’s (“GRE”)
14 equipment before the power is sent to the grid. (See Section 3 of the Joint Site Permit
15 Application).

16 a. **Technical Specifications for the Solar Facility and BESS**

17 **Q. What are the technical specifications of the Solar Facility?**

18 A. The Project’s solar arrays will use multiple photovoltaic (“PV”) panels fastened to an
19 efficient tracking system. Multiple PV panels will be installed on each tracking rack. The
20 tracking system will move the panels incrementally throughout the day to track the sun
21 from east to west. (See Images 3.1-1 and 3.1-2 in the Joint Site Permit Application). The
22 top edge of the PV panels on the racking system could be up to 20.0 feet in height from the
23 ground based on topography and manufacturer specifications.

1 Depending on the manufacturer and technology selected, the PV panels may have
2 silicon, aluminum frame, an undermount aluminum frame or side-mount weatherized
3 plastic backing, heat-resistant front glass, a laminated material encapsulating the panels for
4 weather protection, and light-absorbing, dark materials that are smooth with an anti-
5 reflection coating. The Project will require 3,532 PV tracking systems containing
6 approximately 260,208 PV panels, which is subject to change based on final equipment
7 allocation and design. A specific PV panel has not yet been selected for the Project.
8 Additional details about the components of the PV panels in contained in Section 3.1.1 of
9 the Joint Site Permit Application.

10 The tracking system consists of all the components involved in fastening the PV
11 panels to the tracker rows, plus the tracker beams, gearboxes, motors, and foundations. To
12 the extent practicable, the tracking system foundations will be driven steel piles not
13 requiring concrete foundation unless necessary due to site conditions. Based on current
14 information, Benton Solar considers the need to install concrete foundations highly
15 unlikely.

16 Multiple strings of PV panels will be connected and routed to a PCU via DC
17 electrical wiring. PCUs consist of metal structures housing inverters, medium-voltage
18 transformers, and air conditioning units. Inverters will convert the electrical power from
19 DC to AC in order to transport the power more efficiently to the substation. After power is
20 converted to AC at the inverter, it will be stepped up from low voltage (approximately 630-
21 volt (“V”)) to medium voltage (34.5 kV) by a transformer housed adjacent to the inverter.

22 PCUs will be located in the approximately 632-acre area where development is
23 expected to occur (“Preliminary Development Area”), and they will be centralized within

1 the array areas to maximize efficiency and minimize disturbance. The number of PCUs
2 will depend on inverter, transformer, air conditioning unit, and solar panel specifications
3 and availability. PCUs will be installed on concrete slabs or elevated pile foundations. (*See*
4 Image 3.1-4 and 3.1-5 in the Joint Site Permit Application).

5 The power generated by the PV panels is transferred to the PCU via DC collector
6 cables typically mounted underneath the panels using a hanging harness system. Between
7 the PCUs, and ending at the substation, the AC collection system will be located in
8 subsurface trenches or bores that will be constructed consistent with the Project
9 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (“AIMP”) and best management practices (“BMPs”)
10 outlined in the Project stormwater pollution prevention plan to minimize impacts to
11 existing vegetation and topsoil (*See* Appendix C of the Joint Site Permit Application).

12 **Q. Can you summarize the BESS portion of the Project?**

13 A. Yes. The BESS will store power from the Solar Facility and/or the grid, allowing power to
14 be distributed or collected at times when it is most advantageous. Individual battery cells
15 form the core of the BESS. Battery cells are assembled either in series or parallel in sealed
16 battery modules. Benton Solar will install battery modules in self-supporting racks that are
17 electrically connected either in series or parallel. Individual self-supporting racks are then
18 connected in series or parallel and terminated at a power conversion system (“PCS”). From
19 the PCS, power will flow to the substation via medium-voltage cables that will be installed
20 underground.

21 **Q. How are the battery modules housed?**

22 A. Multiple self-contained energy storage system steel cabinets will house the batteries and
23 the battery management systems (“BMS”). The BMSs are used in conjunction with the

1 site-wide programmable logic controller (“PLC”) to monitor battery voltage, current,
2 temperature, charge, discharge, thermal management, fault diagnosis, and more. Together,
3 the BMS and PLC are a multi-level control system designed to provide a hierarchical
4 system of controls for the battery modules and PCS up to the point of connection with the
5 substation. The BMS and PLC ensure that the BESS effectively responds to grid
6 emergency conditions and provide a secondary safety system designed to safely shut down
7 the BESS in the event of an emergency. The self-contained energy storage system cabinets
8 also contain the required heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (or HVAC) for
9 operation.

10 This non-occupiable, containerized design provides system segmentation and
11 spatial separation of BESS components, which greatly reduces the risk of fire propagation
12 and prevents people from becoming trapped inside if a fire does occur. Separate containers
13 also allow isolation of conditions in the unlikely event of an incident (e.g., overheating,
14 fire). Fire detection and safety topics are addressed in more detail by Benton Solar witness
15 Ashley Nunez.

16 **Q. How does the Power Conversion System operate?**

17 A. The PCS will be located in the BESS and consists of an inverter, transformer, protection
18 equipment, DC and AC circuit breakers, filter equipment, equipment terminals, and a
19 connection cabling system. Electric energy is transferred from the solar array and/or the
20 grid to the batteries during a battery charging cycle and from the batteries to the grid and/or
21 solar array during a battery discharge cycle. The PCS converts electric energy from AC to
22 DC when energy is transferred from the grid to the battery and from DC to AC when energy
23 is transferred from the battery to the grid and/or solar array. The energy conversion is

1 enabled by a bidirectional inverter that connects the DC battery system to the AC electrical
2 grid. The PCS will also include a transformer that converts the AC side output of the
3 inverter to medium AC voltage to increase the overall efficiency of the BESS and to protect
4 the PCS in the event of system electrical faults.

5 **Q. Can you please describe the electrical collection system, including the substation?**

6 A. Yes. Energy from the Solar Facility and BESS will be distributed through a series of
7 underground cables that comprise the electrical collection system, which will deliver power
8 to the collector substation. The power will be stepped up at the Project's collector
9 substation from the collection line voltage of 34.5 kV to the Transmission Line voltage of
10 115 kV and will interconnect to the existing GRE Benton County Substation.

11 As detailed in the Joint Site Permit Application, the electrical collection system will
12 be direct buried cable installed via open trench, plowed, or directional boring as appropriate
13 to minimize impacts. (See Section 3.2.3, Figure 3, and Appendix B of the Joint Site Permit
14 Application). Benton Solar will work with participants in the 951-acre area for which
15 Benton Solar has land control ("Site") that may be affected by the collection system to
16 ensure that the most ideal routes are used, taking the most direct paths practicable and
17 reducing impacts to the surrounding area. The electrical collection system routing may
18 change pending final design.

19 The collector substation footprint will be graveled to minimize vegetation growth,
20 reduce fire risk, and contain leaks for spills. The substation will be fenced with a 6.0 foot
21 above-grade chain-link fence topped with 1.0 foot of barbed wire for security and safety
22 purposes.

23

b. Construction Process for the Solar Facility and BESS

Q. How will the Solar Facility and BESS be constructed?

A. The construction of the Solar Facility and BESS will involve multiple procurement and assembly processes moving in parallel on a set schedule. To maintain construction progress, Benton Solar will order equipment on a project schedule that includes appropriate lead times. Further detail regarding key preconstruction and construction activities are in the Joint Site Permit Application.

Q. How long will it take to construct the Solar Facility and BESS?

A. Construction (i.e., the period beginning with start of earth-moving through mechanical completion) is expected to take approximately 14 months, which includes a 16-week winter window during which construction is expected to be scaled back substantially. The majority of construction activities will take place during the summer and fall.

Q. After construction is completed, how will the Solar Facility and BESS be energized?

A. The Solar Facility will be ready for energization after the cold commissioning activities have been completed on the PCUs. Benton Solar plans to finalize commissioning of the collector substation and switchyard simultaneously prior to energization. Once the switchyard is ready, a switch will be closed within the switchyard, which will allow power to flow through the new breaker triggering "Back Feed Available". Once cold commissioning of the substation has been completed, another switch at the high side of the generator step-up transformer ("GSU") in the collector substation will be closed, which will energize the substation and trigger "Back Feed". Finally, the final switches will be closed at the low side of the GSU in the collector substation to allow the solar facility to be energized, which triggers synchronization.

1 **Q. Does the construction phase require any remedial activities to be performed?**

2 A. No remedial activities are anticipated during the construction phase.

3 **Q. Are there remedial activities that will occur after construction?**

4 A. All temporary facilities that are constructed to build the Solar Facility will be
5 decommissioned following the completion of the construction project. Temporary laydown
6 yards will be stripped of all gravel and restored to preconstruction conditions.

7 **Q. Can you please describe the purpose and construction of any other associated**
8 **facilities of the Solar Facility, including the meteorological (“MET”) stations?**

9 A. Yes. One temporary MET has been installed in the southwest corner of the Preliminary
10 Development Area to obtain more accurate, site-specific data for sun exposure.

11 Once the Project is installed, two or more permanent METs will replace the
12 temporary MET and be used to monitor incoming weather to inform operations and
13 maintenance (“O&M”) activities (e.g., properly storing panels in case of severe storms).
14 For more detail, please refer to Section 3.1.8 of the Joint Site Permit Application.

15 **c. Solar Facility and BESS O&M**

16 **Q. What O&M activities are involved in maintaining the Solar Facility and BESS?**

17 A. The construction manager will coordinate with operations staff, equipment suppliers, and
18 other construction and maintenance personnel to ensure a smooth transition from the start
19 of construction to the commercial operation date of the Project. Operations staff will be
20 responsible for ensuring that O&M is conducted in compliance with approved permits,
21 prudent industry practices, and equipment manufacturers’ specifications. BESS O&M
22 activities will be coordinated with those for the Solar Facility. Qualified technicians,
23 mechanical professionals, and electricians will test and inspect all Project components

1 (e.g., transformers, communications systems, switchgear systems, batteries, and
2 interconnection systems) to ensure that they meet required specifications and are working
3 properly. A maintenance plan, which will include a predictive maintenance approach for
4 devices subjected to derating/degradation, will be created to ensure Project performance of
5 the BESS and Solar Facility.

6 **Q. How many personnel will be employed to conduct O&M activities for the Solar**
7 **Facility and the BESS?**

8 A. Benton Solar anticipates two to three full-time employees will be required to operate and
9 maintain the BESS and the Solar Facility.

10 **d. Solar Facility and BESS Decommissioning**

11 **Q. When does Benton Solar expect the Solar Facility and BESS to be decommissioned?**

12 A. At the end of the permitted period, Benton Solar may either extend and continue Project
13 operations or decommission the Project. If extending the Project, Benton Solar will apply
14 for a site permit extension. If Project operations continue, either existing equipment will
15 be used or equipment will be upgraded with newer technologies. A detailed
16 decommissioning plan is provided in Appendix E of the Joint Site Permit Application.

17 Benton Solar does not anticipate that the Project will be decommissioned sooner
18 than the anticipated Project life. However, decommissioning schedule updates will be
19 provided with updates to the Project decommissioning plan (*See* Appendix E of the Joint
20 Site Permit Application). Benton Solar will update the plan every 5 years during Project
21 operations. Decommissioning will be triggered at the end of the permitted period if a site
22 permit extension is not requested/received, if the Project does not generate electricity for a

1 period of 12 consecutive months, or if substantial action on construction of the Project is
2 discontinued for a period of 12 consecutive months.

3 **Q. What is the process by which the Solar Facility and BESS will be decommissioned?**

4 A. Benton Solar will restore the Site to approximate preconstruction conditions to the extent
5 possible in coordination with landowners. Landowners may require the Site be returned to
6 agricultural production or may retain restored vegetation or other land uses as agreed
7 between the landowner and Benton Solar. The goal of restoration will be to restore natural
8 hydrology, soil conditions, and plant communities to the greatest extent practicable. The
9 restoration effort will implement BMPs to minimize adverse impacts. Potential restoration
10 efforts are detailed in Section 3.6.3 of the Joint Site Permit Application.

11 **III. TRANSMISSION LINE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION,**
12 **AND OPERATION**

13 **Q. Can you provide an overview of the proposed Transmission Line?**

14 A. Yes. Benton Solar will construct, own, and operate a 115-kV transmission line to deliver
15 energy from the Benton Solar Facility to the electric grid. The Transmission Line will be
16 constructed using primarily 115-kV single-circuit steel structures and will be 0.5 miles
17 long. The proposed pole height is not expected to exceed 110.0 feet above the ground. The
18 average pole height will be 45.0 to 95.0 feet above ground line. Additional information
19 about the Transmission Line structures is in Section 2.5 of the Route Permit Application
20 and Section 3.1.6 of the Joint Site Permit Application. The exact placement and height will
21 be determined during electrical design.

22

23

1 **Q. What is the route proposed for the Transmission Line?**

2 A. The Transmission Line is located entirely on two privately owned parcels. No existing
3 utility, road, or other public rights of way (“ROWs”) are located within the Project Route.
4 In brief, Benton is proposing that the Transmission Line exit the proposed Benton Solar
5 collector substation and travel south for 0.11 mile; turn east for 0.16 mile; turn south for
6 0.22 mile; then turn southwest for 0.02 mile where it terminates at the PCO structure to
7 be designed and installed by GRE (“Project Route”). The Project Route varies in width,
8 ranging from 454.7 feet to 1,308.3 feet.

9 **Q: Have there been any updates to the proposed Transmission Line since the**
10 **Applications were filed?**

11 A: Yes, there have been several minor changes to the Transmission Line design since the
12 submission of the Applications. In coordination with GRE Benton Solar has reduced the
13 height of several structures and changed the span lengths to accommodate a separate
14 transmission line project that GRE is designing and constructing. Additionally, to
15 simplify compliance with Federal Aviation Administration requirements, Benton Solar
16 further reduced the height of the Transmission Line by changing several structures from
17 monopole steel structures to 2 and 3 pole structures.

18 **Q. Can you please describe the construction process for the Transmission Line?**

19 A. Yes. Construction on the Transmission Line will begin after: (1) soil conditions are
20 established; (2) final design for the Project has been completed; (3) the necessary
21 transmission easements, overhang easements, and ROW are acquired; and (4) applicable
22 federal, state, and local approvals have been obtained. As detailed in my testimony below,

1 Benton Solar will work with an experienced EPC contractor to construct the transmission
2 line.

3 Construction of the Transmission Line will follow a typical sequence: (1) surveying
4 the route centerline; (2) determining applicable construction access; (3) installing storm
5 water pollution prevention mitigation; (4) implementing the traffic control plan; (5)
6 clearing, grubbing, and grading the ROW; (6) delivering materials; (7) installing
7 foundations; (8) assembling, erecting, and setting structures; (9) installing ground rods; and
8 (10) installing insulators, shield wires, and conductors. Construction will be followed by
9 cleanup and site reclamation.

10 A significant portion of construction activity will be the installation of monopoles,
11 2 pole structures, and 3 pole structures. Monopole and 2 and 3 pole structure installation is
12 essentially a two-step process. One crew augers a hole in the ground for the steel structure
13 and another crew embeds the pole directly into the ground and backfills the hole. In certain
14 specific locations, drilled shaft concrete foundations will likely be required. The installed
15 poles are tubular steel structures, which are framed on the ground with steel arms,
16 insulators, hardware and pulling blocks, and are then assembled and set with cranes. The
17 conductor is pulled through the pulling blocks and attached to the insulators, and the shield
18 wires will be pulled through pulling blocks and attached to arms on the tubular steel
19 structure. Splice boxes will be attached to the structure approximately 12 feet above the
20 base of the tubular steel pole every 3 to 4 miles to facilitate fiber splicing.

21 On-site supervisors will work with landowners during construction to minimize
22 crop damage and address site accessibility issues. The construction team will be
23 responsible for maintenance of traffic, as well as crew, landowner, and public safety, and

1 will adhere to Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. Benton Solar's
2 construction supervisors will also conduct safety and construction inspections to ensure
3 safe work practices and that construction is in accordance with the approved design.

4 **Q. How long will it take to construct the Transmission Line?**

5 A. Benton Solar anticipates the Transmission Line construction period to be approximately 4
6 months.

7 **IV. ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION**

8 **Q. What is the process that Benton Solar will employ to select an Engineering,**
9 **Procurement and Construction ("EPC") contractor?**

10 A. Benton Solar has competitively bid the EPC work by issuing a request for proposals from
11 a list of approved suppliers. A winning bidder has been selected and Benton Solar is in the
12 final stages of contract negotiation with that bidder.

13 **Q. What functions will the EPC contractor perform?**

14 A. The EPC contractor that is selected will conduct all engineering and construction activities
15 for the Solar Facility and is also responsible for some procurement.

16 **Q: What is the process that Benton Solar will employ to select the Procure and Construct**
17 **("PC") contractor(s) for the Substation, BESS, and Transmission Line?**

18 **A:** Benton Solar will competitively bid the scope by issuing a request for proposals from a list
19 of approved suppliers. Once competitive bids are received, Benton Solar will analyze the
20 bids to ensure they are in conformance with our technical specifications, contractual
21 requirements, and that the bidders have demonstrated a clear understanding of the scope of
22 the work. At the completion of the bid analysis process, a winner will be selected, on-

1 boarded, and trained on compliance with state laws and regulations, including the Site and
2 Route Permits issued for the Project.

3 **Q. What role will Benton Solar play in the construction process?**

4 A. Benton Solar will work closely with the PC and EPC contractors for the duration of the
5 contractors' work. Benton Solar will have a team on-site for the duration of construction
6 with individuals present to monitor all facets of Project construction, as well as to ensure
7 that safety and permit standards are being following. In addition, consistent with typical
8 site and route permit conditions, Benton Solar will file regular updates with the Minnesota
9 Public Utilities Commission regarding the progress of Project construction.

10 **V. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

11 **Q. Are there comments filed during this proceeding that you wish to address in this**
12 **testimony?**

13 A. Yes. I would like to respond to public comments regarding: equipment to be used in the
14 Solar Facility; who will be employed to construct the Project; decommissioning of the
15 Project; the existing Benton County Substation; property value and taxes; electric and
16 magnetic fields ("EMF") from the Project; safety and traffic during construction; and local
17 airports.

18 **Q. What is your response to questions about the equipment to be used for the Solar**
19 **Facility?**

20 A. My testimony provides information about PV panels, racking system, and other equipment
21 to be used for the Solar Facility. Benton Solar has not yet finalized the manufacturer for
22 the Solar Facility, but it will select manufacturers and suppliers who provide equipment

1 that meets certain quality standards. Additional information about the equipment for the
2 Solar Project can be found in Section 3 of the Joint Site Permit Application.

3 **Q. What is your response to questions during the Environmental Assessment Scoping**
4 **Meeting about who would be employed to construct and operate the Project?**

5 A. Benton Solar is finalizing the EPC contract for construction of the Project and intends to
6 utilize union and local labor, as discussed in the Scoping Meetings on January 14 and 15,
7 2025. More details about Benton Solar's plans to utilize union and local labor can be found
8 in Section 4.2.6.1.2 of the Joint Site Permit Application and direct testimony from Adam
9 Gracia.

10 For the operation of the Project following construction, Benton Solar is responsible
11 for the continued safe and secure operation of the Solar Facility, the BESS, and the
12 Transmission Line, including the costs to operate the same. For day-to-day operations and
13 security, Benton Solar anticipates the hiring of two to three full-time, local employees to
14 operate and maintain the Project. More detail on O&M activities are provided in Section
15 3.5 of the Joint Permit Application, and in Section 5.8 of the Route Permit Application.

16 **Q. What is your response to questions about the decommissioning process for the**
17 **Project?**

18 A. To the extent possible, Project equipment will be reconditioned, resourced, and/or recycled.
19 Any materials that cannot be recycled will be safely disposed of at approved facilities.
20 Benton Solar will restore the Site by removing equipment up to four feet below the surface
21 of the land and returning it to preconstruction conditions, to the extent possible. Benton
22 Solar is financially responsible for the decommissioning and will provide a bond, surety,
23 or other financial assurance to Benton County to cover the costs of decommissioning in the

1 event Benton Solar is not able to do so. Additional details surrounding decommissioning
2 of the Project are provided in Section 3.6 and Appendix E of the Joint Site Permit
3 Application and in Section 6 and Appendix E of the Route Permit Application.

4 **Q. What is your response to public comments raising concerns about the effect the**
5 **Project may have on the existing Benton County Substation?**

6 A. Interconnection of the Project to the existing Benton County Substation is being planned
7 in close coordination with the owner of the existing Benton County Substation, GRE, who
8 is also subject to the Commission's jurisdiction for purposes of siting. Benton Solar is not
9 aware of any reason why the Project would compromise the safety and reliability of the
10 substation.

11 **Q. What is your response to the public comments about the potential effects of EMF**
12 **from the Project?**

13 A. Solar farms produce a lower electromagnetic field exposure than most household
14 appliances, such as TVs and refrigerators. Further, BESS systems operate on direct current
15 rather than alternating current, and accordingly emit insignificant EMF. Benton Solar
16 expects that any EMF levels from the Solar Facility or the BESS would dissipate to
17 acceptable background levels long before reaching any residences. For the Transmission
18 Line, EMF will be well below the Commission's historically imposed maximum levels.
19 EMF and stray voltage are discussed in Section 4.2.4 of the Joint Site Permit Application,
20 and in Section 7.2.1.4 of the Route Permit Application.

21

22

1 **Q. What is your response to the concerns raised in the public comments about safety and**
2 **traffic during construction?**

3 A. Benton Solar may upgrade or make other changes to public roads for construction and
4 O&M of the Project. Benton Solar will work with Benton County and Minden Township
5 to coordinate and pay for upgrades to meet the required public standards according to
6 applicable road use agreements. Benton Solar anticipates approximately 20 to 30 loaded
7 truck trips per day during construction and does not anticipate using oversized loads. These
8 truck trips will be perceivable to the public, but are not expected to impact daily traffic
9 function and should have no impacts on pedestrian safety on the road. These upgrades and
10 mitigations are discussed in detail in Sections 3.1.4 and 4.2.9.3 of the Joint Site Permit
11 Application.

12 **Q. What is your response to public comments expressing concern about the Project's**
13 **proximity to airports?**

14 A. Benton Solar does not expect any adverse effects on the local airports from the Project. A
15 glint and glare analysis was completed for the Solar Facility in 2022, which indicates there
16 are no predicted glare occurrences for aircraft approach paths or air traffic controller
17 personnel, and no predicted glare occurrences for nearby residences or roadways. (*See*
18 *Section 4.2.9.3 and 4.2.5.2 of the Joint Permit Application*). Additionally, at its nearest
19 point, the Project is 1.5 nautical miles northeast of the closest airport runway end. To the
20 extent required by structure heights within the Project, Benton Solar will identify and file
21 a Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed
22 Construction or Alteration prior to construction, which allows the FAA to determine the
23 impacts, if any, of a structure on the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.

1 **VI. CONCLUSION**

2 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

3 **A. Yes.**

Schedule 1 - Resume

Anthony Bass

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PROFILE

Resourceful, innovative, versatile, and results-driven engineering professional with 7 years of experience within the NextEra Energy organization, with demonstrated achievements in cost reduction analysis and process improvement.

EXPERIENCE

2024 – Present **NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES**, Juno Beach, FL **Sr. Project Manager, Solar**

- Oversee team of 6-8 project managers tasked with handling preconstruction of the Northeast solar portfolio, totaling approximately 20-25 projects.
- Key responsibilities include: permitting, engineering, schedule, budget, contract negotiation, and vendor interface.

2023 – 2024 **NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES**, Juno Beach, FL **Project Manager, Solar**

- Oversee a small team of project managers tasked with handling the preconstruction of the Northeast solar portfolio totaling approximately 8-10 projects.
- Key responsibilities include: permitting, engineering, schedule, budget, contract negotiation, and vendor interface.

2021 – 2023 **NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES**, Juno Beach, FL **Lead Project Estimator**

- Developed multiple estimates for approximately 20-25 utility scale solar, battery energy storage, substation, and some transmission line projects.
- Daily activities included: interfacing with and supporting the preconstruction project management team, training and managing team members, cost reduction analysis and ownership of solar estimating template

2019 – 2021 **NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES**, Juno Beach, FL **Sr. Project Estimator**

- Developed multiple estimates for approximately 20-25 utility scale solar, battery energy storage, substation, and some transmission line projects.
- Daily activities included: interfacing and supporting the preconstruction project management team, cost reduction analysis, and ownership of solar estimating template

2018 – 2019 **NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES**, Juno Beach, FL **Project Estimator**

- Developed multiple estimates for approximately 10-15 utility scale solar, battery energy storage, substation, and some transmission line projects.
- Daily activities included: interfacing and supporting the preconstruction project management team, process improvement and refinement

2015 – 2018 **Meisner Electric**, Boca Raton, FL **Project Estimator**

- Responsible for pricing large commercial and healthcare construction projects including hospitals, proton therapy systems, and emergency departments
- Daily activities included: interface with customers and project engineers, drawing take-off, review of specifications and other project documents, job walk-throughs, and design input