

September 25, 2025

Ms. Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Alternatives Identified During Scoping Comment Period
Lake Charlotte Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Project
Docket Nos. IP-7159/GS-25-206 and IP-7159/ESS-25-205

Dear Ms. Bergman,

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff has completed the environmental assessment scoping process in the following matter:

In the Matter of Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC's joint application for the Lake Charlotte 150 MW Solar Facility and 150 MW Lake Charlotte Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located in Rutland Township, Martin County, Minnesota.

Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC (applicant) submitted its joint permit application for the Lake Charlotte solar facility and BESS on June 3, 2025.¹ The application was accepted by the Commission as substantially complete on July 22, 2025.²

The scoping comment period for the environmental assessment (EA) was open from August 8, 2025, through September 17, 2025. Public meetings for the project were held in Fairmont, Minnesota, on August 28, 2025, followed by a virtual meeting held on September 2, 2025.

During the comment period, as well as during public meetings, EIP staff received comments from the public and state and local units of government.³ None of these comments suggested an alternative site for the proposed Lake Charlotte solar facility or BESS.

¹ June 3, 2025, Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC, Joint Site Permit application, eDockets Nos. [20256-219557-01](#) through [20256-219557-12](#).

² July 23, 2025, Public Utilities Commission Order accepting Lake Charlotte Solar LLC's application for a joint site permit as substantially complete, eDocket No. [20257-221270-01](#).

³ Written comments on the Scope of the Environmental Assessment, eDockets No. [20259-223226-01](#). Oral comments on the Scope of the Environmental Assessment, eDockets No. [20259-223226-02](#); Written comments from state and local units of government included: Minnesota Department of Transportation ([20259-223056-01](#)); Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ([20259-223095-01](#) and [20259-223095-02](#)); Martin County, Minnesota ([20259-223226-01](#)).

Accordingly, EIP staff recommends that the Commission authorize EIP staff to include in the scoping decision for the EA solely the sites identified by the applicant in its joint permit application.

EIP staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessica Livingston".

Jessica Livingston
Environmental Review Manager
Energy Infrastructure Permitting