

From: [Dave Christians](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Docket # 25-89/25-88
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 10:52:40 PM
Attachments: [MnSolarRpt_43.7164_-95.7116.pdf](#)

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Hello - I was present at the meeting for the solar panels proposed at in Summit Lake & Elk townships at Reading Minnesota. I am going to add to my comments from the meeting.

1. Potential human & environmental impacts - this project will take nearly 2000 acres of productive farmland out of production which in turn takes 185,000 bushels of corn (1000 acres @ 185 bushels) plus another 50,000 bushels of soybeans (1000 acres @ 50 bu) out of the food supply chain. This rolls down the economic supply chain in the area - from grain that could be delivered to nearby elevators and livestock farms to the purchasing of inputs for these acres causes pressure on the area economics. The grass/pollinators indicated in their photos were projected at 7 years - there is a lot of time to have blowing dirt from the site. This land supposedly would be able to be farmed when the project is removed, but compaction and top soil disturbance would cause it to become a wasteland.
2. The set backs proposed at the meeting are completely inadequate - this is rural Minnesota where we get snow - sometimes a lot of snow with high winds. These panels will be huge windbreaks for snow causing issues with roads. A single blade of grass or a fence post will hold snow (see attached photos) and these panels and supports will cause huge issues holding snow. I've driven this area for many years and during winter blowing snow could barely see the road and encountered many drifts already on 266/county 25 in the Reading area. I've attached a couple photos from Minnesota winter (I suspect the panel from the solar company have never spent any length of time in SW MN)
3. Noise - the panels and BESS system will be noisy - wind on the panels and just the noise from the inverters, fans, installation noise, etc will be very disruptive to the residents of the area and the town of Reading - <https://blog.feniceenergy.com/does-solar-energy-create-noise-pollution-an-overview/> & <https://www.noisemonitoringservices.com/battery-energy-storage-system-bess-noise-challenges-and-solutions/> - suggesting noise levels over 75 decibels which will be disruptive to people and the animals that live in the area. I am exposed to wind turbine noise and I wouldn't wish noise on anyone. This is not the area for this type of set-up - this needs to be located closer to the site where the power will be used - set up solar panels on roofs of malls/large stores and homes in locations closer to where the power will be used. <https://www.energy-storage.news/bess-noise-has-exploded-as-a-concern-recently/>
4. Suitability of site - the site to the west of 266 when get rain this area has excess water standing (I've driven 266 for many years and have seen excess water standing there). In addition, in reviewing University of Minnesota solar suitability map - this area by Reading isn't rated very high-<https://solar.maps.umn.edu/>. As you will note on the attachment, there are only a couple months with decent sun, but even then we have many cloudy days and

smoke from Canadian wildfires are blocking the sun in the summer months. The gentleman at the meeting tried to say that the solar power would be a good complement to the wind turbines, but from my experience living in the middle of the wind turbines is that the cloudy days happen often and the wind turbines aren't running (and some of turbine groups are off some days because the transmission lines are full we are told).

5. Tile and water run off - this project will cause tile issues for adjoining landowners and landowners/farmers on the upper parts of tile systems. I have experience with the wind turbine tile issues - and there are multiple tile breaks, compaction etc. This is not fair to the other landowners/farmers in the area to have to endure years of flooded/not doing well crops without any compensation. There is no good mitigation for this. Water flows downhill.

6. Quoted from the PUC information - Summit Lake is committed to providing training resources for local emergency responders, as well as working with local emergency responders to develop a Project-specific Emergency Response Program. The Emergency Response Program would require quarterly safety drills and annual safety training with local first responders. The Emergency Response Program will cover possible Joint Application for Site Permits Engineering and Operational Design incidents that could occur at the BESS and include corresponding emergency procedures. Summit Lake will coordinate with local emergency responders to develop the Emergency Response Program prior to the commercial operation date for the Project.

This project is solidly in the Wilmont Fire & Rescue service area. This area has NO water source other than hauled water if there would be a fire in the BESS system or a grass fire/panel fire. Also we are a volunteer department (with regular employment) and the requirement for quarterly safety drills for just one entity is not on our docket.

In summary, this project is not appropriate for the area environmentally nor good for the citizens of the area -especially those living within/near the boundaries of the project including the whole town of Reading. We have weather that is not conducive - we have wind and hail which could potentially damage panels (<https://weathergeeks.org/solar-panel-damage-understanding-potential-chemical-risks/>). We've had hail as large as the top of a popcan in the last 10 years (see how many new roofs are in Wilmont). Plus snow that will pile up on posts and fences. Noise is a huge concern - wind turbines are noisy and annoying and my research shows these solar systems are noisy also. We have multiple kinds of wildlife that live in that area that will be disturbed also. All of this land out of production for 4 jobs. Find a different location - on rooftops near where the power is planned to be consumed. Environmentally this is not a good choice of location plus who will be responsible for clean-up? The company has already been sold once - "National Grid Renewables was acquired by Brookfield. I'm reaching out today to share that the deal has officially closed and we're now operating under our new name: Geronimo Power."

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Judy Christians
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Wilmont MN



Solar Suitability Report

Latitude: 43.716431 Longitude: -95.711689

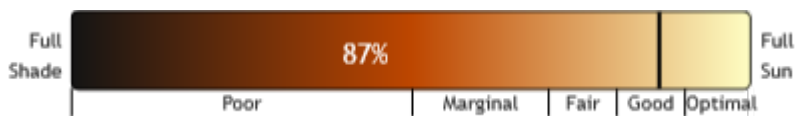
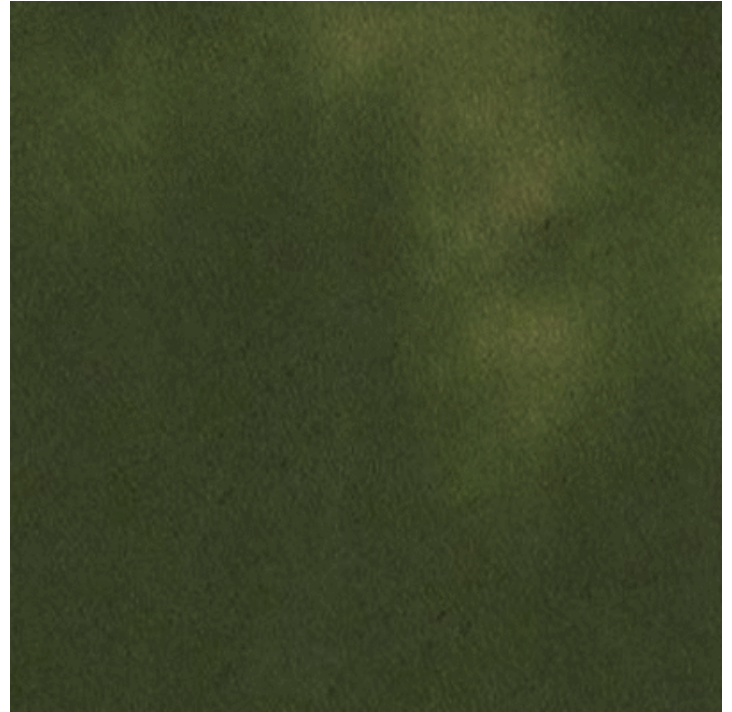
mn.gov/solarapp

Wed Jun 04, 2025

Site Name

Site Address

Site Notes



This site is **Good**. It would need a **4.79 kW** system to generate **50%** of average household use. This system would cost approximately **\$17,959**. System payback is **13.1 years** after tax credit.

Utility Service Provider:
Nobles Cooperative Electric
P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187
www.noblesce.coop

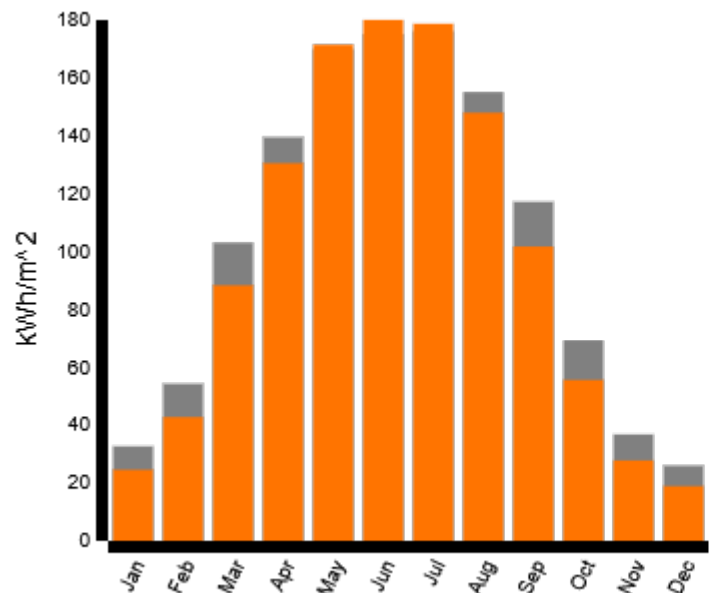
Site Details:

Total Annual Insolation: 1169.48 kWh/m²

Avg Insolation per Day: 3.20 kWh/m²

Source Data: Spring and Fall 2010

Amount Actual Sun



Solar Calculator

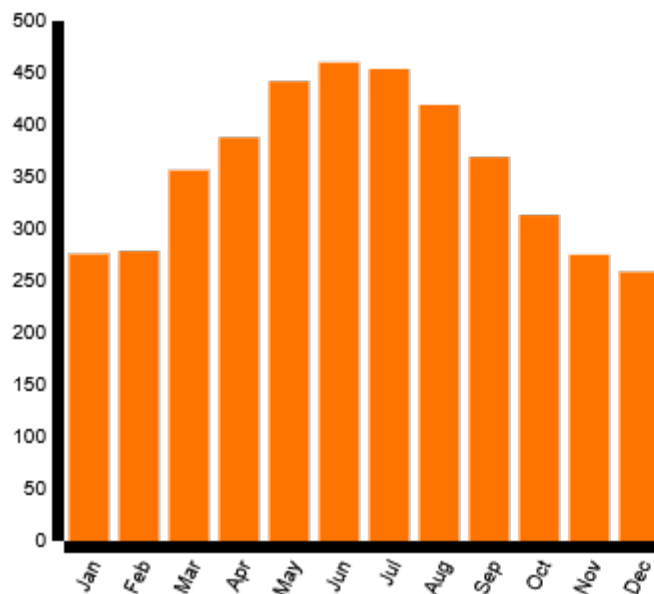
User Input	Value	Tips and Notes
Average utility use (per month)	800 kWh	The average residential household uses 800 kWh/month. If you know your monthly usage, fill it in here.
Cost / kWh	\$0.12/kWh	Minnesota's average residential cost of electricity is \$0.12/kWh. If you know your cost of electricity enter it here.
Percent of electricity provided by solar	50%	Experiment with different percentages here to see how system cost varies. Think about how energy efficiency improvements bring down the cost of your solar system.

Outputs	Value	Tips and Notes
Size of system needed	4.79 kW	Result is based on values provided for monthly electricity use and desired percentage covered by solar. It also includes a derate of 0.87. A factor accounting for conversion of the array's DC nameplate capacity to the system's AC power rating at Standard Test Condition.
System cost estimate	\$17,959	Result is based on an average 2020 Minnesota residential system cost of \$3,750 per kW. Costs will vary depending on the specifics of your system.
Payback without incentives	17.65 years	Result assumes that electricity costs will rise 3.5% each year over 25 years.
Payback with Tax Credit	13.06 years	Your system may be eligible for a federal tax credit. This result shows the payback of your system with the 26% tax credit applied.

Month	Actual % Sun**	Total kWh/m2	Duration (Hrs)
January	75%	24.55	275.9
February	79%	42.77	278.7
March	86%	88.30	356.4
April	94%	130.52	387.9
May	100%	171.53	442.0
June	100%	180.04	460.1
July	100%	178.71	453.9
August	95%	147.96	419.3
September	87%	101.71	369.0
October	80%	55.59	313.3
November	75%	27.78	275.3
December	73%	18.90	258.7

**These percentages should be used as the monthly shading derate factors % on the Xcel Solar Rewards application

Duration of Direct Sun (Hrs)



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