

From: [Gene Metz](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Docket numbers 25-89 and 25-88
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026 9:04:47 AM

You don't often get email from metzgene51@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Honorable PUC Commissioners:

Katie Sieben
Joseph Sullivan
John Tuma
Hwikwon Ham
Audrey Partridge

I am Gene Metz, a Nobles County resident, a farmer and a County Commissioner, I would like to offer comments and suggestions relating to the Summit Lake Solar and BatteryStorage project.

First I will wear my Commissioner hat. This project would be a benefit to the County by providing additional Production Tax. My only concern is this. Nobles County already has a large amount of wind production and is curtailed at times because of transmission capacity. Would this project ultimately lead to more wind curtailment to allow the solar production access to the grid until more transmission is built.

Now I have my farmer and landowner hat on. I do believe agriculture and solar farms can co-exist as long as certain parameters are followed. Nobles County may be cursed because a robust transmission system that is drawing so much production potential traverses some of the most productive agricultural land in Minnesota. As I drive other parts of the state I see many smaller systems cited in less productive areas.

Rural residents that are used to viewing growing corn and soybeans and watching wildlife are now going to have solar panels as their new neighbor. Many of these residents are going to be totally encapsulated. **THIS PROJECT IS JUST TOO BIG.**

Here are two suggestions I would have for this project and ones in the future:

- 1) Increase the setbacks from residents to the start of the project footprint to 750 feet to allow an agricultural buffer.
- 2) Make each project study the Agrivoltaics potential for both livestock production or robotic truck gardening within the project.

Thank you for your considera



GENE METZ

Nobles County Commissioner

gmetz@co.nobles.mn.us

(507) 920-8990

16929 180th Street

Lismore MN 56155