



Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

Project Name: Solway Solar Project

Project Proposer: Otter Tail Power Company

Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Type Activities: Tree Removal; Waterbody or watercourse impacts (e.g., dewatering, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology); Wetland impacts (e.g., dewatering, tiling, drainage, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology)

TRS: T147 R35 S16, T147 R35 S21

County(s): Beltrami

DNR Admin Region(s): Northwest

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: The project is a 50 MW solar project in Lammers Township that will be constructed within an area comprised of approximately 501.3 acres. The project ...

Existing Land Uses: The proposed project area is a combination of cultivated fields, pasture and forested area. A portion of the forested area was cut prior to Otter Tail ...

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: The proposed project area is a combination of cultivated fields, pasture and forested area. The project does not cross any state land, public land, or natural resource sites.

Waterbodies Affected: The proposed project area contains 11.76 acres of NWI wetlands including 3.86 acres of Palustrine Emergent (PEM), 4.16 acres of Palustrine Forested (PFO), ...

Groundwater Resources Affected: The underlying bedrock in the project area consists of a diversity of Precambrian rock including gneiss, granite, mafic, volcanic, and sedimentary rocks ...

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	Comments	Tree Removal - Recommendations
Ecologically Significant Area	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Federally Listed Species	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

July 15, 2024

Project ID: MCE #2024-00571

Kirsten Granstrom-Arndt
HDR Inc
1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Solway Solar Project
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Kirsten Granstrom-Arndt,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Given the project details provided on the cover page, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features. To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

Project Type and/or Project Type Activity Comments

- The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) tracks bat roost trees and hibernacula plus some acoustic data, but this information is not exhaustive. Even if there are no bat records listed below, all of Minnesota's bats, including the federally endangered northern long-eared bat ([Myotis septentrionalis](#)), can be found throughout Minnesota. During the active season (approximately April-November) bats roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Tree removal can negatively impact bats by destroying roosting habitat, especially during the pup rearing season when females are forming maternity roosting colonies and the pups cannot yet fly. To minimize these impacts, the DNR recommends that tree removal be avoided from June 1 through August 15.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review before initiating project activities.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

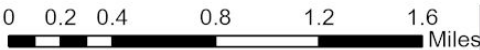
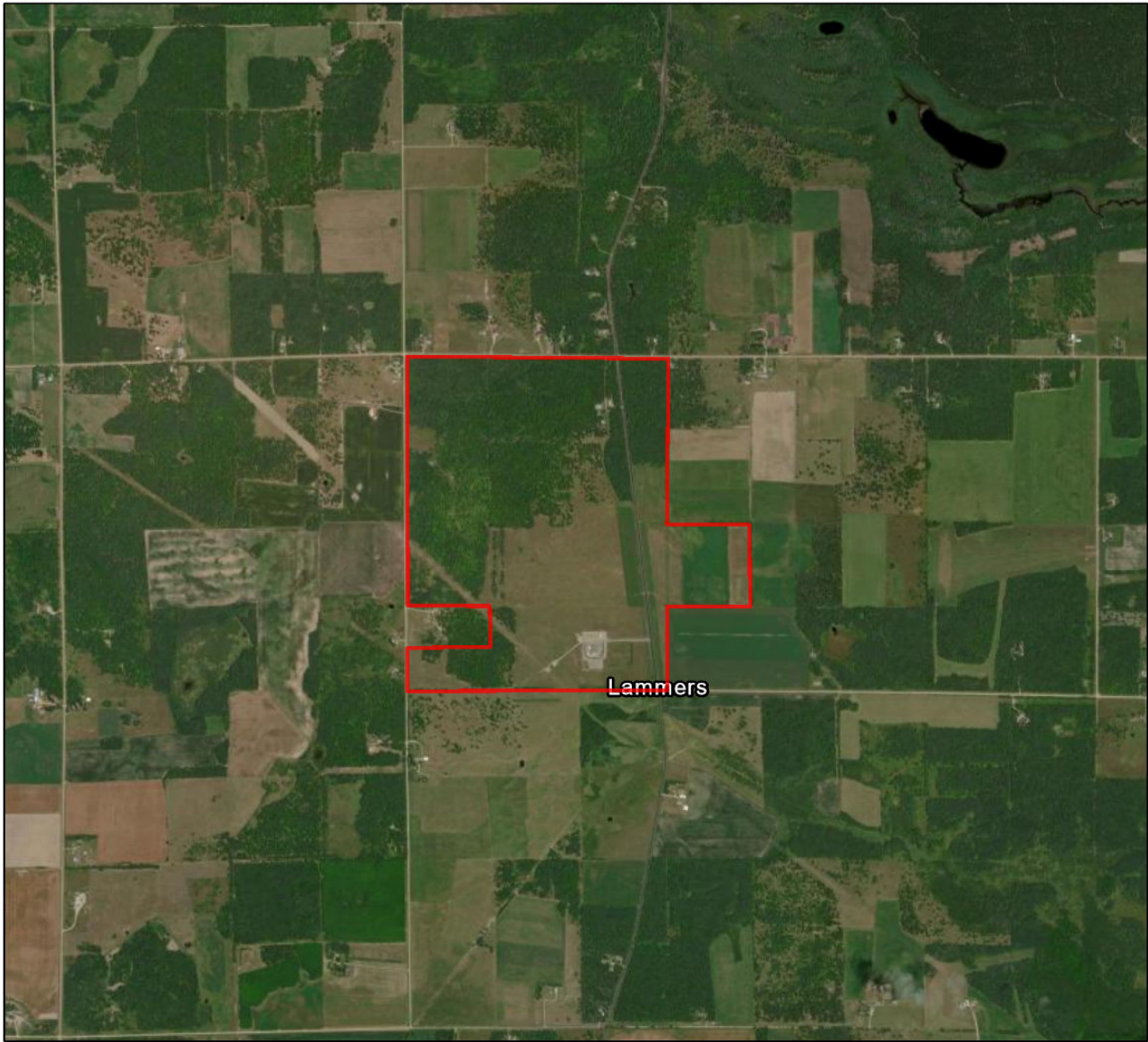
Sincerely,

Jim Drake Jim Drake
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
James.F.Drake@state.mn.us

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

Solway Solar Project

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



 Project_Boundary

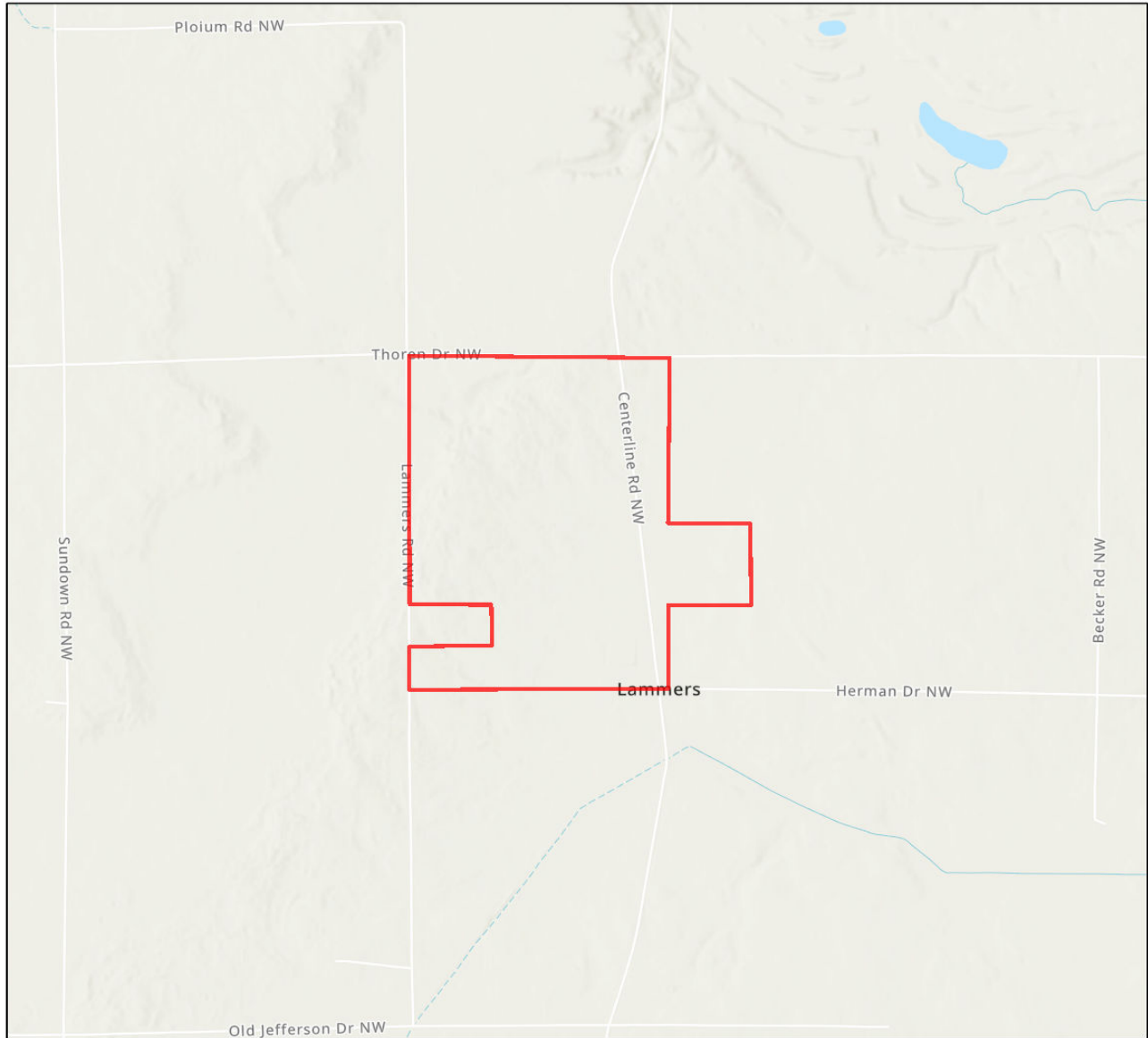
Project Type: Power, Solar
Project Size (acres): 501.44
County(s): Beltrami
TRS: T147 R35 S16, T147 R35 S21

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Earthstar Geographics
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,



Solway Solar Project

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles

Project_Boundary

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