
From: Malory Roberts <maljo125@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 10:05 AM
To: Staff, CAO (PUC) <consumer.puc@state.mn.us>
Cc: Weaver, Sam (PUC) <Sam.Weaver@state.mn.us>
Subject: Summit Lake Solar Public Comment-25-88/25-89

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.

Please see my public comment regarding the proposed Summit Lake Solar project in Nobles County. Referecing docket number 25-88 & 25-89. This may be a repeat as I submitted this on the online form but I do not see my comment listed on the PUC website so I am just ensuring that it is submitted.

My name is Malory Fritz, and I am writing to express my opposition to the Summit Lake Solar & Battery Storage project proposed near Reading, MN. I live in rural Reading, directly adjacent to the proposed site. My family and I purchased our home nearly four years ago with the intention of it being our forever home—something we could eventually pass down to our children. This project puts that vision at risk.

While some residents in the area may not be present for the full lifespan of this project, my husband, our children, and I plan to be. As a result, the long-term impact is a significant concern for us. What will this project look like in 10, 15, or 20 years? In 30 years, my son will be around my age and could be dealing with the effects of decommissioning. I do not want him to face the same uncertainties we are dealing with today.

The developer has shared plans for maintenance and decommissioning; however, past experiences with other renewable energy projects in the area have shown that outcomes do not always align with initial plans. While I believe renewable energy has an important role, I do not believe prime farmland—or areas immediately adjacent to homes and small communities—is an appropriate location for a project of this scale.

Over the past 17 months, this project has caused considerable stress and concern for both myself and my neighbors. It was also frustrating to learn that lease agreements for this land have reportedly been in place for nearly 10 years, while many residents are only now becoming aware of the project. This lack of transparency, along with inconsistent communication, makes it difficult to trust that this development will benefit our community.

I do not believe this project should be approved. However, if it does move forward, there are several important concerns that must be addressed:

1. **Setbacks:** Although setbacks have been increased, I believe they should be expanded further. It may also be appropriate to adjust them based on the proximity of individual homes.
2. **Fencing:** A holding pond is planned directly north of my home, and fencing is not currently included. While fencing is not ideal, safety is my primary concern. I do not want my children or our dog to accidentally access the pond. I believe that all holding ponds should be properly fenced.
3. **Visual Screening:** There are plans to plant trees and shrubs to help screen the solar panels. While this is a positive step, it will take many years for these to grow to provide meaningful coverage. I believe the developer should install more mature trees to create an immediate visual buffer rather than one that may take 10–20 years to develop. If younger trees are used, there must also be a clear plan to ensure they are adequately watered and maintained so they can survive and grow effectively. Which leads me to my next concern.
4. **Water:** Our well is relatively shallow, and although we have been told the project will not impact groundwater, there are no guarantees. The developer should cover the cost of water testing for residents who rely on well water—before, during, and after construction at regular intervals. In addition, there must be a clear plan for how water will be supplied to sustain the proposed vegetation without placing additional strain on local groundwater resources. (I acknowledge that I have not reviewed the full vegetative screening plan, and there may already be provisions addressing this concern.)
5. **Lighting & Noise:** I have voiced my concerns in the past for the noise and lighting pollution that will happen during the construction and life of this project. The developer has many answers for plans to mitigate noise and light but the bottom line is that there needs to be real plans with set construction times that do not include the hours of 7-10pm for those locations near residential homes. This project is located directly outside of my child's bedroom window and while I can buy blackout curtains what is the real plan to ensure that the construction noise is not going to be consistent at late times of the day?

In closing, I strongly believe this project should not move forward. However, if it does, these concerns must be taken seriously and addressed in a thorough and transparent manner.