

**Comments from Operating Engineers Local 49 and North Central States Regional Council  
of Carpenters**

November 8, 2024

Mr. Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

*In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for a Site Permit for the up to 66  
MW Solway Solar Project in Beltrami County, Minnesota (24-309)*

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this matter.

As the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is aware both our unions were participants in the most recent Otter Tail Power Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that included the order to acquire new solar generation assets. The proposed solar project has the potential to offset energy needs for Minnesotans from the reductions at Coyote Station and help Otter Tail Power meet the requirements of the 100% by 2040 requirement.

Both our unions are supportive of new solar projects that create good paying local jobs for our members and we believe that this project has the potential to do so. We appreciated the opportunity to meet recently with representatives of Otter Tail Power to discuss the project and highlight the importance of maximizing local jobs on the project. We look forward to continued conversations as the permit process moves forward and learning more about how we can ensure the project maximizes high quality local jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Nathan Runke, Regulatory and Political Affairs Coordinator, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejski, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters