

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025 5:54:20 PM

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Provide the docket's number.	IP-7153/GS-25-89 and IP-7153/ESS-25-88

Leave a comment on the docket. *

Summit Lake Solar Docket IP-7153/GS-25-89 and IP-7153/ESS-25-88

Concerns and Opposition

Dear Members of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

My name is Darrel Ponto from Reading, MN. I am writing you to express my concerns and opposition to the Summit Lake Solar, LLC, Solar Facility Docket No. IP-7153/GS-25-89 and IP-7153/ESS-25-88.

My family and I live in Summit Lake Township next to the proposed Solar project. This has been our residence since December of 2008. We live approximately 575 feet west of a portion of the proposed solar project.

I have several concerns about this project effects on my family and my neighbor's family's quality of life, has environmental impacts to our area and most of all financial impacts.

As for the quality of life, the solar panels first and foremost with be a constant eye sore when we look out our windows as well as when we our out in or yard working, relaxing or playing around. The constant reflection of the sun from the panels will be extremely annoying and a hazard to our health. Having to walk out our front door and look at these solar panels everyday will be a burden to our psychologically wellbeing, especially since they are only 575 feet away from our acreage. There is currently a very limited buffer of trees when looking to the east of our acreage into the proposed solar project. We will have to look at the ugly sight of solar panels every day just being outside as well as our commute to and from work. We purchased this acreage to be able to enjoy the pleasures or rural country living and plan to be here for many years to come. We have several younger couples that recently purchased acreages in the neighborhood as well and now they are having to deal with the possibility of this project overtaking the beauty of our landscape! We did not spend the extra money to move to the country to have the beauty of our rural life destroyed with this proposed solar farm.

As for the environmental impacts of this project, there are several that come to mind and I sure others that I am not aware of yet. Firstly, the northern 75 acres in the Northeast quarter of Summit Lake 22 is prone to extreme flooding during the thaw of the snow during the spring and heavy rains. Typically, a 2-to-3-inch rain event will cause flooding in this area. The water will pretty much cover this area at depths up to 4 feet. The flooding in this area can last as long as 3 to 5 days at a minimum. This is due to the fact that all of the hills and field tile in the surrounding sections drain into the described area of the field. The water stays for a minimum of 3 to 5 days until the field tile and county tiles down stream of this field have relieved enough pressure to allow this field drain. I have photo graphic evidence of the flooding for the years of March of 2011, June of 2018, and June 2024. These flooding events cause concern for several reasons. With the solar panel assembly being submerge in water there is potential damage of the solar panels and related battery that could leak contaminants into flood waters that will end up in local creeks, rivers, streams, lakes, and ground water. This would cause irreversible damage to water supplies for local wildlife and our local ground water and wells. How would the solar panels be protected from these common rain events? See flooding pictures in attached file labeled: "Flooding in Summit Lake section 22 NE qtr 2011 2018 2024"

There several sloughs and wetlands inside this project as well that be impacted as well. The solar panels will deter the current wildlife from this habitat due to the glare and heat produced by the solar panels.

Another environmental impact would be the loss of 1,990 acres production agriculture land. At least 95% of the current land in the Solar project is production ag land used to produce Corn, Soybeans, Alfalfa, Grass Hay for the region and the world. This is a huge hit to the economy of the region. Production ag land is vital to the livelihood of this area's economy and local jobs. Taking this much land out of production is a bad idea. I am sure there are other areas of the state that have non-ag, non-residential land that would be better suited for this project. Just because there is a local electrical sub-station in the project is not reason to take this highly productive ag land out production.

Another environmental issue would be the disposal the solar panels and related batteries as they wear out or become damaged. Where and how would it be disposed? We do not want this in our local landfill.

As for the financial impact to me and my family, it will be huge! The value of our property will go in the tank! If we have to look at these solar panel fields every day, we will not be able to continue to live on this acreage due to the mental and emotional burden. When going to sell the property we would not be able to sell it due to it extremely close proximity to the proposed project. That means abandoning this place that we have lived on for 16+ years and having to start over somewhere else. This is not something we can afford to do. That would mean coming up with a minimum \$350K to find comparable housing to what we currently have. How do I recover from the building of this solar project in such close proximity to my acreage?

We have never received any sort of notification from this company that this project was being proposed. We have only heard about it by an article in the newspaper and from neighbors. This is not being a good neighbor in a rural community, especially when we are only 575 feet from the project, how could we not be notified?

With everything said above, I along with others in our neighborhood feel that this project should not be allowed to proceed in this area. The impacts to the production ag land and our acreages are an extreme burden to all involved in this neighborhood. There has to be other non-agriculture land, non-residential areas of this state that this project could be built in. Just because of the convenience of the substation being in the project is not reason to build it here. We have already had to deal with the building of wind turbines in our rural area. Then several years later the total

rebuilding/repowering of the wind turbines due to obsolescence of the parts for the original wind turbines. These also destroy the beauty of the landscape or our rural living. Please do not allow the construction of this solar project in our small rural community.

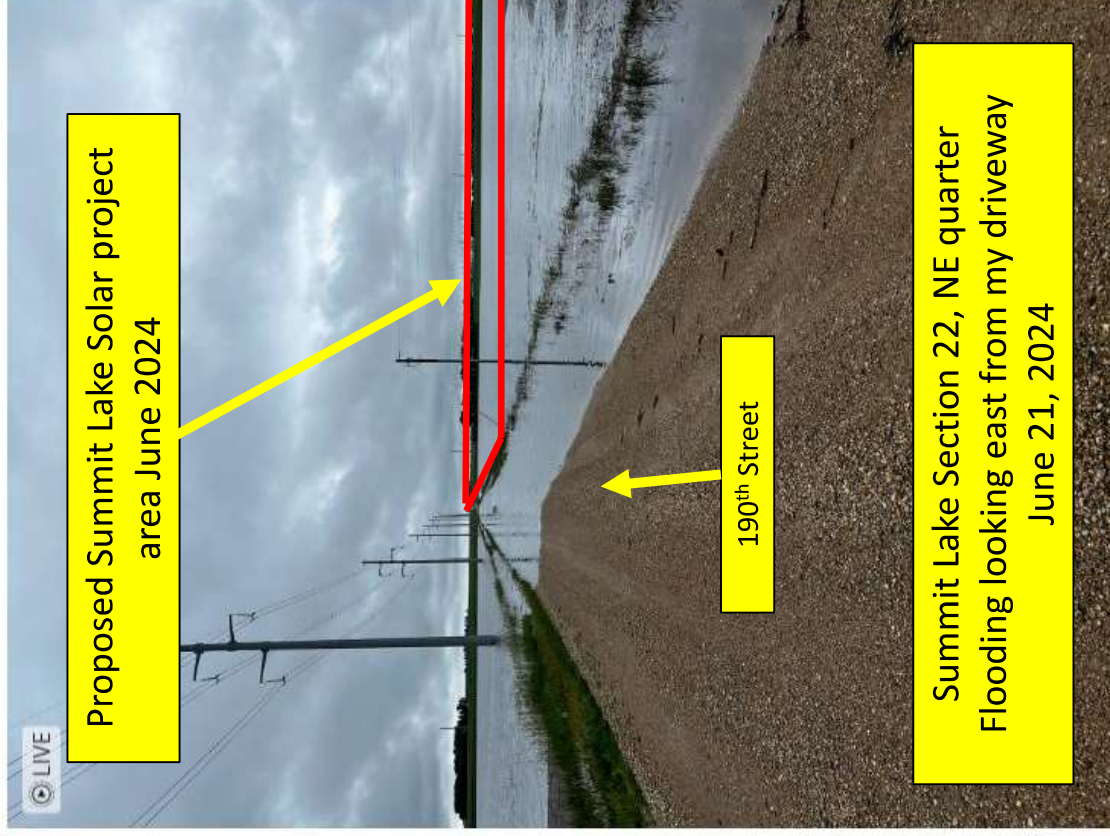
Respectfully,
Darrel Ponto

Attach a File



[flooding in summit lake section 22 ne qtr 2011 2018 2024.pdf](#)

465.56 KB • PDF

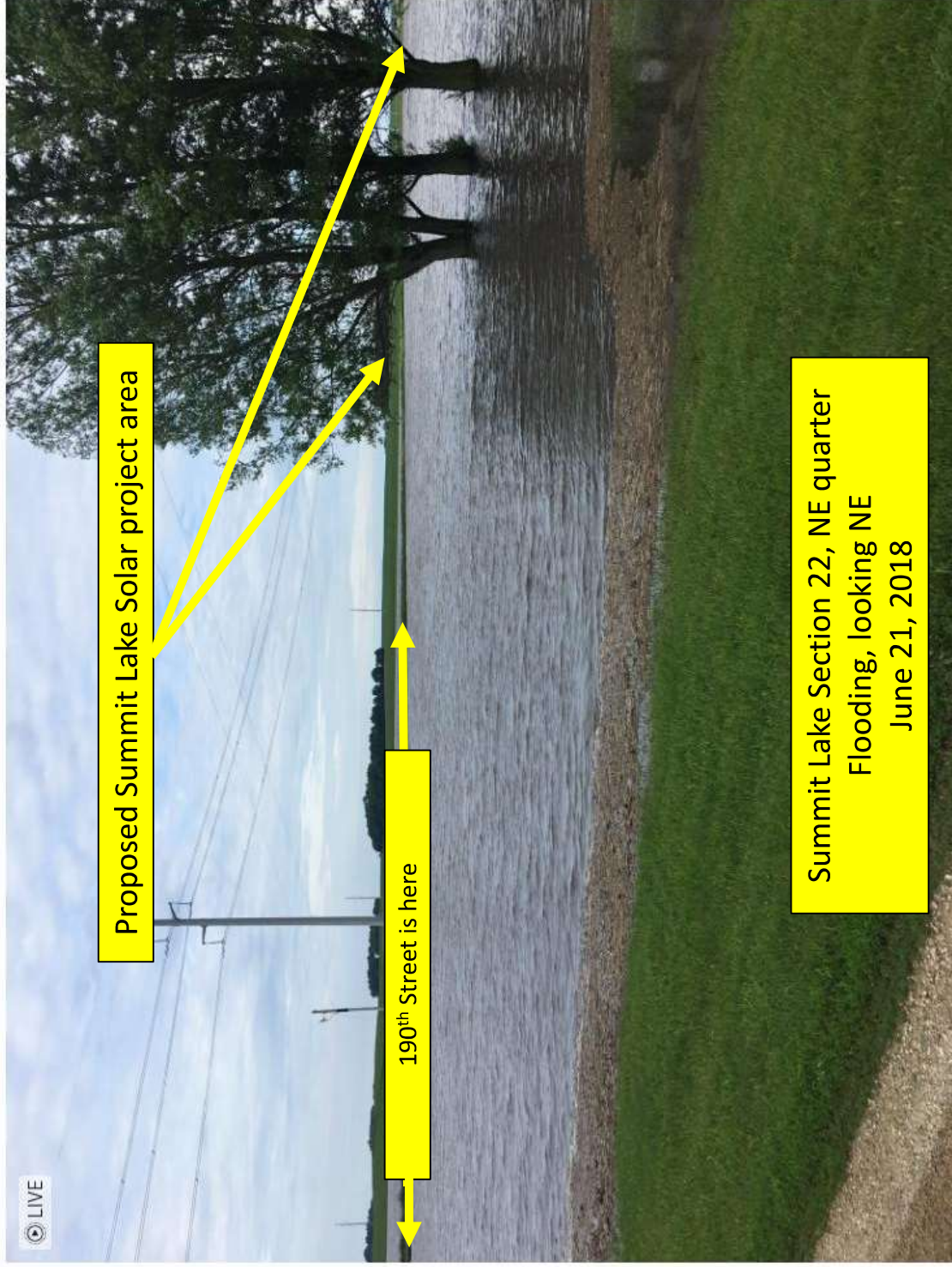


Proposed Summit Lake Solar project
area June 2024

190th Street

Summit Lake Section 22, NE quarter
Flooding looking east from my driveway
June 21, 2024





Proposed Summit Lake Solar project area

190th Street is here

Summit Lake Section 22, NE quarter
Flooding, looking NE
June 21, 2018

March 17, 2011 at 1:50 PM
6 of 56

Summit Lake Section 22, NE quarter
Flooding from snow melt, looking NE

March 17, 2011

Water stayed in this area for 7 to 14 days waiting for the tiles to thaw enough so water could go away



NOTE water draining over
190th St into proposed
Solar panel site.
This is common during flooding as well

Nobles county 25 is here

190th Street is here

Proposed Summit Lake Solar project area
Summit Lake Section 22, NE quarter
Everything this side of 190th Street is in proposed project area
March 17, 2001