

Appendix B

Agency Outreach and Correspondence

Appendix B-1

Representative Project Introduction Letter – Federal, State, and Local Agencies

Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 12:27 PM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

Midwater_BESS_Ex01_ProjectLocation_20240322.pdf; Midwater BESS_Pre Application Comment Letter.pdf;

Good afternoon,

Midwater BESS, LLC is writing to request your comments on the proposed battery energy storage project. The Project is an energy storage facility to be located in Freeborn County, Minnesota with a nameplate capacity of up to 150-megawatts (MW). We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments within 30 days of receiving this email. All responses may be made publicly available upon submission of the Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Please email Emily McMillian at Emily.McMillian@Westwoodps.com about any questions and concerns.

Thanks,

Sophia Fisher (she/her)

Project Assistant, Wind

sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com

main (952) 937-5150

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

April 18, 2024

Re: Request for Comment and Notice of Proposed Midwater Battery Energy Storage System Project in Freeborn County, Minnesota

To Whom It May Concern:

Midwater BESS, LLC (“Midwater”) is proposing to construct and operate an up to 150-megawatt (“MW”) battery energy storage system (“BESS”), referred to as the Midwater Energy Storage Project (the “BESS Project”) and a 161 kilovolt (“kV”) gen-tie line that will be between 2,500 and 4,000 feet in length (the “Transmission Project”) in Freeborn County, Minnesota (the “Project”). On behalf of Midwater, Westwood Professional Services is gathering information and requesting agency comments on the proposed BESS and Transmission Projects.

The Project area is located in Sections 7, 8, and 17, Township 101 North, Range 20 West, Shell Rock Township, southeast of the city of Glenville. The current land cover consists of agricultural and rural vacant land. A Project location map is attached.

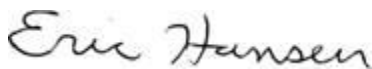
The associated facilities include battery storage containers, a Project substation, an above-ground gen-tie line from the Project Substation to an existing substation, access roads, fencing, and underground electrical connections within the storage system. The facility locations and engineering design have not been finalized at this time.

Midwater must obtain a Site Permit for the BESS Project and a Route Permit for the Transmission Project from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the proposed Project. There are multiple opportunities for stakeholder and public input in these proceedings. Midwater is currently gathering information in preparation for filing its applications and expects to file applications with the Commission later in 2024.

We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the application process. If you have questions or would like to meet regarding the proposed BESS Project, please contact me at eric.hansen@westwoodps.com. Please provide comments within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Written comments will be incorporated into the applications and the Commission’s review.

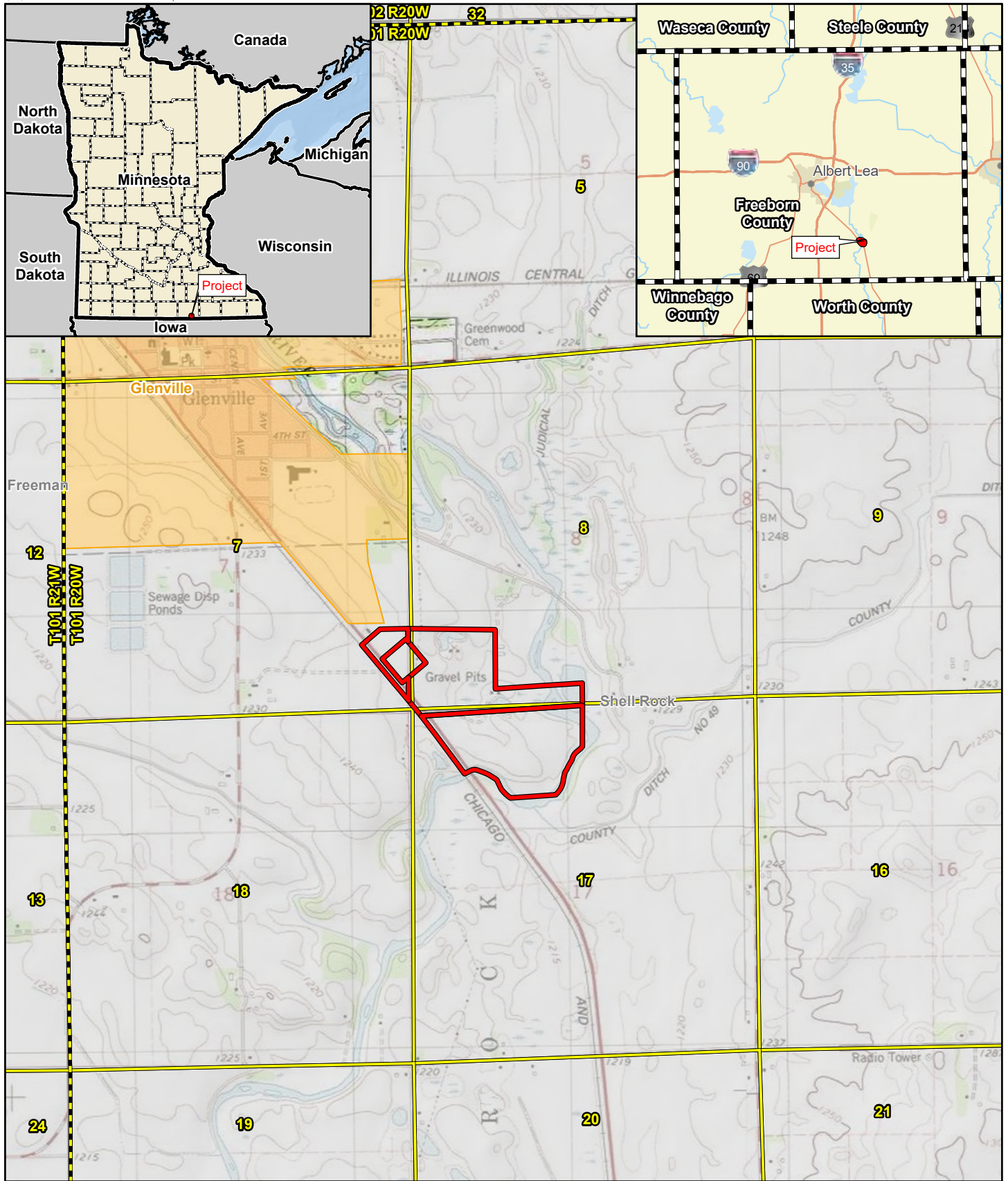
Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.

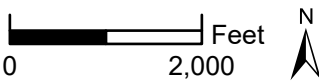


Eric Hansen, PE, PG
Environmental Lead

Enc. Project Area Map



Data Source(s): Westwood (2024); ESRI WMS USA Topo & World Streets Basemaps (Accessed 2024); PLSS (2022).



Westwood

Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.

Legend

- Project Area
- Section Boundary
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Municipal Township

Midwater BESS Project

Freeborn County, Minnesota

Project Location

March 2024

Appendix B-2

Agency Responses

Re: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Mon 4/22/2024 4:53 PM

To: Hahn, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Hahn@faa.gov>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your response. I understand that you spoke with my colleague, Eric Hansen, earlier today regarding the FAA screening process. The Notice Criteria Tool will be utilized to determine whether filing with the FAA is required for this project. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,

Emily McMillan, JD (she/her)

Permitting Specialist

emily.mcmillan@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 697-5747

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 759-5728

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

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From: Hahn, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Hahn@faa.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 2:52 PM

To: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Subject: FW: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Ms. McMillan,

Please go to the FAA's public OE/AAA site and use the 'Notice Criteria Tool' in the middle, left area pick. This will tell if a filing w/ the FAA is needed for the development.

[Obstruction Evaluation / Airport Airspace Analysis \(OE/AAA\) \(faa.gov\)](#)

Sincerely,

Robert Hahn
FAA - Dakota-Minnesota ADO
6020 28th Ave S
Suite 102

Minneapolis, MN 55450-2700
W 612-253-4639
E-mail: Robert.Hahn@faa.gov

From: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>
Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>
Subject: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Midwater BESS, LLC is writing to request your comments on the proposed battery energy storage project. The Project is an energy storage facility to be located in Freeborn County, Minnesota with a nameplate capacity of up to 150-megawatts (MW). We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments within 30 days of receiving this email. All responses may be made publicly available upon submission of the Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Please email Emily McMillian at Emily.McMillian@Westwoodps.com about any questions and concerns.

Thanks,

Sophia Fisher (she/her)

Project Assistant, Wind

sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com

main (952) 937-5150

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150



Federal Aviation Administration

The FAA is currently experiencing delays in processing off-airport aeronautical studies. These delays are currently resulting in an approximate 15 additional days in processing time. The FAA will continue to work aeronautical studies on a first come, first served basis. Please take this possible delay into consideration when determining when to submit your case. If your submitted aeronautical study requires priority and 60 days has elapsed since submission, please contact the OEG Specialist for your state with the rationale for your request and it will be reviewed for escalation. The issue causing these delays is actively being mitigated and is expected to be resolved around August.

<< OE/AAA

Notice Criteria Tool

Notice Criteria Tool - Desk Reference Guide V_2018.2.0

The requirements for filing with the Federal Aviation Administration for proposed structures vary based on a number of factors: height, proximity to an airport, location, and frequencies emitted from the structure, etc. For more details, please reference [CFR Title 14 Part 77.9](#).

You must file with the FAA at least 45 days prior to construction if:

- your structure will exceed 200ft above ground level
- your structure will be in proximity to an airport and will exceed the slope ratio
- your structure involves construction of a traverseway (i.e. highway, railroad, waterway etc...) and once adjusted upward with the appropriate vertical distance would exceed a standard of 77.9(a) or (b)
- your structure will emit frequencies, and does not meet the conditions of the [FAA Co-location Policy](#)
- your structure will be in an instrument approach area and might exceed part 77 Subpart C
- your proposed structure will be in proximity to a navigation facility and may impact the assurance of navigation signal reception
- your structure will be on an airport or heliport
- filing has been requested by the FAA

If you require additional information regarding the filing requirements for your structure, please identify and contact the appropriate FAA representative using the [Air Traffic Areas of Responsibility map](#) for Off Airport construction, or contact the [FAA Airports Region / District Office](#) for On Airport construction.

The tool below will assist in applying Part 77 Notice Criteria.

* **Structure Type:** ▼
 Please select structure type and complete location point information.

Latitude: Deg M S ▼

Longitude: Deg M S ▼

Horizontal Datum: ▼

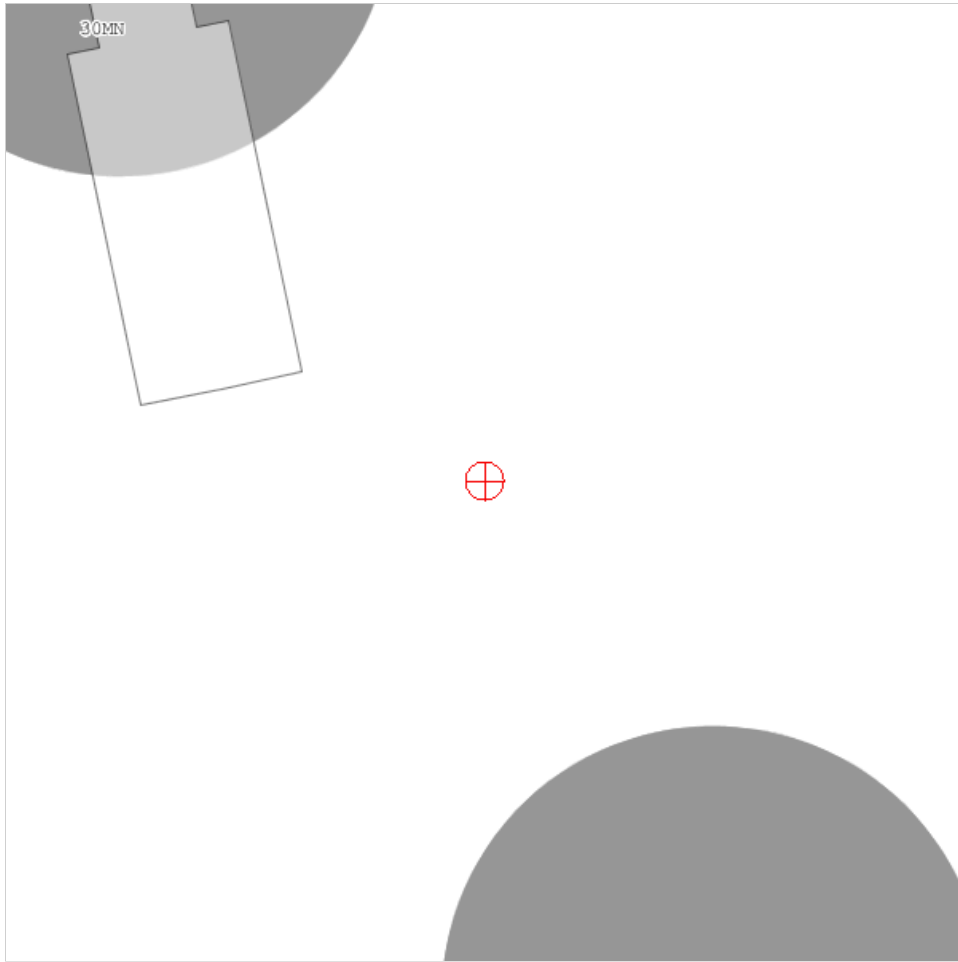
Site Elevation (SE): (nearest foot)

Structure Height : (nearest foot)

Is structure on airport: No Yes

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.



Appendix B-2

Agency Responses

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Re: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Mon 4/22/2024 4:54 PM

To: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>; Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your response. We will be sure to note Haley as the DNR contact as we move forward with application preparation and any applicable future outreach.

Thanks,

Emily McMillan, JD (she/her)

Permitting Specialist

emily.mcmillan@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 697-5747

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 759-5728

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Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

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From: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 4:06 PM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Hi Sophia,

Please coordinate with Haley Byron, the Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (REAE) in the DNR's South Region, who will be your primary contact during early coordination. Due to DNR staff changes, your primary contact after your application has been submitted has yet to be determined.

Best regards,

Cynthia Warzecha

Energy Projects Planner

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-259-5078

Email: cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us

 Title: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Description: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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From: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:27 PM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Subject: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

Midwater BESS, LLC is writing to request your comments on the proposed battery energy storage project. The Project is an energy storage facility to be located in Freeborn County, Minnesota with a nameplate capacity of up to 150-megawatts (MW). We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments within 30 days of receiving this email. All responses may be made publicly available upon submission of the Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Please email Emily McMillian at Emily.McMillian@Westwoodps.com about any questions and concerns.

Thanks,

Sophia Fisher (she/her)

Project Assistant, Wind

sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com

main (952) 937-5150

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

Re: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Wed 4/24/2024 9:48 AM

To: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>; Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

 1 attachments (8 KB)

MW_Project_Area_20240319.shp.zip;

Hi Haley,

Thank you for your response. Please see the attached preliminary project boundary for the Midwater BESS facility. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know.

Thanks,

Emily McMillan, JD (she/her)

Permitting Specialist

emily.mcmillan@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 697-5747

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 759-5728

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12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

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From: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 9:55 AM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Subject: RE: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Hello Sophia,

Thank you for contacting the DNR for comments. To help facilitate project review, please provide a shapefile of the project boundary.

Thank you,

Haley Byron

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Southern Region EWR

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

117 Rogers Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Office: 507-389-8813
Cell: 507-910-8963
Email: haley.byron@state.mn.us
mndnr.gov

 Title: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Description: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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From: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>
Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>
Subject: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

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Good afternoon,

Midwater BESS, LLC is writing to request your comments on the proposed battery energy storage project. The Project is an energy storage facility to be located in Freeborn County, Minnesota with a nameplate capacity of up to 150-megawatts (MW). We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments within 30 days of receiving this email. All responses may be made publicly available upon submission of the Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Please email Emily McMillian at Emily.McMillian@Westwoodps.com about any questions and concerns.

Thanks,

Sophia Fisher (she/her)

Project Assistant, Wind

sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com

main (952) 937-5150

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

Re: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Mon 4/29/2024 1:42 PM

To: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>; Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Hi Haley,

A wetland delineation is currently underway for this project. We are currently working with Midwater BESS, LLC to prepare the design and application package, so the design specifics are not yet finalized. We anticipate being ready to submit in late July.

Emily McMillan, JD (she/her)

Permitting Specialist

emily.mcmillan@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 697-5747

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 759-5728

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

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From: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 11:41 AM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Subject: RE: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

One more thing – has a wetland delineation been done?

Thank you!

Haley Byron

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Southern Region EWR

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

117 Rogers Street

Mankato, MN 56001

Office: 507-389-8813

Cell: 507-910-8963

Email: haley.byron@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov

 Title: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Description: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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From: Byron, Haley (DNR)
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 9:03 AM
To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>
Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>
Subject: RE: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Good Morning Sophia,

For clarification, will the facility be located on both sides of the Shell Rock River?

Thank you,

Haley Byron

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Southern Region EWR

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

117 Rogers Street

Mankato, MN 56001

Office: 507-389-8813

Cell: 507-910-8963

Email: haley.byron@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov

 Title: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Description: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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From: Sophia Fisher <[Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com](mailto: Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com)>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: Sophia Fisher <[Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com](mailto: Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com)>
Cc: Emily McMillan <[Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com](mailto: Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com)>
Subject: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

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Good afternoon,

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Please email Emily McMillian at Emily.McMillian@Westwoodps.com about any questions and concerns.

Thanks,

Sophia Fisher (she/her)

Project Assistant, Wind

sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com

main (952) 937-5150

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

Appendix B-2

Agency Responses

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Midwater and Snowshoe BESS Projects

Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Wed 7/17/2024 1:33 PM

To:Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Emily,

First, apologies as I meant to engage with you much earlier on these project proposals.

MnDOT welcomes you to host a project introduction meeting for both projects with applicable agency staff. If you care to share a few dates/times within the next few weeks that you and your project team are available, I will work to make a Microsoft Teams meeting happen on my end.

Anticipated meeting topics would be:

1. Scope of work
2. Project timeline
3. Available
 - a. GIS/Non-GIS mapping
 - b. facility layout
 - c. HVTL connection location(s)
4. Other state/federal agency coordination to-date
5. Anticipated effects on the state trunk highway system
6. An overview of MnDOT's early coordination expectations (Utility Early Notification Memo process) – by MnDOT staff

If this offer is of interest to you, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)



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RE: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Wed 7/31/2024 9:29 AM

To: Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

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Great. Thanks again to you and the team for coordinating with us.

We'll likely make a note in our scoping comments that this (particular) expected review will happen at a later date.

-Stacy

From: Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 9:25 AM
To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>
Subject: RE: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Hi Stacy,

While we won't have 60% design until after the project is permitted by the PUC, we are happy to coordinate with the MNDOT District 6 engineer prior to construction to address any MNDOT concerns.

Thanks for the meeting and information yesterday.

Mary

 Image removed by sender.

Mary Matze | [Sr. Development Associate](#)

P +1 786-321-9379

M +1 763-516-8373

E: mmatze@spearmintenergy.com

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:52 AM
To: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>
Subject: RE: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

FYI –

MnDOT District 6 planning staff would like an opportunity to perform a “development review” of the Midwater plans (at 60% or more) for any ponding or drainage impacts to MnDOT ROW. Would this be possible?

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

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From: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:43 AM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

Subject: Re: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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Thank you for passing these along, Stacy. We really appreciate you taking the time this morning for an introductory call.

Emily McMillan, JD (she/her)

Permitting Specialist

emily.mcmillan@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 697-5747

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 759-5728

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

[westwoodps.com](#) [[westwoodps.com](#)]

(888) 937-5150

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:22 AM

To: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

Subject: RE: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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Per our meeting today, links below and attached PDF of MnDOT District 6 planned projects.

[Projects - Southeast Minnesota District 6 - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\) \[dot.state.mn.us\]](#)
[State Transportation Improvement Program - MnDOT \[dot.state.mn.us\]](#)

MnDOT Utility Permitting page:

[Permit Information and Forms - Utility Agreements & Permits - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\) \[dot.state.mn.us\]](#)

Thanks to you all for meeting with us.

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\) \[dot.state.mn.us\]](#)



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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT)

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2024 2:26 PM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT); Hartzheim, Paul (DOT); Evans, David (DOT); Wayne, Kurt (He/Him/His) (DOT); Emily McMillan; Mary Matze; Eric Hansen; Driver, Ann (DOT)

Cc: McCoy, Brian (DOT)

Subject: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

When: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:00 AM-1:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Importance: High

Please join me for this project introduction meeting discussing **two** Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project proposals in Olmsted and Freeborn counties. See attached PDFs for brief project descriptions and location maps.

Please forward to other attendees that should be aware of/need to review these projects for effects on the state trunk highway system.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Scope of work
3. Project timeline
4. Available
 - a. GIS/Non-GIS mapping
 - b. Facility layout
 - c. HVTL/collection line location(s)
 - d. Access road location(s)
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6. Anticipated effects on the state trunk highway system
7. An overview of MnDOT's early coordination expectations (Utility Early Notification Memo process) – by MnDOT staff
8. Questions, feedback, and next steps

Thank you in advance for your participation,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#) [[dot.state.mn.us](#)]



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Tenant key: mn@m.webex.com

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RE: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>

Tue 8/13/2024 1:39 PM

To:Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>;Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>;Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Hi Stacy,

Thanks for sending – what is triggering the need for this on the Midwater site only?
Wondering if there are specific concerns that you would like us to address?

Very best,
Mary

spearmint

Mary Matze | Sr. Development Associate

P +1 786-321-9379

M +1 763-516-8373

E: mmatze@spearmintenergy.com

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 11:35 AM

To: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

Subject: RE: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Good Morning,

Of the two projects we discussed during our 7/30/24 meeting, MnDOT requests that a Utility Early Notification Memo be submitted for the Midwater BEES Project **ONLY**.

Please see the attached documents (ENM and Supplemental Checklist) for your use and return. As mentioned, the requested information is self-explanatory and akin to what is expected for your PUC application. However, if you should have any questions or need clarification, please contact me.

A friendly reminder that, depending on when you'd like MnDOT's review response (before - for inclusion in your application **or** after your PUC application filing - for inclusion in our scoping letter filed on record), we do require a **30-day review** for all affected resource groups/offices to adequately research project effects.

Thank you for participating in MnDOT's early project review process,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\) \[dot.state.mn.us\]](#)



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From: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:30 AM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Hartzheim, Paul (DOT) <Paul.Hartzheim@state.mn.us>; Evans, David (DOT) <david.evans@state.mn.us>; Wayne, Kurt (He/Him/His) (DOT) <kurt.wayne@state.mn.us>; McCoy, Brian (DOT) <Brian.McCoy@state.mn.us>; Driver, Ann (DOT) <ann.driver@state.mn.us>

Cc: Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

Subject: Re: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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Good morning,

Thank you again for taking the time for these project introductions this morning. Attached are the meeting minutes from this discussion. If you have any follow-up questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,

Emily McMillan, JD (she/her)

Permitting Specialist

emily.mcmillan@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 697-5747

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 759-5728

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com [westwoodps.com]

(888) 937-5150

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT)

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2024 2:27 PM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Hartzheim, Paul (DOT) <Paul.Hartzheim@state.mn.us>; Evans, David (DOT) <david.evans@state.mn.us>; Wayne, Kurt (He/Him/His) (DOT) <kurt.wayne@state.mn.us>; Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>; Mary Matze <mmatze@spearmintenergy.com>; Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

Subject: Project Introduction Meeting - Midwater and Snowshoe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

When: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:00 AM-10:00 AM.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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8. Questions, feedback, and next steps

Thank you in advance for your participation,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

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Appendix B-2

Agency Responses

State Historic Preservation Office

SHPO No 2024-1548 Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>

Fri 7/5/2024 1:01 PM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

 1 attachments (175 KB)

2024-1548.pdf;

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Here is the SHPO comment letter for this project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Kelly



Kelly Gragg-Johnson (she/her/hers) | **Environmental Review Program Specialist**

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203

Saint Paul, MN 55155

(651) 201-3285 | kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

Please reference this [SHPO Environmental Review Program Update](#) regarding current project review timelines and staffing changes for the Environmental Review Program.

-

From: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:27 PM

To: Sophia Fisher <Sophia.Fisher@westwoodps.com>

Cc: Emily McMillan <Emily.McMillan@westwoodps.com>

Subject: Request for Comment on Midwater BESS, LLC Battery Energy Storage

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

Midwater BESS, LLC is writing to request your comments on the proposed battery energy storage project. The Project is an energy storage facility to be located in Freeborn County, Minnesota with a nameplate capacity of up to 150-megawatts (MW). We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments within 30 days of receiving this email. All responses may be made publicly available upon submission of the Site Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Please email Emily McMillian at Emily.McMillian@Westwoodps.com about any questions and concerns.

Thanks,

Sophia Fisher (she/her)

Project Assistant, Wind

sophia.fisher@westwoodps.com

main (952) 937-5150

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300

Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

July 5, 2024

Eric Hansen
Westwood Professional Services
12701 Whitewater Dr, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

RE: Midwater Battery Energy Storage System Project
T101 R20 S7, S8 & S17, Shell Rock Twp, Freeborn County
SHPO Number: 2024-1548

Dear Eric Hansen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. We understand that this project will require a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission site permit, therefore, the submitted information has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (138.665-666).

According to your submittal, the proposed Battery Energy Storage System Project (Project) will include the construction of battery storage containers, a Project substation, an overhead gen-tie line from the Project substation to an existing substation, access roads, fencing, and underground electrical connections within the storage system.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase IA literature review be conducted to assess the potential for archaeological resources being located within the proposed project area. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. The Phase I survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Specialties" box.

The project should also take into account the introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that may have an effect on any above ground historic properties that are listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places, or any properties that are part of the Historic Sites Network.

The resulting cultural resources report should include a map with clearly marked project areas including the location of the battery storage containers, the substations, overhead gen-tie line, access roads, fencing, and any other above-ground equipment structures in relation to any identified cultural resources (architectural properties and archaeological sites). The report should discuss ways in which the Project will avoid impacting, both directly and indirectly, any cultural resources that are identified.

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue ■ Administration Building 203 ■ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 ■ 651-201-3287

mn.gov/admin/shpo ■ mnsppo@state.mn.us

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact me at 651-201-3285 or kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Kelly Gragg-Johnson
Environmental Review Program Specialist

October 22, 2024

Rigden Glaab
Westwood Professional Services
12701 Whitewater Dr, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

RE: File R0046089.00
Midwater Battery Energy Storage System Project
T101 R20 S7, S8 & S17, Shell Rock Twp, Freeborn County
SHPO Number: 2024-1548

Dear Rigden Glaab:

Thank you for continuing consultation on the above referenced project. We understand that this project will require a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission site permit, therefore, the submitted information has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (138.665-666). If this project will be located on non-federal public land, the project will also be subject to review under the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (138.40).

According to your submittal, the proposed Battery Energy Storage System Project (Project) will include the construction of battery storage containers, substation connections, an overhead tap line to an existing substation, access roads, fencing, and underground electrical connections within the storage system.

We have reviewed the submitted report, *A Report for Phase I Archaeological Survey, Midwater Energy Storage Project, Freeborn County, Minnesota* (August 28, 2024) as prepared by Westwood Professional Services. Based on the results of the survey, we agree that there are **no properties** listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, or within the Historic Sites Network, that will be affected by this project. We also agree that there are no known or suspected archaeological resources that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Program Specialist, at 651-201-3285 or kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Amy Spong
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Appendix B-2

Agency Responses

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

From: Parker, Kaecey R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kaecey.R.Parker@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Eric Hansen <eric.hansen@westwoodps.com>
Subject: Freeborn County Midwater Energy Storage Project

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Hello,

The Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Regulatory Division (the Corps) recently received a request for Comments for the Midwater Energy Storage Project.

Our office is committed to efficient, helpful service. It is unclear if your project will have impacts to jurisdictional waters. If your project will have impacts to aquatic resources, please submit a permit application with the impacts clearly identified and we can assist you through our permit review process if authorization is required.

You may also request a pre-application meeting to discuss your project prior to submitting a permit application. You can find more information on our permit program and our joint application here: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting-Process-Procedures/>. *Be sure to select the pre-application box on the joint application.

Please note this recommendation is only pertaining to the Corps process and does NOT indicate whether a review is required from the state or local authorities.

If we do not receive a response from you within 3 business days we will assume nothing further is needed from our office.

Respectfully,

Kaecey Parker
Environmental Protection Technician
Regulatory Division, St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Appendix B-2

Agency Responses

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposed Midwater Battery Energy Storage System Project - Request for Comments

Marsh, Dawn S <dawn_marsh@fws.gov>

Wed 4/24/2024 11:21 AM

To:Eric Hansen <Eric.Hansen@westwoodps.com>

CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office. We received your letters regarding the proposed Midwater Battery Energy Storage System Project and request for comment.

Because of current workload management, we are not able to provide the level of initial technical assessment that you are requesting. We now rely on available web-based tools to provide initial technical assistance. You can access the information you're looking for regarding federally listed species that could occur in your project area through our Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). Through IPaC, you will be able to enter geographic and activity details for your project to generate an Official Species List that provides a list of federally listed species and designated critical habitat that may be impacted by your project. The species list will also include any species proposed for listing and any areas proposed as critical habitat that overlap with the project area. You then can refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including step-by-step instructions for making effects determinations for each species that might be present. If there is no habitat for the species that IPaC indicates, then the appropriate determination is No Effect. You do not need to consult further with us for No Effect determinations, simply document the logic and conclusion for your files. We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available.

Should you determine that listed species or other federal trust resources could occur in your project area and would like to coordinate on a path forward under for ESA consultation and permitting under section 7 or section 10, please email our general inbox at TwinCities@fws.gov for next steps.

Thank you,
Dawn

Dawn Marsh (she/her/hers) | Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office
3815 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, MN 55425
Mobile: (612) 283-8054