

Oral Public Meeting Comments Received on the
Scope of the Environmental Assessment for the
Birch Coulee Solar Project
Docket No. GS-23-477

Public Meetings

1. October 9, 2024 –Franklin, Minn., 6:00 p.m.
2. October 10, 2024 – Virtual, On-Line Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

1 SCOPING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 23-477

2 Franklin - October 9, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

5
6 In the Matter of the Application of Birch Coulee Solar,
7 LLC, for a Site Permit for the up to 125 MW Birch Coulee
8 Solar Project in Renville County, Minnesota

9
10
11
12
13 MPUC DOCKET NO. IP-7119/GS-23-477

14
15
16
17 Franklin Community Center
18 Franklin, Minnesota

19
20
21
22 October 9, 2024

23
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

SPEAKER	PAGE
Craig Janezich	3
Scott Groux	5
Lauren Agnew	15
Nate Runke	19
Chris Wood	20
Fritz Busch	23
Scott Refsland	26
Miasia Wist Asia	30
Lauren Agnew	32
Dave Munsell	32
Joe Serbus	33

1 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Okay. Hello. Good
2 evening.

3 My name is Craig Janezich and I work with
4 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This is
5 the Public Information and Scoping Meeting for the
6 Birch Coulee Solar Project.

7 This is our meeting agenda.

8 The first thing we're going to do is do
9 an introduction and look at the permit review
10 application process. The project Applicant is going
11 to take us through their project and talk about the
12 project. And then the Department of Commerce is
13 going to give us an overview of how they do an
14 environmental review for projects. And then we'll
15 open it up for any questions or comments you all
16 have for the Applicant, the Department of Commerce,
17 or myself at the PUC.

18 The proposed project is a 125 megawatt
19 solar energy generating system. It's located on
20 approximately 768 acres over a 1,000-acre site.
21 There will be a transmission line, a short 115 kV
22 transmission line as part of the project as well.

23 The project is defined as a Large
24 Electric Power Generating Plant because it's over 50
25 megawatts. And because it's over that point, the

1 Public Utilities Commission is responsible for
2 licensing and permitting it and making a decision on
3 the project.

4 When the Commission makes a decision on
5 the project, there are over 12 factors that we
6 consider and they're part of the environmental
7 review. Noise, aesthetics, public health, safety,
8 land use conflicts. Those are all things and many
9 more that are part of the environmental review that
10 you'll hear about later on from Lauren that the
11 Commission takes those factors when making a
12 determination on a project.

13 This is an estimate of the overall
14 schedule for the project. The public hearing
15 administrative law judge report and Commission
16 consideration, those are all tentative dates. It
17 will be dependent on when an administrative law
18 judge is available, but that's our best guess as to
19 the timeline for the permitting decision.

20 Again, my name is Craig Janezich, and I'm
21 an Energy Facilities Planner at the Public Utilities
22 Commission. Here's my name, email, and phone
23 number. And there's a business card on the desk on
24 your way out that you certainly can grab it so if
25 you think of a question later on that you're

1 wondering about. I have a colleague who also is
2 helping me with this project and his name is Trevor
3 Culbertson, and his contact information is on the
4 slide, too. And the slide show is available on that
5 table, so you can get a copy of that information in
6 that as well.

7 I think the Applicant -- I think you need
8 to use the mic for the court reporter's benefit.

9 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Okay. Thank you.

10 All right. Welcome all to this public
11 scoping meeting. We are excited to be here to
12 provide an overview of the Birch Coulee Solar
13 Project.

14
15
16
17
18
19 AES Clean Energy has experience developing, owning,
20 and operating renewable energy sites across the
21 country with a total of 7.9 gigawatts in operation
22 and 51 gigawatts developed. For the Birch Coulee
23 Solar project, AES Clean Energy is the parent
24 company and Birch Coulee Solar, LLC, is an affiliate
25 of AES Clean Energy.

1 Next slide.

2 As a high level overview of the project,
3 the Birch Coulee Solar project is located in Birch
4 Cooley, Camp, and Bandon Townships, and a portion is
5 within the city of Franklin limits. The point of
6 interconnection is the existing Xcel Energy Franklin
7 substation located north of Highway 19. Among other
8 reasons, the project location was selected due to
9 the proximity to the existing substation, such that,
10 a long transmission line is not necessary to connect
11 the project to the grid.

12 The project includes parcels from nine
13 participating landowners and has a full boundary of
14 1,042 acres as shown by the thick black line on the
15 map. However, during operations the project
16 footprint is expected to be approximately 768 acres
17 of that area.

18 As an update to the project key milestone
19 dates, due to broad grid system updates that must be
20 placed in service before the project can deliver
21 power, the project construction has been delayed
22 until 2028, and the project is expected to begin
23 operating in 2030.

24 The anticipated lifespan of the project
25 is at least 30 years, the length of the site permit.

1 At the end of the project lifespan, we would
2 decommission the project, which involves removing
3 aboveground and below-ground equipment in accordance
4 with landowner agreement, and we would post a bond
5 to cover the cost of decommissioning.

6 Next slide.

7 We include a schematic image here to
8 discuss how a project like Birch Coulee Solar
9 operates. Sunlight shines on the panels, which
10 generates direct current electricity as they rotate
11 to track the sun's position throughout the day. The
12 direct current electricity flows through the
13 inverters, which convert it to alternating current
14 electricity, which is what the typical household
15 appliances use. The AC electricity is gathered and
16 stepped up at the substation to match the high
17 voltage of the grid before flowing to the Franklin
18 substation and then to the utility transmission
19 system.

20 Next slide.

21 Focusing in on project details, the
22 project is an up-to-125-megawatt solar energy
23 generating facility. A project of this size is
24 anticipated to power approximately 25,000 Minnesotan
25 homes per year, offset approximately 184,000 metric

1 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, and
2 provide annual revenue for Renville County,
3 townships, the city of Franklin, and the school
4 district.

5 Of the estimated revenue figures, an
6 average of 250,000 per year -- \$250,000 per year
7 will come from the production tax. This is a new
8 tax revenue stream due to the solar project levied
9 at \$1.20 per megawatt hour. This project will also
10 provide jobs for approximately 300 workers at the
11 peak of construction, and three full-time solar
12 technician jobs during project operations.

13 On the right-hand side, you can see the
14 proposed site layout that was showed at our
15 April 2024 open house. This design incorporates
16 constraints such as the solar energy system setbacks
17 listed in the Renville County land use ordinance and
18 city of Franklin zoning ordinance, and avoids the
19 sensitive environmental features that we identified
20 in our field surveys, including wetlands and water
21 bodies, treed areas, and areas identified during the
22 archeological survey.

23 Based on the discussions with the city of
24 Franklin, the southern parcel within the city limits
25 is not included in the operational footprint. The

1 yellow hashed area is the existing Franklin
2 substation. The blue shaded areas are the solar
3 panel arrays. The dark green box next to the
4 existing Franklin substation is the project
5 substation. The small orange boxes distributed
6 throughout the solar array are the inverters, and
7 the red areas are the laydown yards.

8 For additional context, the operational
9 footprint of the project is represented by the thick
10 black line and located north of the existing
11 transmission line, north of State Highway 19. This
12 is a preliminary design, and we will finalize the
13 design prior to construction.

14 Next slide.

15 Now that we have looked at Birch Coulee
16 Solar's site layout and talked about how solar
17 projects operate, we can pivot to talk about how the
18 pieces of equipment connect and how we construct
19 these projects.

20 Construction of the Birch Coulee Solar
21 project is anticipated to take between 12 and
22 18 months to complete, starting with the initial
23 mobilization and preparation of the site. Equipment
24 and materials are delivered to the site over a
25 course of several months, while crews clear

1 vegetation and survey the site to mark boundaries of
2 the project components.

3 A key aspect of this stage is installing
4 erosion and sediment control measures ahead of any
5 grading or excavating -- excavation activity to
6 minimize the potential for soil erosion and runoff
7 offsite. Our civil engineers and contractors
8 determine how much grading may be necessary for a
9 project like Birch Coulee where the topography is
10 relatively flat. We anticipate that any soils can
11 be moved around onsite.

12 After the site is graded, assembly of the
13 racking system begins. The racking consists of
14 horizontal steel support beams that will be oriented
15 north/south to optimize the sun exposure.

16 Next slide.

17 After the racking system is aligned and
18 installed, the panels can be installed on the steel
19 support beams, along with the installation of the
20 other electrical pump components, such as wiring
21 that gathers the DC electricity to the panels,
22 converters that convert it to AC electricity,
23 entrenched gathering cables that carry the AC
24 electricity to the substation. We would also
25 construct other project components, such as the

1 facilities that connect the project to the Franklin
2 substation at the same time as the panel
3 installation.

4 Finally, after the project components are
5 installed, we would begin the restoration phase,
6 which includes stabilizing the cleared areas with
7 top soil and establishing vegetation. For the Birch
8 Coulee Solar project, we have prepared a draft
9 vegetation management plan that will be reviewed by
10 Minnesota agencies, and intend to establish native
11 pollinator-friendly vegetation throughout the site.
12 While the site is being restored, the equipment
13 undergoes testing to make sure it's operating
14 properly.

15 Next slide.

16 As part of the site permit application,
17 we prepared several visual renderings to show what
18 the project would look like during operation from
19 different vantage points. This particular view is
20 facing north along 400th Street, which bisects the
21 project and runs north/south.

22 The current view is on the left, and the
23 operational view of the project facility is shown on
24 the image on the right. The setback distance to the
25 perimeter fence is 67 feet from the edge of the road

1 right-of-way per the county ordinance, and the
2 proposed height and style of the perimeter fence
3 would be the same as the fencing that you see around
4 the existing solar garden south of Franklin.

5 At this location, the solar facility is
6 on both sides of the roadway, with the 67-foot
7 setback distance and vegetation outside the fence
8 line on each side. The draft vegetation management
9 plan includes a mixed height native species,
10 mixed -- some more than four-feet high, outside of
11 the fence line that will be maintained during
12 operations. The project was designed to avoid
13 clearing trees. So you can see the grove of trees
14 in the photo is expected to remain during project
15 operation.

16 Next slide.

17 As we worked on designing the project and
18 preparing the site permit application, we engaged
19 with local, state, and federal agencies and tribes
20 to gather input and recommendations. I'll highlight
21 a few examples. Following a project notification
22 letter, we received recommendations and guidance
23 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army
24 Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Natural
25 Resources.

1 After we completed the wetland
2 delineation and habitat assessment field studies to
3 understand the existing environmental constraints,
4 the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation
5 District approved the results of the wetland
6 delineation, and the DNR Natural Heritage review
7 confirmed no anticipated impacts to threatened and
8 endangered species.

9 We partnered with the Lower Sioux Indian
10 Community and Upper Sioux Community's Tribal
11 Historic Preservation Officers on the archeological
12 survey, and received concurrence from the state
13 historic preservation office on the results of the
14 survey. Finally, we coordinated with the Department
15 of Agriculture on the agricultural impact mitigation
16 plan, and the DNR and EERA on the vegetation
17 management plan that was submitted as appendices to
18 the site permit application.

19 Next slide.

20 In addition to soliciting feedback and
21 recommendations from agencies and tribes, we engaged
22 with the local townships and city community leaders
23 and adjacent project neighbors to ask for feedback
24 to better understand concerns. As we recognize due
25 to the proximity, the project would impact these

1 stakeholders directly.

2 A few highlights from our community
3 engagement include hosting the first open house in
4 October 2023 to introduce the project, answer
5 questions, and listen to feedback. Based on the
6 questions we heard at the first open house and other
7 meetings, we hosted a second open house in
8 April 2024 to share the project design and how we
9 incorporated and considered feedback. Finally, we
10 prioritized connecting with local community
11 organizations to identify partnership opportunities
12 and ways we can support.

13 Next slide.

14 We have a website where you can find
15 information about the project. We include the
16 project e-mail address here. However, please file
17 your comments with the PUC so that can be included
18 in the scoping document.

19 We want to thank the PUC and EERA for
20 coordinating this public meeting and providing an
21 opportunity for the communities to formally comment
22 on the project and scope of the environmental
23 assessment.

24 Thank you, also, to everyone who joined
25 this meeting tonight. We greatly value your input

1 and continued engagement with the Birch Coulee Solar
2 project and the permitting process.

3 With that, we will turn the floor over to
4 the EERA.

5 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: Great. Thank you.

6 Hello, everyone. My name's Lauren Agnew.
7 I am the assigned project manager from the
8 Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review
9 and Analysis Unit.

10 Next slide, please.

11 So our unit acts as technical advisors to
12 the Commission, and we are focused on providing
13 neutral third-party analysis of the potential human
14 and environmental impacts of projects such as Birch
15 Coulee. We do not advocate either way for the
16 acceptance or denial of the project. Our goal is to
17 help the Commission make informed decisions about
18 project status.

19 Next slide.

20 So my main task as the assigned manager
21 from Commerce is to prepare the environmental
22 assessment, and this will be used by the Commission
23 as a technical advisory resource for helping them
24 make decisions.

25 An environmental assessment is an

1 objective analysis of the proposed Birch Coulee
2 project, and in this environmental assessment, I'll
3 be evaluating both the potential human and
4 environmental impacts, identifying strategies to
5 avoid, minimize, or mitigate said impacts. Again,
6 as a neutral third party, I'm not advocating either
7 way for any option. I'm just providing the facts
8 for the Commission.

9 Next slide.

10 And so one of the main things that helps
11 me prepare this environmental assessment is public
12 input from the community that the project is located
13 in, and this public input focuses our environmental
14 assessment on the most relevant information for your
15 community.

16 We have a table of contents that contains
17 a lot of different topics in our environmental
18 assessment, both human and environmental impacts.
19 And we are soliciting feedback from you, the
20 community members, the attendants that are attending
21 tonight, on your questions, your comments, your
22 concerns about the various impacts that you feel
23 this project might have on your community, both to
24 yourselves and the environment around you.

25 And this is really valuable because each

1 community is unique, and we need this public
2 feedback to help identify what is unique about
3 Franklin and the surrounding area that I can discuss
4 in my environmental assessment.

5 Next slide, please.

6 So how do you comment? So we had --
7 yesterday at our in-person meeting, we had a verbal
8 comment period. We'll also be having one tonight at
9 the end of the presentation if anyone feels like
10 they want to, you know, speak to us. You can also
11 comment online on our website. There is an open
12 comment period now for Birch Coulee on the website
13 that you can click a button that says "submit a
14 public comment," and it sends it directly to me.

15 You can also physically mail or e-mail me
16 a comment. My contact information is listed here
17 for you. You can also find all of my contact
18 information on the EERA website under the Birch
19 Coulee project page. One note, our comment period
20 does end at the end of the month, so please send me
21 your comments by October 25th at 4:30 p.m.

22 Next slide.

23 All right. Finally, some commenting
24 etiquette for anyone who would like to speak. We
25 will be doing one speaker at a time. And when you

1 begin your comment, we first need you to state and
2 spell your name for our court reporter so she can
3 get it correct on the record.

4 Please limit your comments to a few
5 minutes, maintain respect for others, use respectful
6 language, and direct your comments or questions or
7 concerns to human and environmental impacts that
8 would be covered under the scope of the
9 environmental assessment.

10 Next slide.

11 So for those of you who are here today,
12 if you would like to comment, if you are on your
13 phone, you will press *3 to add yourself to the
14 comment queue, and that will show up for us, and you
15 can press *3 to remove yourself. If you are using
16 the Webex online, you can use the raise hand
17 function to indicate that you would like to speak,
18 and we will see that and can call on you. And then
19 when you're done, you can use the lower hand
20 function.

21 And then if you're using the Webex
22 application on your tablet or on your smartphone,
23 please use the chat icon and send a message that
24 says you would like to speak, and then we can
25 prepare it for you to speak. Don't specifically

1 message the questions in the comments. We want to
2 hear you specifically speak them so we can get you
3 on the record.

4 All right. So with that, we'll start
5 with our comment period.

6 I'm going to start with the two people
7 who officially checked that they wanted to speak.
8 So we'll start with Nate Runke.

9 MR. NATE RUNKE: My name is Nate Runke,
10 N-A-T-E, R-U-N-K-E. I am with the International
11 Union of Operating Engineers Local 49. We're a
12 local union that represents heavy equipment
13 operators in Minnesota, North Dakota and South
14 Dakota. We are about 15,000 heavy equipment
15 operators in those three states.

16 And I'm just here to make sure in scoping
17 decisions that that workforce side of it is covered.
18 We've seen over the past decades projects between
19 wind and solar have become a big part of some of our
20 members' lives, how they earn a living. So the
21 utilization of a local union workforce from our
22 perspective is a really important thing. A local
23 workforce for sure to make sure benefits like this,
24 that are being created by a project like this, tend
25 to stay more in the community they're coming from.

1 So that's mainly what U had to say and we can
2 hopefully get more comments in.

3 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: Okay. Next is Chris
4 Wood.

5 MR. CHRIS WOOD: My name is Chris Wood
6 C-H-R-I-S, W-O-O-D.

7 I have a number of comments, actually,
8 because I'm going to be living directly across the
9 road from the project.

10 And one of my concerns is does anybody
11 that has the voting authority actually live next to
12 one of these sites? And that they would have a
13 feeling of what it's really impacting and what it's
14 like.

15 And is there anything at this point that
16 could put a halt to the project, like totally just
17 stop it in its tracks. I mean, I know they've
18 applied for their permit and everything is quite
19 vague.

20 A main concern is the plan, the long-term
21 plan for drainage, because my property, on both
22 sides of it, go under the road and through that
23 whole solar field all the way to the dredge ditch.
24 So if that were to fail or need maintenance, how are
25 we going to access that?

1 And then, also, is there any way to state
2 or prove about property values? Because the
3 neighbor down the road has had his house up for sale
4 for a few months now, and he's had two people look
5 at it. And that hasn't even had an offer. It's
6 unfortunate that he can't be here tonight, and he is
7 quite concerned that it is because of the project
8 that he has not even had an offer of any sort, not
9 even a low offer. So, I mean, I'm concerned about
10 that down the road on my property, that I'm going to
11 have the same problem.

12 Is there -- and I'm getting back to the
13 worker with the union. What is the plan for the 300
14 plus workers that are going to be in the area?
15 Where are they going to be housed, how are they
16 going to entertain themselves in the off time. Are
17 we going to need extra policing or public service
18 because of all these extra workers to just keep
19 things safe?

20 And then being this is such a large
21 project and governed, basically, the permit is going
22 through the state and most state projects that I'm
23 aware of have a prevailing wage. So I don't know if
24 this project is using prevailing wage or what kind
25 of workers they are using. So, I mean, and where

1 are these workers going to be housed, obviously.

2 Another concern is dust control. And if
3 it's gravel, a lot of the gravel roads right now are
4 very, very dusty because it is so dry and just from
5 the normal traffic it's very bad.

6 And another concern will be what are the
7 hours of operation that are intended? If they're
8 only going to be working on this for 18 months, are
9 they going to go 24/7 or are they going to do like
10 they put on some of the mines around here, where
11 they can only work from 7:00 to 5:00 for noise and
12 such things? I mean, because we don't really need
13 post pounding 24/7. I guess I'd like to have that
14 clarification in writing by someone.

15 And the other concern is if we're going
16 have miles of fencing, how are the wildlife going to
17 penetrate these miles of fencing when there's only
18 the road ditch formed around it. Because we're
19 blocking off all the natural access across fields,
20 and the only way they can get to the water source or
21 the dredge ditches are along the ditches when the
22 fence goes up.

23 And then the other concern is fire
24 protection. I'm not sure if our local, small fire
25 department is adequately equipped for multiple

1 transformers and large grass fires and solar panels
2 that you cannot drive through. I mean, is there
3 funding or any way to get extra equipment for that?

4 And then you say on the contract side of
5 things it ends in 30 years. But according to what I
6 see in your permit -- or application, is the
7 decommissioning is not fully funded until the very
8 end.

9 What happens when AES goes out of
10 business after three or four years and there's no
11 decommissioning fund because it's only 25 percent
12 funded. And then we're going to have to look at
13 this like southern Minnesota with all the windmill
14 blades right now that are sitting there because
15 there's no funding.

16 And then my final permit question is, it
17 says in their application that they can have five
18 percent of the area can be noxious weeds. That's 50
19 acres of noxious weeds and that seems like a lot to
20 me to just let slide.

21 So that's all I have for concerns. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: Thank you.

24 And then we have Fritz.

25 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: Fritz Busch with the

1 New Ulm Journal. F-R-I-T-Z, B-U-S-C-H.

2 The first question is has the land been
3 purchased or is it leased for the project?

4 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Thanks for the
5 question.

6 We have a mix of both purchase option
7 agreements as well as lease agreements. Our costs
8 are participating landowners.

9 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: Okay. How many?

10 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Nine participating
11 landowners, both with lease agreements and purchase
12 options.

13 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: I should use the
14 mic, too, I guess.

15 So the court reporter can get it into the
16 record, we just really need to get it -- we need to
17 be sure that Janet hears it, because the
18 Commissioners actually review the record. And if we
19 don't have a good, solid record, your concerns or
20 comments might not be on it. So please use the
21 microphone and state and spell your name.

22 I know that's a challenge with one mic, I
23 apologize for that.

24 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: Is there a similar
25 project like this up and running?

1 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Is there a similar
2 project? Yeah, there would be -- across the state
3 there are a lot of solar projects. I can't give you
4 an exact number off the top of my head, but I could
5 find out for you. Do you have a business card or
6 something? I could look that up for you for and get
7 back to you.

8 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: Yeah. The way I
9 understand it, there isn't one this size in
10 Minnesota. That's what I've read, but I don't know
11 for a fact if that's really true.

12 MR. SCOTT GROUX: No, I believe there are
13 larger ones. Yeah. Sherco out by Becker is one.

14 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: Okay. This isn't
15 really a question about this project, but there was
16 one a few years ago near Mountain Lake that was
17 going to be solar and wind and very large. I don't
18 know the status of that, what that status is, I
19 haven't heard.

20 MR. SCOTT GROUX: I'm also not familiar
21 with that project, but if I get your card I'll look
22 it up for you.

23 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: Are there a lot of
24 incentives for this? Is it with the federal
25 government as there are with, for instance, this CO2

1 pipeline project, maybe you people have dealt with
2 that and maybe not.

3 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Yeah. So for this
4 project, currently the development is backed by the
5 parent company, AES Clean Energy, which is a
6 publicly traded corporation and private equity is
7 behind the current development.

8 As the project goes to construction, we
9 will be eligible for federal tax incentives, which
10 we will use to help finance the project. But
11 currently there is no tax benefits that this project
12 is seeing and it is currently private equity that is
13 moving forward with the development.

14 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: So all of that would
15 have to be -- federal tax incentives is something
16 that would have to come to be, they aren't existing
17 now, is what you're saying?

18 MR. SCOTT GROUX: No, there are currently
19 no federal tax incentives associated with the
20 project.

21 MR. FRITZ BUSCH: All right.

22 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: You're good?

23 Yeah, so come up one at a time, sir.

24 Come on up.

25 MR. SCOTT REFSLAND: Thank you.

1 My name is Scott Refsland, S-C-O-T-T,
2 R-E-F-S-L-A-N-D. I'm here tonight representing
3 Renville County.

4 Not so much questions, more comments
5 based on the application that was submitted.

6 Renville County does appreciate AES
7 following our setbacks that we have in our
8 ordinance. We would like to see that language
9 probably added to the permit so that we ensure that
10 those setbacks always continue.

11 Tile lines are always an important topic
12 that we talk about. And, again, when we have county
13 tile lines, we do have a corridor which are going to
14 be met by the tile lines are going to be a little
15 more difficult. And I know there's some language in
16 the draft permit out there that talks about that.
17 We would like to see language that the company would
18 be responsible for repairing for the life of the
19 project if it's determined that it is found that
20 they caused the problem. Sometimes on dry years you
21 may not see an issue for a couple, three years, so
22 that's what we would like to see as language in the
23 permit.

24 Financial assurance is discussed in the
25 application. They're proposing a little over \$3.3

1 million and not putting any money up until year ten,
2 and then 25 percent at a time. We don't feel that
3 is a adequate number for decommissioning. We
4 currently require a \$200,000 bond on one megawatt in
5 Renville County. I understand that 125 and 200,000
6 is \$25 million, but we have a formula that we go
7 through and use to determine that number, and based
8 on that number, and I can get into more detail when
9 I submit a written comment on that, but we would be
10 at \$13.5 million just to recycle, if it came back to
11 county to recycle those panels. That's if it came
12 back to us and our responsible. We're not in the
13 business of selling panels so it would be recycle.
14 So we would like to see in the permit 13 and a half
15 million dollars as a bond, and to start 100 percent
16 on year one, not on year 10, and 25 percent the next
17 five years, and then we would like to have a copy of
18 that bond, which I believe we would if they have a
19 permit.

20 Weeds is our concern, too. We know that
21 when you do native prairie grasses on these it takes
22 three to four years for a good establishment. We
23 have found that weeds have been hard to be
24 controlled, and when we do these one megawatts, we
25 would like to see some assurance that the weeds are

1 controlled in a timely manner on these sites.

2 Ownership change. I know that that's not
3 expected at this time, but we know that ownership
4 does change. We would like to be notified, if there
5 is an ownership change, who the new contact would
6 be. Although I realize that we would contact the
7 PUC, we would like to have that contact on hand
8 also.

9 We would request that there's a road use
10 and development agreement between Birch Coulee Solar
11 and Renville County and the affected townships.

12 And we would like there to be training
13 with our local emergency response teams to ensure
14 that there's safety. If there is an emergency
15 within the site, that they are safe and they can
16 perform their duties safely.

17 And lastly, on our one megawatts Renville
18 County has the component of screening around the
19 facility so we would like to see some screening of
20 trees along residents and roadways.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Whoever is next may
23 proceed. If anybody else has anything else to say,
24 please come forward and state and spell your name.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. MIASIA WIST ASIA: Hi. My name is
2 Miasia Wist Asia, spelled M-I-A-S-I-A, last name,
3 W-I-S-T, space, A-S-I-A.

4 So I wanted to ask my question forever
5 and I kinda had an outburst. Of the nine
6 landowners, how many are you leasing from and how
7 many are you buying the land from?

8 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Let me steal the mic.
9 Currently we have four purchase option
10 agreements and five lease structure agreements.

11 MS. MIASIA WIST ASIA: There was a
12 question earlier about the value of land, so I'm
13 wondering if it will be public information, how much
14 you would be purchasing the land for, if you end up
15 going with the four buy options.

16 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Those are private
17 transactions, so the values will not be disclosed
18 publicly.

19 MS. MIASIA WIST ASIA: Okay. And then
20 lastly I read somewhere that during, like,
21 operations, there will be three permanent jobs
22 available for people; is that correct?

23 Are you planning to employ those
24 people -- finding them through the 300 that you
25 originally start out with or are you going to bring

1 them in from somewhere else?

2 MR. SCOTT GROUX: The intent is always to
3 hire from the local workforce when available. So if
4 part of the 300 workforce during construction is
5 located here in the Franklin, Redwood Falls area, or
6 Renville County, that would be a preference. And,
7 yeah, that is the preference, is to be able to hire
8 from that workforce.

9 MS. MIASIA WIST ASIA: My final follow-up
10 for that one is what are the -- what are the exact
11 names of the positions that you will be hiring for
12 for the three permanent positions?

13 MR. SCOTT GROUX: So we usually list
14 those positions with AES Clean Energy as solar
15 technicians. We are an owner and operator, so those
16 three solar technicians would be underneath AES
17 Clean Energy.

18 MS. MIASIA WIST ASIA: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: If anybody else
20 would like to speak, please come forward.

21 I'll give you a couple minutes. I'll
22 circle back. We'll take a couple minutes and come
23 back to see if there's any questions you may have,
24 so we'll take a break, if that's okay.

25 (Break taken from 6:50 to 6:55.)

1 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: All right. We're
2 going to wrap up chatting and come back.

3 Just a reminder, if you don't want to
4 come up and talk into the microphone and make a
5 verbal comment, there are many other ways you have.
6 The written sheets are available here tonight, you
7 can submit a comment through email, online.

8 But as of now, does anyone else want to
9 come up and ask a question or anything?

10 MR. DAVE MUNSELL: Sure.

11 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: Okay.

12 MR. DAVE MUNSELL: Hi. I'm Dave Munsell,
13 D-A-V-E, M-U-N-S-E-L-L.

14 I'm just curious about the contractual
15 obligations that you might have with the project.
16 I'm assuming that Xcel Energy will be the person
17 that buys the power? Is that how it works? Or how
18 is AES going to stay in business, I guess that's the
19 question I'm asking. That's the first question.

20 The second question, I thought I saw a
21 permit that Xcel Energy is going to try to build
22 another transmission line going north here for the
23 two 230s or 330 kilovolt lines going north. Are you
24 folks involved in that, by chance?

25 Thank you.

1 MR. SCOTT GROUX: So the first question
2 as far as how do we monetize the project. Ideally
3 as an owner and operator we look to sign power
4 purchase agreements, so we own and operate the
5 project for the full project life, but we sign with
6 an off-taker to effectively pay for the energy or
7 the capacity or a few different commercial
8 structures on the project. Currently we do not have
9 a PPA or any sort of off-take contract in place on
10 this project.

11 And as far as your second question
12 pertaining to the Xcel proposed transmission lines,
13 we are not affiliated with that project.

14 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: Next?

15 MR. JOE SERBUS: Yes. My name is Joe
16 Serbus, J-O-E, S-E-R-B-U-S.

17 I believe you had a slide previous and
18 that have the dollars generated for the county and
19 locally. They were just having a conversation back
20 there and I was wondering if you could pop it up
21 again just so we could see it one more time.

22 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Give me one second here
23 and I'll pull it up.

24 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: There we go.

25 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Is this what you wanted

1 to see?

2 MR. JOE SERBUS: Perfect.

3 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: There are also
4 copies of the slide at the table as well. You're
5 welcome to use those as well.

6 Is there anybody else?

7 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: All right. So with
8 that, we'll end the verbal comment period for
9 tonight. Thank you, everyone, for coming.

10 Please grab materials on your way out
11 that has the slides, the comment form, information
12 on the environmental assessment, as well as Craig's
13 and my business cards so you have that contact
14 information.

15 Thank you again.

16 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: A final reminder,
17 the comment period ends October 25th at 4:30 p.m.
18 So please get your comments submitted by
19 October 25th at 4:30.

20 We also have a virtual meeting tomorrow
21 night, also at 6:00 p.m., on Webex. The details on
22 joining the virtual meeting are included in the
23 notice.

24 And you are welcome to come. We'll be
25 presenting the same presentation once again and then

1 having an option for anyone to virtually unmute and
2 ask questions or give some comment.

3 Thank you.

4 (Proceedings concluded at 7:01 p.m.)

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

\$	13:23 administrative (2) 4:15,17	8:2 anticipate (1) 10:10	32:16 assurance (2) 27:24;28:25	3:6;5:12,22,24;6:3; 3:7;8:9:15,20;10:9; 11:7;15:1,14;16:1; 17:12,18;29:10
\$1.20 (1) 8:9	advisors (1) 15:11	anticipated (4) 6:24;7:24;9:21; 13:7	attendants (1) 16:20	bisects (1) 11:20
\$13.5 (1) 28:10	advisory (1) 15:23	apologize (1) 24:23	attending (1) 16:20	black (2) 6:14;9:10
\$200,000 (1) 28:4	advocate (1) 15:15	appendices (1) 13:17	authority (1) 20:11	blades (1) 23:14
\$25 (1) 28:6	advocating (1) 16:6	appliances (1) 7:15	available (5) 4:18;5:4;30:22; 31:3;32:6	blocking (1) 22:19
\$250,000 (1) 8:6	AES (9) 5:19,23,25;23:9; 26:5;27:6;31:14,16; 32:18	Applicant (3) 3:10,16;5:7	average (1) 8:6	blue (1) 9:2
\$3.3 (1) 27:25	aesthetics (1) 4:7	application (9) 3:10;11:16;12:18; 13:18;18:22;23:6,17; 27:5,25	avoid (2) 12:12;16:5	bodies (1) 8:21
*	affected (1) 29:11	applied (1) 20:18	avoids (1) 8:18	bond (4) 7:4;28:4,15,18
*3 (2) 18:13,15	affiliate (1) 5:24	appreciate (1) 27:6	aware (1) 21:23	both (7) 12:6;16:3,18,23; 20:21;24:6,11
A	affiliated (1) 33:13	approved (1) 13:5	B	boundaries (1) 10:1
able (1) 31:7	Again (6) 4:20;16:5;27:12; 33:21;34:15,25	approximately (5) 3:20;6:16;7:24,25; 8:10	back (8) 21:12;25:7;28:10, 12;31:22,23;32:2; 33:19	boundary (1) 6:13
aboveground (1) 7:3	agencies (3) 11:10;12:19;13:21	April (2) 8:15;14:8	backed (1) 26:4	box (1) 9:3
AC (3) 7:15;10:22,23	agenda (1) 3:7	archeological (2) 8:22;13:11	bad (1) 22:5	boxes (1) 9:5
acceptance (1) 15:16	AGNEW (10) 15:5,6;20:3;23:23; 26:22;32:1,11;33:14, 24;34:7	area (6) 6:17;9:1;17:3; 21:14;23:18;31:5	Bandon (1) 6:4	break (2) 31:24,25
access (2) 20:25;22:19	ago (1) 25:16	areas (5) 8:21,21;9:2,7;11:6	Based (4) 8:23;14:5;27:5; 28:7	bring (1) 30:25
accordance (1) 7:3	agreement (2) 7:4;29:10	Army (1) 12:23	basically (1) 21:21	broad (1) 6:19
according (1) 23:5	agreements (6) 24:7,7,11;30:10,10; 33:4	around (6) 10:11;12:3;16:24; 22:10,18;29:18	beams (2) 10:14,19	build (1) 32:21
acres (4) 3:20;6:14,16;23:19	agricultural (1) 13:15	array (1) 9:6	Becker (1) 25:13	Busch (9) 23:25,25;24:9,24; 25:8,14,23;26:14,21
across (4) 5:20;20:8;22:19; 25:2	Agriculture (1) 13:15	arrays (1) 9:3	become (1) 19:19	B-U-S-C-H (1) 24:1
activity (1) 10:5	ahead (1) 10:4	ASIA (6) 30:1,2,11,19;31:9, 18	begin (3) 6:22;11:5;18:1	business (6) 4:23;23:10;25:5; 28:13;32:18;34:13
actually (3) 20:7,11;24:18	aligned (1) 10:17	A-S-I-A (1) 30:3	begins (1) 10:13	button (1) 17:13
add (1) 18:13	along (4) 10:19;11:20;22:21; 29:20	aspect (1) 10:3	behind (1) 26:7	buy (1) 30:15
added (1) 27:9	alternating (1) 7:13	assembly (1) 10:12	below-ground (1) 7:3	buying (1) 30:7
addition (1) 13:20	Although (1) 29:6	assessment (11) 13:2;14:23;15:22, 25;16:2,11,14,18; 17:4;18:9;34:12	benefit (1) 5:8	buys (1) 32:17
additional (1) 9:8	always (3) 27:10,11;31:2	assigned (2) 15:7,20	benefits (2) 19:23;26:11	C
address (1) 14:16	Among (1) 6:7	associated (1) 26:19	best (1) 4:18	cables (1) 10:23
adequate (1) 28:3	Analysis (3) 15:9,13;16:1	assuming (1)	better (1) 13:24	call (1) 18:18
adequately (1) 22:25	annual (1)		big (1) 19:19	came (2) 28:10,11
adjacent (1)			Birch (17)	Camp (1)

6:4 can (32) 4:24;5:5;6:20;8:13; 9:17;10:10,18;12:13; 14:12,14,17;17:3,10, 13,15,17;18:2,15,16, 18,19,24;19:2;20:1; 22:11,20;23:17,18; 24:15;28:8;29:15; 32:7 capacity (1) 33:7 carbon (1) 8:1 card (3) 4:23;25:5,21 cards (1) 34:13 carry (1) 10:23 caused (1) 27:20 certainly (1) 4:24 challenge (1) 24:22 chance (1) 32:24 change (3) 29:2,4,5 chat (1) 18:23 chatting (1) 32:2 checked (1) 19:7 Chris (3) 20:3,5,5 C-H-R-I-S (1) 20:6 circle (1) 31:22 city (6) 6:5;8:3,18,23,24; 13:22 civil (1) 10:7 clarification (1) 22:14 Clean (6) 5:19,23,25;26:5; 31:14,17 clear (1) 9:25 cleared (1) 11:6 clearing (1) 12:13 click (1) 17:13 CO2 (1) 25:25 colleague (1)	5:1 coming (2) 19:25;34:9 comment (19) 14:21;17:6,8,11,12, 14,16,19;18:1,12,14; 19:5;28:9;32:5,7; 34:8,11,17;35:2 commenting (1) 17:23 comments (12) 3:15;14:17;16:21; 17:21;18:4,6;19:1; 20:2,7;24:20;27:4; 34:18 Commerce (4) 3:12,16;15:8,21 commercial (1) 33:7 Commission (10) 3:4;4:1,4,11,15,22; 15:12,17,22;16:8 Commissioners (1) 24:18 communities (1) 14:21 Community (10) 13:10,22;14:2,10; 16:12,15,20,23;17:1; 19:25 Community's (1) 13:10 company (3) 5:24;26:5;27:17 complete (1) 9:22 completed (1) 13:1 component (1) 29:18 components (4) 10:2,20,25;11:4 concern (6) 20:20;22:2,6,15,23; 28:20 concerned (2) 21:7,9 concerns (6) 13:24;16:22;18:7; 20:10;23:21;24:19 concluded (1) 35:4 concurrence (1) 13:12 confirmed (1) 13:7 conflicts (1) 4:8 connect (3) 6:10;9:18;11:1 connecting (1) 14:10 Conservation (1)	13:4 consider (1) 4:6 consideration (1) 4:16 considered (1) 14:9 consists (1) 10:13 constraints (2) 8:16;13:3 construct (2) 9:18;10:25 construction (6) 6:21;8:11;9:13,20; 26:8;31:4 contact (7) 5:3;17:16,17;29:5, 6,7;34:13 contains (1) 16:16 contents (1) 16:16 context (1) 9:8 continue (1) 27:10 continued (1) 15:1 contract (2) 23:4;33:9 contractors (1) 10:7 contractual (1) 32:14 control (2) 10:4;22:2 controlled (2) 28:24;29:1 conversation (1) 33:19 convert (2) 7:13;10:22 converters (1) 10:22 Cooley (1) 6:4 coordinated (1) 13:14 coordinating (1) 14:20 copies (1) 34:4 copy (2) 5:5;28:17 corporation (1) 26:6 Corps (1) 12:24 corridor (1) 27:13 cost (1) 7:5	costs (1) 24:7 Coulee (16) 3:6;5:12,22,24;6:3; 7:8;9:15,20;10:9; 11:8;15:1,15;16:1; 17:12,19;29:10 country (1) 5:21 County (13) 8:2,17;12:1;13:4; 27:3,6,12;28:5,11; 29:11,18;31:6;33:18 couple (3) 27:21;31:21,22 course (1) 9:25 court (3) 5:8;18:2;24:15 cover (1) 7:5 covered (2) 18:8;19:17 CRAIG (8) 3:1,3;4:20;24:13; 29:22;31:19;34:3,16 Craig's (1) 34:12 created (1) 19:24 crews (1) 9:25 Culbertson (1) 5:3 curious (1) 32:14 current (5) 7:10,12,13;11:22; 26:7 currently (7) 26:4,11,12,18;28:4; 30:9;33:8	decision (3) 4:2,4,19 decisions (3) 15:17,24;19:17 decommission (1) 7:2 decommissioning (4) 7:5;23:7,11;28:3 defined (1) 3:23 delayed (1) 6:21 delineation (2) 13:2,6 deliver (1) 6:20 delivered (1) 9:24 denial (1) 15:16 Department (6) 3:12,16;12:24; 13:14;15:8;22:25 dependent (1) 4:17 design (4) 8:15;9:12,13;14:8 designed (1) 12:12 designing (1) 12:17 desk (1) 4:23 detail (1) 28:8 details (2) 7:21;34:21 determination (1) 4:12 determine (2) 10:8;28:7 determined (1) 27:19 developed (1) 5:22 developing (1) 5:19 development (4) 26:4,7,13;29:10 different (3) 11:19;16:17;33:7 difficult (1) 27:15 dioxide (1) 8:1 direct (3) 7:10,12;18:6 directly (3) 14:1;17:14;20:8 disclosed (1) 30:17 discuss (2) 7:8;17:3
D				
Dakota (2) 19:13,14 dark (1) 9:3 dates (2) 4:16;6:19 DAVE (3) 32:10,12,12 D-A-V-E (1) 32:13 day (1) 7:11 DC (1) 10:21 dealt (1) 26:1 decades (1) 19:18				

<p>discussed (1) 27:24</p> <p>discussions (1) 8:23</p> <p>distance (2) 11:24;12:7</p> <p>distributed (1) 9:5</p> <p>district (2) 8:4;13:5</p> <p>ditch (2) 20:23;22:18</p> <p>ditches (2) 22:21,21</p> <p>DNR (2) 13:6,16</p> <p>document (1) 14:18</p> <p>dollars (2) 28:15;33:18</p> <p>done (1) 18:19</p> <p>down (2) 21:3,10</p> <p>draft (3) 11:8;12:8;27:16</p> <p>drainage (1) 20:21</p> <p>dredge (2) 20:23;22:21</p> <p>drive (1) 23:2</p> <p>dry (2) 22:4;27:20</p> <p>due (4) 6:8,19;8:8;13:24</p> <p>during (8) 6:15;8:12,21;11:18; 12:11,14;30:20;31:4</p> <p>dust (1) 22:2</p> <p>dusty (1) 22:4</p> <p>duties (1) 29:16</p>	<p>electrical (1) 10:20</p> <p>electricity (7) 7:10,12,14,15; 10:21,22,24</p> <p>eligible (1) 26:9</p> <p>else (6) 29:23,23;31:1,19; 32:8;34:6</p> <p>email (2) 4:22;32:7</p> <p>e-mail (2) 14:16;17:15</p> <p>emergency (2) 29:13,14</p> <p>employ (1) 30:23</p> <p>end (7) 7:1;17:9,20,20; 23:8;30:14;34:8</p> <p>endangered (1) 13:8</p> <p>ends (2) 23:5;34:17</p> <p>energy (16) 3:19;4:21,5;19,20, 23,25;6:6;7:22;8:16; 15:8;26:5;31:14,17; 32:16,21;33:6</p> <p>engaged (2) 12:18;13:21</p> <p>engagement (2) 14:3;15:1</p> <p>engineers (3) 10:7;12:24;19:11</p> <p>ensure (2) 27:9;29:13</p> <p>entertain (1) 21:16</p> <p>entrenched (1) 10:23</p> <p>environment (1) 16:24</p> <p>environmental (20) 3:14;4:6,9;8:19; 13:3;14:22;15:8,14, 21,25;16:2,4,11,13, 17,18;17:4;18:7,9; 34:12</p> <p>equipment (7) 7:3;9:18,23;11:12; 19:12,14;23:3</p> <p>equipped (1) 22:25</p> <p>equity (2) 26:6,12</p> <p>equivalent (1) 8:1</p> <p>erosion (2) 10:4,6</p> <p>establish (1) 11:10</p>	<p>establishing (1) 11:7</p> <p>establishment (1) 28:22</p> <p>estimate (1) 4:13</p> <p>estimated (1) 8:5</p> <p>etiquette (1) 17:24</p> <p>evaluating (1) 16:3</p> <p>even (3) 21:5,8,9</p> <p>evening (1) 3:2</p> <p>everyone (3) 14:24;15:6;34:9</p> <p>exact (2) 25:4;31:10</p> <p>examples (1) 12:21</p> <p>excavating (1) 10:5</p> <p>excavation (1) 10:5</p> <p>excited (1) 5:11</p> <p>existing (8) 6:6,9;9:1,4,10;12:4; 13:3;26:16</p> <p>expected (4) 6:16,22;12:14;29:3</p> <p>experience (1) 5:19</p> <p>exposure (1) 10:15</p> <p>extra (3) 21:17,18;23:3</p>	<p>features (1) 8:19</p> <p>federal (5) 12:19;25:24;26:9, 15,19</p> <p>feedback (6) 13:20,23;14:5,9; 16:19;17:2</p> <p>feel (2) 16:22;28:2</p> <p>feeling (1) 20:13</p> <p>feels (1) 17:9</p> <p>feet (1) 11:25</p> <p>fence (5) 11:25;12:2,7,11; 22:22</p> <p>fencing (3) 12:3;22:16,17</p> <p>few (6) 12:21;14:2;18:4; 21:4;25:16;33:7</p> <p>field (3) 8:20;13:2;20:23</p> <p>fields (1) 22:19</p> <p>figures (1) 8:5</p> <p>file (1) 14:16</p> <p>final (3) 23:16;31:9;34:16</p> <p>finalize (1) 9:12</p> <p>Finally (4) 11:4;13:14;14:9; 17:23</p> <p>finance (1) 26:10</p> <p>Financial (1) 27:24</p> <p>find (3) 14:14;17:17;25:5</p> <p>finding (1) 30:24</p> <p>fire (2) 22:23,24</p> <p>fires (1) 23:1</p> <p>first (7) 3:8;14:3,6;18:1; 24:2;32:19;33:1</p> <p>Fish (1) 12:23</p> <p>five (3) 23:17;28:17;30:10</p> <p>flat (1) 10:10</p> <p>floor (1) 15:3</p> <p>flowing (1)</p>	<p>7:17</p> <p>flows (1) 7:12</p> <p>focused (1) 15:12</p> <p>focuses (1) 16:13</p> <p>Focusing (1) 7:21</p> <p>folks (1) 32:24</p> <p>Following (2) 12:21;27:7</p> <p>follow-up (1) 31:9</p> <p>footprint (3) 6:16;8:25;9:9</p> <p>forever (1) 30:4</p> <p>form (1) 34:11</p> <p>formally (1) 14:21</p> <p>formed (1) 22:18</p> <p>formula (1) 28:6</p> <p>forward (3) 26:13;29:24;31:20</p> <p>found (2) 27:19;28:23</p> <p>four (4) 23:10;28:22;30:9, 15</p> <p>four-feet (1) 12:10</p> <p>Franklin (12) 6:5,6;7:17;8:3,18, 24;9:1,4;11:1;12:4; 17:3;31:5</p> <p>Fritz (10) 23:24,25,25;24:9, 24;25:8,14,23;26:14, 21</p> <p>F-R-I-T-Z (1) 24:1</p> <p>full (2) 6:13;33:5</p> <p>full-time (1) 8:11</p> <p>fully (1) 23:7</p> <p>function (2) 18:17,20</p> <p>fund (1) 23:11</p> <p>funded (2) 23:7,12</p> <p>funding (2) 23:3,15</p>
<p>E</p>		<p>F</p>		<p>G</p>
<p>earlier (1) 30:12</p> <p>earn (1) 19:20</p> <p>edge (1) 11:25</p> <p>EERA (4) 13:16;14:19;15:4; 17:18</p> <p>effectively (1) 33:6</p> <p>either (2) 15:15;16:6</p> <p>Electric (1) 3:24</p>		<p>Facilities (2) 4:21;11:1</p> <p>facility (4) 7:23;11:23;12:5; 29:19</p> <p>facing (1) 11:20</p> <p>fact (1) 25:11</p> <p>factors (2) 4:5,11</p> <p>facts (1) 16:7</p> <p>fail (1) 20:24</p> <p>Falls (1) 31:5</p> <p>familiar (1) 25:20</p> <p>far (2) 33:2,11</p>		

garden (1) 12:4 gather (1) 12:20 gathered (1) 7:15 gathering (1) 10:23 gathers (1) 10:21 generated (1) 33:18 generates (1) 7:10 generating (3) 3:19,24;7:23 gigawatts (2) 5:21,22 goal (1) 15:16 goes (3) 22:22;23:9;26:8 Good (4) 3:1;24:19;26:22; 28:22 governed (1) 21:21 government (1) 25:25 grab (2) 4:24;34:10 graded (1) 10:12 grading (2) 10:5,8 grass (1) 23:1 grasses (1) 28:21 gravel (2) 22:3,3 Great (1) 15:5 greatly (1) 14:25 green (1) 9:3 grid (3) 6:11,19;7:17 GROUX (15) 5:9;24:4,10;25:1, 12,20;26:3,18;30:8, 16;31:2,13;33:1,22,25 grove (1) 12:13 guess (4) 4:18;22:13;24:14; 32:18 guidance (1) 12:22	habitat (1) 13:2 half (1) 28:14 halt (1) 20:16 hand (3) 18:16,19;29:7 happens (1) 23:9 hard (1) 28:23 hashed (1) 9:1 head (1) 25:4 health (1) 4:7 hear (2) 4:10;19:2 heard (2) 14:6;25:19 hearing (1) 4:14 hears (1) 24:17 heavy (2) 19:12,14 height (2) 12:2,9 Hello (2) 3:1;15:6 help (3) 15:17;17:2;26:10 helping (2) 5:2;15:23 helps (1) 16:10 Here's (1) 4:22 Heritage (1) 13:6 Hi (2) 30:1;32:12 high (3) 6:2;7:16;12:10 highlight (1) 12:20 highlights (1) 14:2 Highway (2) 6:7;9:11 hire (2) 31:3,7 hiring (1) 31:11 Historic (2) 13:11,13 homes (1) 7:25 hopefully (1) 20:2 horizontal (1)	10:14 hosted (1) 14:7 hosting (1) 14:3 hour (1) 8:9 hours (1) 22:7 house (5) 8:15;14:3,6,7;21:3 housed (2) 21:15;22:1 household (1) 7:14 human (4) 15:13;16:3,18;18:7	informed (1) 15:17 initial (1) 9:22 in-person (1) 17:7 input (4) 12:20;14:25;16:12, 13 installation (2) 10:19;11:3 installed (3) 10:18,18;11:5 installing (1) 10:3 instance (1) 25:25 intend (1) 11:10 intended (1) 22:7 intent (1) 31:2 interconnection (1) 6:6 International (1) 19:10 into (3) 24:15;28:8;32:4 introduce (1) 14:4 introduction (1) 3:9 inverters (2) 7:13;9:6 involved (1) 32:24 involves (1) 7:2 issue (1) 27:21		
				K	
				keep (1) 21:18 key (2) 6:18;10:3 kilovolt (1) 32:23 kind (1) 21:24 kinda (1) 30:5 kV (1) 3:21	
		I	icon (1) 18:23 Ideally (1) 33:2 identified (2) 8:19,21 identify (2) 14:11;17:2 identifying (1) 16:4 image (2) 7:7;11:24 impact (2) 13:15,25 impacting (1) 20:13 impacts (7) 13:7;15:14;16:4,5, 18,22;18:7 important (2) 19:22;27:11 incentives (4) 25:24;26:9,15,19 include (3) 7:7;14:3,15 included (3) 8:25;14:17;34:22 includes (3) 6:12;11:6;12:9 including (1) 8:20 incorporated (1) 14:9 incorporates (1) 8:15 Indian (1) 13:9 indicate (1) 18:17 Information (10) 3:5;5:3,5;14:15; 16:14;17:16,18; 30:13;34:11,14	J	L
				Janet (1) 24:17 JANEZICH (8) 3:1,3;4:20;24:13; 29:22;31:19;34:3,16 jobs (3) 8:10,12;30:21 Joe (3) 33:15,15;34:2 J-O-E (1) 33:16 joined (1) 14:24 joining (1) 34:22 Journal (1) 24:1 judge (2) 4:15,18	Lake (1) 25:16 land (6) 4:8;8:17;24:2;30:7, 12,14 landowner (1) 7:4 landowners (4) 6:13;24:8,11;30:6 language (5) 18:6;27:8,15,17,22 Large (4) 3:23;21:20;23:1; 25:17 larger (1) 25:13 last (1) 30:2 lastly (2) 29:17;30:20 later (2) 4:10,25 Lauren (11) 4:10;15:5,6;20:3; 23:23;26:22;32:1,11; 33:14,24;34:7 law (2) 4:15,17 laydown (1) 9:7 layout (2) 8:14;9:16 leaders (1) 13:22 lease (3) 24:7,11;30:10 leased (1) 24:3 leasing (1) 30:6 least (1) 6:25 left (1) 11:22 length (1)

6:25 letter (1) 12:22 level (1) 6:2 levied (1) 8:8 licensing (1) 4:2 life (2) 27:18;33:5 lifespan (2) 6:24;7:1 limit (1) 18:4 limits (2) 6:5;8:24 line (9) 3:21,22;6:10,14; 9:10,11;12:8,11; 32:22 lines (5) 27:11,13,14;32:23; 33:12 list (1) 31:13 listed (2) 8:17;17:16 listen (1) 14:5 little (2) 27:14,25 live (1) 20:11 lives (1) 19:20 living (2) 19:20;20:8 LLC (1) 5:24 local (10) 12:19;13:22;14:10; 19:11,12,21,22;22:24; 29:13;31:3 locally (1) 33:19 located (6) 3:19;6:3,7;9:10; 16:12;31:5 location (2) 6:8;12:5 long (1) 6:10 long-term (1) 20:20 look (7) 3:9;11:18;21:4; 23:12;25:6,21;33:3 looked (1) 9:15 lot (5) 16:17;22:3;23:19; 25:3,23	low (1) 21:9 Lower (2) 13:9;18:19 M mail (1) 17:15 main (3) 15:20;16:10;20:20 mainly (1) 20:1 maintain (1) 18:5 maintained (1) 12:11 maintenance (1) 20:24 makes (1) 4:4 making (2) 4:2,11 management (3) 11:9;12:8;13:17 manager (2) 15:7,20 manner (1) 29:1 many (5) 4:8;24:9;30:6,7; 32:5 map (1) 6:15 mark (1) 10:1 match (1) 7:16 materials (2) 9:24;34:10 may (4) 10:8;27:21;29:22; 31:23 maybe (2) 26:1,2 mean (5) 20:17;21:9,25; 22:12;23:2 measures (1) 10:4 Meeting (8) 3:5,7;5:11;14:20, 25;17:7;34:20,22 meetings (1) 14:7 megawatt (3) 3:18;8:9;28:4 megawatts (3) 3:25;28:24;29:17 members (1) 16:20 members' (1) 19:20	message (2) 18:23;19:1 met (1) 27:14 metric (1) 7:25 MIASIA (6) 30:1,2,11,19;31:9, 18 M-I-A-S-I-A (1) 30:2 mic (4) 5:8;24:14,22;30:8 microphone (2) 24:21;32:4 might (3) 16:23;24:20;32:15 miles (2) 22:16,17 milestone (1) 6:18 million (4) 28:1,6,10,15 mines (1) 22:10 minimize (2) 10:6;16:5 Minnesota (5) 3:4;11:10;19:13; 23:13;25:10 Minnesotan (1) 7:24 minutes (3) 18:5;31:21,22 mitigate (1) 16:5 mitigation (1) 13:15 mix (1) 24:6 mixed (2) 12:9,10 mobilization (1) 9:23 monetize (1) 33:2 money (1) 28:1 month (1) 17:20 months (4) 9:22,25;21:4;22:8 more (8) 4:9;12:10;19:25; 20:2;27:4,15;28:8; 33:21 most (2) 16:14;21:22 Mountain (1) 25:16 moved (1) 10:11 moving (1)	26:13 much (3) 10:8;27:4;30:13 multiple (1) 22:25 MUNSELL (3) 32:10,12,12 M-U-N-S-E-L-L (1) 32:13 must (1) 6:19 myself (1) 3:17 N name (13) 3:3;4:20,22;5:2; 18:2;19:9;20:5;24:21; 27:1;29:24;30:1,2; 33:15 names (1) 31:11 name's (1) 15:6 Nate (3) 19:8,9,9 N-A-T-E (1) 19:10 native (3) 11:10;12:9;28:21 Natural (3) 12:24;13:6;22:19 near (1) 25:16 necessary (2) 6:10;10:8 need (8) 5:7;17:1;18:1; 20:24;21:17;22:12; 24:16,16 neighbor (1) 21:3 neighbors (1) 13:23 neutral (2) 15:13;16:6 new (3) 8:7;24:1;29:5 Next (21) 6:1;7:6,20;9:3,14; 10:16;11:15;12:16; 13:19;14:13;15:10, 19;16:9;17:5,22; 18:10;20:3,11;28:16; 29:22;33:14 night (1) 34:21 nine (3) 6:12;24:10;30:5 Noise (2) 4:7;22:11 normal (1)	22:5 north (7) 6:7;9:10,11;11:20; 19:13;32:22,23 north/south (2) 10:15;11:21 note (1) 17:19 notice (1) 34:23 notification (1) 12:21 notified (1) 29:4 noxious (2) 23:18,19 number (6) 4:23;20:7;25:4; 28:3,7,8 O objective (1) 16:1 obligations (1) 32:15 obviously (1) 22:1 October (4) 14:4;17:21;34:17, 19 off (3) 21:16;22:19;25:4 offer (3) 21:5,8,9 office (1) 13:13 Officers (1) 13:11 officially (1) 19:7 offset (1) 7:25 offsite (1) 10:7 off-take (1) 33:9 off-taker (1) 33:6 once (1) 34:25 one (18) 16:10;17:8,19,25; 20:10,12;24:22;25:9, 13,16;26:23;28:4,16, 24;29:17;31:10; 33:21,22 ones (1) 25:13 online (3) 17:11;18:16;32:7 only (5) 22:8,11,17,20;
--	--	---	---	--

23:11 onsite (1) 10:11 open (6) 3:15;8:15;14:3,6,7; 17:11 operate (2) 9:17;33:4 operates (1) 7:9 operating (4) 5:20;6:23;11:13; 19:11 operation (4) 5:21;11:18;12:15; 22:7 operational (3) 8:25;9:8;11:23 operations (4) 6:15;8:12;12:12; 30:21 operator (2) 31:15;33:3 operators (2) 19:13,15 opportunities (1) 14:11 opportunity (1) 14:21 optimize (1) 10:15 option (4) 16:7;24:6;30:9; 35:1 options (2) 24:12;30:15 orange (1) 9:5 ordinance (4) 8:17,18;12:1;27:8 organizations (1) 14:11 oriented (1) 10:14 originally (1) 30:25 others (1) 18:5 out (7) 4:24;23:9;25:5,13; 27:16;30:25;34:10 outburst (1) 30:5 outside (2) 12:7,10 over (8) 3:20,24,25;4:5; 9:24;15:3;19:18; 27:25 overall (1) 4:13 overview (3) 3:13;5:12;6:2	own (1) 33:4 owner (2) 31:15;33:3 Ownership (3) 29:2,3,5 owning (1) 5:19 P page (1) 17:19 panel (2) 9:3;11:2 panels (6) 7:9;10:18,21;23:1; 28:11,13 parcel (1) 8:24 parcels (1) 6:12 parent (2) 5:23;26:5 part (6) 3:22;4:6,9;11:16; 19:19;31:4 participating (3) 6:13;24:8,10 particular (1) 11:19 partnered (1) 13:9 partnership (1) 14:11 party (1) 16:6 past (1) 19:18 pay (1) 33:6 peak (1) 8:11 penetrate (1) 22:17 people (5) 19:6;21:4;26:1; 30:22,24 per (6) 7:25;8:1,6,6,9;12:1 percent (5) 23:11,18;28:2,15, 16 Perfect (1) 34:2 perform (1) 29:16 perimeter (2) 11:25;12:2 period (6) 17:8,12,19;19:5; 34:8,17 permanent (2)	30:21;31:12 permit (15) 3:9;6:25;11:16; 12:18;13:18;20:18; 21:21;23:6,16;27:9, 16,23;28:14,19;32:21 permitting (3) 4:2,19;15:2 person (1) 32:16 perspective (1) 19:22 pertaining (1) 33:12 phase (1) 11:5 phone (2) 4:22;18:13 photo (1) 12:14 physically (1) 17:15 pieces (1) 9:18 pipeline (1) 26:1 pivot (1) 9:17 place (1) 33:9 placed (1) 6:20 plan (7) 11:9;12:9;13:16,17; 20:20,21;21:13 Planner (1) 4:21 planning (1) 30:23 Plant (1) 3:24 please (11) 14:16;15:10;17:5, 20;18:4,23;24:20; 29:24;31:20;34:10,18 plus (1) 21:14 pm (4) 17:21;34:17,21; 35:4 point (3) 3:25;6:5;20:15 points (1) 11:19 policing (1) 21:17 pollinator-friendly (1) 11:11 pop (1) 33:20 portion (1) 6:4 position (1)	7:11 positions (3) 31:11,12,14 post (2) 7:4;22:13 potential (3) 10:6;15:13;16:3 pounding (1) 22:13 Power (5) 3:24;6:21;7:24; 32:17;33:3 PPA (1) 33:9 prairie (1) 28:21 preference (2) 31:6,7 preliminary (1) 9:12 preparation (1) 9:23 prepare (3) 15:21;16:11;18:25 prepared (2) 11:8,17 preparing (1) 12:18 presentation (2) 17:9;34:25 presenting (1) 34:25 Preservation (2) 13:11,13 press (2) 18:13,15 prevailing (2) 21:23,24 previous (1) 33:17 prior (1) 9:13 prioritized (1) 14:10 private (3) 26:6,12;30:16 probably (1) 27:9 problem (2) 21:11;27:20 proceed (1) 29:23 Proceedings (1) 35:4 process (2) 3:10;15:2 production (1) 8:7 Project (90) 3:6,10,11,12,18,22, 23;4:3,5,12,14;5:2,13, 23;6:2,3,8,11,12,15, 18,20,21,22,24;7:1,2,	8,21,22,23;8:8,9,12; 9:4,9,21;10:2,9,25; 11:1,4,8,18,21,23; 12:12,14,17,21;13:23, 25;14:4,8,15,16,22; 15:2,7,16,18;16:2,12, 23;17:19;19:24;20:9, 16;21:7,21,24;24:3, 25;25:2,15,21;26:1,4, 8,10,11,20;27:19; 32:15;33:2,5,5,8,10, 13 projects (7) 3:14;9:17,19;15:14; 19:18;21:22;25:3 properly (1) 11:14 property (3) 20:21;21:2,10 proposed (5) 3:18;8:14;12:2; 16:1;33:12 proposing (1) 27:25 protection (1) 22:24 prove (1) 21:2 provide (3) 5:12;8:2,10 providing (3) 14:20;15:12;16:7 proximity (2) 6:9;13:25 Public (14) 3:4,5;4:1,7,14,21; 5:10;14:20;16:11,13; 17:1,14;21:17;30:13 publicly (2) 26:6;30:18 PUC (4) 3:17;14:17,19;29:7 pull (1) 33:23 pump (1) 10:20 purchase (4) 24:6,11;30:9;33:4 purchased (1) 24:3 purchasing (1) 30:14 put (2) 20:16;22:10 putting (1) 28:1 Q queue (1) 18:14 quite (2) 20:18;21:7
--	---	--	---	--

	9:9	runs (1)	service (3)	soils (1)
R	representing (1)	11:21	6:20;12:23;21:17	10:10
	27:2	S	setback (2)	Solar (27)
racking (3)	represents (1)		11:24;12:7	3:6,19;5:12,23,24;
10:13,13,17	19:12	safe (2)	setbacks (3)	6:3;7:8,22;8:8,11,16;
raise (1)	request (1)	21:19;29:15	8:16;27:7,10	9:2,6,16,20;11:8;12:4,
18:16	29:9	safely (1)	several (2)	5:15;1:19;19:20;23;
read (2)	require (1)	29:16	9:25;11:17	23:1;25:3,17;29:10;
25:10;30:20	28:4	safety (2)	shaded (1)	31:14,16
realize (1)	residents (1)	4:7;29:14	9:2	Solar's (1)
29:6	29:20	sale (1)	share (1)	9:16
really (7)	resource (1)	21:3	14:8	soliciting (2)
16:25;19:22;20:13;	15:23	same (4)	sheets (1)	13:20;16:19
22:12;24:16;25:11,15	Resources (1)	11:2;12:3;21:11;	32:6	solid (1)
reasons (1)	12:25	34:25	Sherco (1)	24:19
6:8	respect (1)	saw (1)	25:13	someone (1)
received (2)	18:5	32:20	shines (1)	22:14
12:22;13:12	respectful (1)	saying (1)	7:9	Sometimes (1)
recognize (1)	18:5	26:17	short (1)	27:20
13:24	response (1)	schedule (1)	3:21	somewhere (2)
recommendations (3)	29:13	4:14	show (3)	30:20;31:1
12:20,22;13:21	responsible (3)	schematic (1)	5:4;11:17;18:14	sort (2)
record (5)	4:1;27:18;28:12	7:7	showed (1)	21:8;33:9
18:3;19:3;24:16,18,	restoration (1)	school (1)	8:14	source (1)
19	11:5	8:3	shown (2)	22:20
recycle (3)	restored (1)	scope (2)	6:14;11:23	south (2)
28:10,11,13	11:12	14:22;18:8	side (4)	12:4;19:13
red (1)	results (2)	Scoping (4)	8:13;12:8;19:17;	southern (2)
9:7	13:5,13	3:5;5:11;14:18;	23:4	8:24;23:13
Redwood (1)	revenue (3)	19:16	sides (2)	space (1)
31:5	8:2,5,8	SCOTT (17)	12:6;20:22	30:3
REFSLAND (2)	review (7)	5:9;24:4,10;25:1,	sign (2)	speak (8)
26:25;27:1	3:9,14;4:7,9;13:6;	12,20;26:3,18,25;	33:3,5	17:10,24;18:17,24,
R-E-F-S-L-A-N-D (1)	15:8;24:18	27:1;30:8,16;31:2,13;	similar (2)	25:19;2:7;31:20
27:2	reviewed (1)	33:1,22,25	24:24;25:1	speaker (1)
relatively (1)	11:9	S-C-O-T-T (1)	Sioux (2)	17:25
10:10	right (9)	27:1	13:9,10	species (2)
relevant (1)	5:10;11:24;17:23;	screening (2)	site (14)	12:9;13:8
16:14	19:4;22:3;23:14;	29:18,19	3:20;6:25;8:14;	specifically (2)
remain (1)	26:21;32:1;34:7	second (4)	9:16,23,24;10:1,12;	18:25;19:2
12:14	right-hand (1)	14:7;32:20;33:11,	11:11,12,16;12:18;	spell (3)
reminder (2)	8:13	22	13:18;29:15	18:2;24:21;29:24
32:3;34:16	right-of-way (1)	sediment (1)	sites (3)	spelled (1)
remove (1)	12:1	10:4	5:20;20:12;29:1	30:2
18:15	road (7)	seeing (1)	sitting (1)	stabilizing (1)
removing (1)	11:25;20:9,22;21:3,	26:12	23:14	11:6
7:2	10:22;18;29:9	seems (1)	size (2)	stage (1)
renderings (1)	roads (1)	23:19	7:23;25:9	10:3
11:17	22:3	selected (1)	slide (20)	stakeholders (1)
renewable (1)	roadway (1)	6:8	5:4,4;6:1;7:6,20;	14:1
5:20	12:6	selling (1)	9:14;10:16;11:15;	start (5)
Renville (9)	roadways (1)	28:13	12:16;13:19;14:13;	19:4,6,8;28:15;
8:2,17;13:4;27:3,6;	29:20	send (2)	15:10,19;16:9;17:5,	30:25
28:5;29:11,17;31:6	rotate (1)	17:20;18:23	22:18;10:23;20;	starting (1)
repairing (1)	7:10	sends (1)	33:17;34:4	9:22
27:18	Runke (3)	17:14	slides (1)	State (10)
report (1)	19:8,9,9	sensitive (1)	34:11	9:11;12:19;13:12;
4:15	R-U-N-K-E (1)	8:19	small (2)	18:1;21:1,22,22;
reporter (2)	19:10	SERBUS (3)	9:5;22:24	24:21;25:2;29:24
18:2;24:15	running (1)	33:15,16;34:2	smartphone (1)	states (1)
reporter's (1)	24:25	S-E-R-B-U-S (1)	18:22	19:15
5:8	runoff (1)	33:16	soil (3)	status (3)
represented (1)	10:6		10:6;11:7;13:4	15:18;25:18,18

<p>stay (2) 19:25;32:18</p> <p>steal (1) 30:8</p> <p>steel (2) 10:14,18</p> <p>stepped (1) 7:16</p> <p>stop (1) 20:17</p> <p>strategies (1) 16:4</p> <p>stream (1) 8:8</p> <p>Street (1) 11:20</p> <p>structure (1) 30:10</p> <p>structures (1) 33:8</p> <p>studies (1) 13:2</p> <p>style (1) 12:2</p> <p>submit (3) 17:13;28:9;32:7</p> <p>submitted (3) 13:17;27:5;34:18</p> <p>substation (9) 6:7,9;7:16,18;9:2,4, 5;10:24;11:2</p> <p>sun (1) 10:15</p> <p>Sunlight (1) 7:9</p> <p>sun's (1) 7:11</p> <p>support (3) 10:14,19;14:12</p> <p>sure (7) 11:13;19:16,23,23; 22:24;24:17;32:10</p> <p>surrounding (1) 17:3</p> <p>survey (4) 8:22;10:1;13:12,14</p> <p>surveys (1) 8:20</p> <p>system (6) 3:19;6:19;7:19; 8:16;10:13,17</p>	<p>talks (1) 27:16</p> <p>task (1) 15:20</p> <p>tax (6) 8:7,8;26:9,11,15,19</p> <p>teams (1) 29:13</p> <p>technical (2) 15:11,23</p> <p>technician (1) 8:12</p> <p>technicians (2) 31:15,16</p> <p>ten (1) 28:1</p> <p>tend (1) 19:24</p> <p>tentative (1) 4:16</p> <p>testing (1) 11:13</p> <p>Thanks (1) 24:4</p> <p>thick (2) 6:14;9:9</p> <p>third (1) 16:6</p> <p>third-party (1) 15:13</p> <p>thought (1) 32:20</p> <p>threatened (1) 13:7</p> <p>three (8) 8:11;19:15;23:10; 27:21;28:22;30:21; 31:12,16</p> <p>throughout (3) 7:11;9:6;11:11</p> <p>Tile (3) 27:11,13,14</p> <p>timeline (1) 4:19</p> <p>timely (1) 29:1</p> <p>today (1) 18:11</p> <p>tomorrow (1) 34:20</p> <p>tonight (7) 14:25;16:21;17:8; 21:6;27:2;32:6;34:9</p> <p>tons (1) 8:1</p> <p>top (2) 11:7;25:4</p> <p>topic (1) 27:11</p> <p>topics (1) 16:17</p> <p>topography (1) 10:9</p>	<p>total (1) 5:21</p> <p>totally (1) 20:16</p> <p>Townships (4) 6:4;8:3;13:22; 29:11</p> <p>track (1) 7:11</p> <p>tracks (1) 20:17</p> <p>traded (1) 26:6</p> <p>traffic (1) 22:5</p> <p>training (1) 29:12</p> <p>transactions (1) 30:17</p> <p>transformers (1) 23:1</p> <p>transmission (7) 3:21,22;6:10;7:18; 9:11;32:22;33:12</p> <p>treed (1) 8:21</p> <p>trees (3) 12:13,13;29:20</p> <p>Trevor (1) 5:2</p> <p>Tribal (1) 13:10</p> <p>tribes (2) 12:19;13:21</p> <p>true (1) 25:11</p> <p>try (1) 32:21</p> <p>turn (1) 15:3</p> <p>two (3) 19:6;21:4;32:23</p> <p>typical (1) 7:14</p>	<p>unmute (1) 35:1</p> <p>up (17) 3:15;7:16;18:14; 21:3;22:22;24:25; 25:6,22;26:23,24; 28:1;30:14;32:2,4,9; 33:20,23</p> <p>update (1) 6:18</p> <p>updates (1) 6:19</p> <p>Upper (1) 13:10</p> <p>up-to-125-megawatt (1) 7:22</p> <p>use (14) 4:8;5:8;7:15;8:17; 18:5,16,19,23;24:13, 20;26:10;28:7;29:9; 34:5</p> <p>used (1) 15:22</p> <p>using (4) 18:15,21;21:24,25</p> <p>usually (1) 31:13</p> <p>Utilities (3) 3:4;4:1,21</p> <p>utility (1) 7:18</p> <p>utilization (1) 19:21</p>	<p>voting (1) 20:11</p> <p>W</p> <p>wage (2) 21:23,24</p> <p>water (3) 8:20;13:4;22:20</p> <p>way (9) 4:24;15:15;16:7; 20:23;21:1;22:20; 23:3;25:8;34:10</p> <p>ways (2) 14:12;32:5</p> <p>Webex (3) 18:16,21;34:21</p> <p>website (4) 14:14;17:11,12,18</p> <p>weeds (5) 23:18,19;28:20,23, 25</p> <p>Welcome (3) 5:10;34:5,24</p> <p>wetland (2) 13:1,5</p> <p>wetlands (1) 8:20</p> <p>whole (1) 20:23</p> <p>Wildlife (2) 12:23;22:16</p> <p>wind (2) 19:19;25:17</p> <p>windmill (1) 23:13</p> <p>wiring (1) 10:20</p> <p>WIST (6) 30:1,2,11,19;31:9, 18</p> <p>W-I-S-T (1) 30:3</p> <p>within (3) 6:5;8:24;29:15</p> <p>wondering (3) 5:1;30:13;33:20</p> <p>Wood (3) 20:4,5,5</p> <p>W-O-O-D (1) 20:6</p> <p>work (2) 3:3;22:11</p> <p>worked (1) 12:17</p> <p>worker (1) 21:13</p> <p>workers (5) 8:10;21:14,18,25; 22:1</p> <p>workforce (6) 19:17,21,23;31:3,4, 8</p>
			V	
		U		
		<p>Ulm (1) 24:1</p> <p>under (3) 17:18;18:8;20:22</p> <p>undergoes (1) 11:13</p> <p>underneath (1) 31:16</p> <p>unfortunate (1) 21:6</p> <p>Union (4) 19:11,12,21;21:13</p> <p>unique (2) 17:1,2</p> <p>Unit (2) 15:9,11</p>	<p>vague (1) 20:19</p> <p>valuable (1) 16:25</p> <p>value (2) 14:25;30:12</p> <p>values (2) 21:2;30:17</p> <p>vantage (1) 11:19</p> <p>various (1) 16:22</p> <p>vegetation (7) 10:1;11:7,9,11; 12:7,8;13:16</p> <p>verbal (3) 17:7;32:5;34:8</p> <p>view (3) 11:19,22,23</p> <p>virtual (2) 34:20,22</p> <p>virtually (1) 35:1</p> <p>visual (1) 11:17</p> <p>voltage (1) 7:17</p>	
T				
<p>table (3) 5:5;16:16;34:4</p> <p>tablet (1) 18:22</p> <p>talk (4) 3:11;9:17;27:12; 32:4</p> <p>talked (1) 9:16</p>				

working (1) 22:8 works (1) 32:17 wrap (1) 32:2 writing (1) 22:14 written (2) 28:9;32:6		11:25 67-foot (1) 12:6			
	2				
	200,000 (1) 28:5 2023 (1) 14:4 2024 (2) 8:15;14:8 2028 (1) 6:22 2030 (1) 6:23 230s (1) 32:23 24/7 (2) 22:9,13 25 (3) 23:11;28:2,16 25,000 (1) 7:24 250,000 (1) 8:6 25th (3) 17:21;34:17,19	7			7.9 (1) 5:21 7:00 (1) 22:11 7:01 (1) 35:4 768 (2) 3:20;6:16
X					
Xcel (4) 6:6;32:16,21;33:12					
Y					
yards (1) 9:7 year (7) 7:25;8:1,6,6;28:1, 16,16 years (8) 6:25;23:5,10;25:16; 27:20,21;28:17,22					
yellow (1) 9:1 yesterday (1) 17:7					
Z					
zoning (1) 8:18					
1					
1,000-acre (1) 3:20 1,042 (1) 6:14 10 (1) 28:16 100 (1) 28:15 115 (1) 3:21 12 (2) 4:5;9:21 125 (2) 3:18;28:5 13 (1) 28:14 15,000 (1) 19:14 18 (2) 9:22;22:8 184,000 (1) 7:25 19 (2) 6:7;9:11	4:30 (3) 17:21;34:17,19 400th (1) 11:20 49 (1) 19:11				

1 SCOPING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 23-477

2 Webex - October 10, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

5
6 In the Matter of the Application of Birch Coulee Solar,
7 LLC, for a Site Permit for the up to 125 MW Birch Coulee
8 Solar Project in Renville County, Minnesota
9

10
11
12
13 MPUC DOCKET NO. IP-7119/GS-23-477
14
15
16

17 Meeting held remotely via:

18 Webex and Telephone
19
20

21 October 10, 2024
22
23
24

25 COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RPR, RMR

1	I N D E X	
2	SPEAKER	PAGE
3	Craig Janezich	3
4	Scott Groux	4
5	Lauren Agnew	14
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Okay. Good evening.
2 At least for those able to attend, my name is Craig
3 Janezich, and I work for the Public Utilities
4 Commission. Our presentation will include an
5 introduction to the permit process, a description of
6 the project from the applicant, and the Department
7 of Commerce will go over the environmental review
8 process. After the presentation, we'll open up the
9 meeting to questions and comments.

10 The Birch Coulee Solar project is a
11 125-megawatt solar energy project on 768 acres
12 within a site boundary of over 1,000 acres in
13 Renville County. The project, it does include a
14 115-kV transmission line that is less than
15 1,500 feet. The project requires a site permit from
16 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission because it
17 qualifies as a large electric power generating
18 plant, as it's over 50 megawatts.

19 When the Commission reviews a project for
20 a site permit, it focuses on areas outlined in
21 Minnesota Rule 7850.4100. These areas include
22 potential human and environmental impacts of the
23 project. The list that the Commission looks at is
24 expansive, with over 12 factors that also include
25 noise, safety, aesthetics, and public health. The

1 Commission also looks at whether there are suitable
2 ways to minimize or mitigate or avoid potential
3 impacts, and whether the project is efficient, cost
4 effective, secure, and conserves resources.

5 The Department of Commerce will prepare
6 the environmental assessment to help the Commission
7 to study these factors, which will aid the
8 Commission in making a decision.

9 This slide shows a general timeline of
10 the project. After the current meeting and comment
11 period, there'll be more opportunities to engage us
12 with this project. For instance, the public hearing
13 step is slated for March 2025. We estimate this
14 project will come before the Commission in
15 June 2025, while much of this schedule will be
16 dependent on the availability of the Administrative
17 Law Judge as they preside over the public hearings.

18 Next slide. As I said, my name is Craig
19 Janezich. My contact information is on this slide.
20 The public advisor is Trevor Culbertson. He is also
21 assisting on this docket, and his information is on
22 the slide as well.

23 I'll turn it over now to the applicants.

24 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Can you hear me?

25 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: (Indicating.)

1 MR. SCOTT GROUX: Okay. Welcome to the
2 public scoping meeting. We're excited to be here to
3 provide an overview of the Birch Coulee Solar
4 project. My name is Scott Groux, lead project
5 developer; and I'm here tonight with Lauren Colwell,
6 project permitting manager; and Lisa Agrimonti,
7 project counsel.

8 Next slide.

9 AES Clean Energy has experience
10 developing, owning, and operating renewable energy
11 sites across the country with a total of 7.9
12 gigawatts in operation and 51 gigawatts developed.
13 For the Birch Coulee Solar project, AES Clean Energy
14 is the parent company and Birch Coulee Solar, LLC,
15 is an affiliate of AES Clean Energy.

16 Next slide.

17 As a high level overview of the project,
18 the Birch Coulee Solar project is located in Birch
19 Cooley, Camp, and Bandon Townships, and a portion is
20 within the city of Franklin limits. The point of
21 interconnection is the existing Xcel Energy Franklin
22 substation located north of Highway 19. Among other
23 reasons, the project location was selected due to
24 the proximity to the existing substation, such that,
25 a long transmission line is not necessary to connect

1 the project to the grid.

2 The project includes parcels from nine
3 participating landowners and has a full boundary of
4 1,042 acres as shown by the thick black line on the
5 map. However, during operations the project
6 footprint is expected to be approximately 768 acres
7 of that area.

8 As an update to the project key milestone
9 dates, due to broad grid system updates that must be
10 placed in service before the project can deliver
11 power, the project construction has been delayed
12 until 2028, and the project is expected to begin
13 operating in 2030.

14 The anticipated lifespan of the project
15 is at least 30 years, the length of the site permit.
16 At the end of the project lifespan, we would
17 decommission the project, which involves removing
18 aboveground and below-ground equipment in accordance
19 with landowner agreement, and we would post a bond
20 to cover the cost of decommissioning.

21 Next slide.

22 We include a schematic image here to
23 discuss how a project like Birch Coulee Solar
24 operates. Sunlight shines on the panels, which
25 generates direct current electricity as they rotate

1 to track the sun's position throughout the day. The
2 direct current electricity flows through the
3 inverters, which convert it to alternating current
4 electricity, which is what the typical household
5 appliances use. The AC electricity is gathered and
6 stepped up at the substation to match the high
7 voltage of the grid before flowing to the Franklin
8 substation and then to the utility transmission
9 system.

10 Next slide.

11 Focusing in on project details, the
12 project is an up-to-125-megawatt solar energy
13 generating facility. A project of this size is
14 anticipated to power approximately 25,000 Minnesotan
15 homes per year, offset approximately 184,000 metric
16 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, and
17 provide annual revenue for Renville County,
18 townships, the city of Franklin, and the school
19 district.

20 Of the estimated revenue figures, an
21 average of 250,000 per year -- \$250,000 per year
22 will come from the production tax. This is a new
23 tax revenue stream due to the solar project levied
24 at \$1.20 per megawatt hour. This project will also
25 provide jobs for approximately 300 workers at the

1 peak of construction, and three full-time solar
2 technician jobs during project operations.

3 On the right-hand side, you can see the
4 proposed site layout that was showed at our
5 April 2024 open house. This design incorporates
6 constraints such as the solar energy system setbacks
7 listed in the Renville County land use ordinance and
8 city of Franklin zoning ordinance, and avoids the
9 sensitive environmental features that we identified
10 in our field surveys, including wetlands and water
11 bodies, treed areas, and areas identified during the
12 archeological survey.

13 Based on the discussions with the city of
14 Franklin, the southern parcel within the city limits
15 is not included in the operational footprint. The
16 yellow hashed area is the existing Franklin
17 substation. The blue shaded areas are the solar
18 panel arrays. The dark green box next to the
19 existing Franklin substation is the project
20 substation. The small orange boxes distributed
21 throughout the solar array are the inverters, and
22 the red areas are the laydown yards.

23 For additional context, the operational
24 footprint of the project is represented by the thick
25 black line and located north of the existing

1 transmission line, north of State Highway 19. This
2 is a preliminary design, and we will finalize the
3 design prior to construction.

4 Next slide.

5 Now that we have looked at Birch Coulee
6 Solar's site layout and talked about how solar
7 projects operate, we can pivot to talk about how the
8 pieces of equipment connect and how we construct
9 these projects.

10 Construction of the Birch Coulee Solar
11 project is anticipated to take between 12 and
12 18 months to complete, starting with the initial
13 mobilization and preparation of the site. Equipment
14 and materials are delivered to the site over a
15 course of several months, while crews clear
16 vegetation and survey the site to mark boundaries of
17 the project components.

18 A key aspect of this stage is installing
19 erosion and sediment control measures ahead of any
20 grading or excavating -- excavation activity to
21 minimize the potential for soil erosion and runoff
22 offsite. Our civil engineers and contractors
23 determine how much grading may be necessary for a
24 project like Birch Coulee where the topography is
25 relatively flat. We anticipate that any soils can

1 be moved around onsite.

2 After the site is graded, assembly of the
3 racking system begins. The racking consists of
4 horizontal steel support beams that will be oriented
5 north/south to optimize the sun exposure.

6 Next slide.

7 After the racking system is aligned and
8 installed, the panels can be installed on the steel
9 support beams, along with the installation of the
10 other electrical pump components, such as wiring
11 that gathers the DC electricity to the panels,
12 converters that convert it to AC electricity,
13 entrenched gathering cables that carry the AC
14 electricity to the substation. We would also
15 construct other project components, such as the
16 facilities that connect the project to the Franklin
17 substation at the same time as the panel
18 installation.

19 Finally, after the project components are
20 installed, we would begin the restoration phase,
21 which includes stabilizing the cleared areas with
22 top soil and establishing vegetation. For the Birch
23 Coulee Solar project, we have prepared a draft
24 vegetation management plan that will be reviewed by
25 Minnesota agencies, and intend to establish native

1 pollinator-friendly vegetation throughout the site.
2 While the site is being restored, the equipment
3 undergoes testing to make sure it's operating
4 properly.

5 Next slide.

6 As part of the site permit application,
7 we prepared several visual renderings to show what
8 the project would look like during operation from
9 different vantage points. This particular view is
10 facing north along 400th Street, which bisects the
11 project and runs north/south.

12 The current view is on the left, and the
13 operational view of the project facility is shown on
14 the image on the right. The setback distance to the
15 perimeter fence is 67 feet from the edge of the road
16 right-of-way per the county ordinance, and the
17 proposed height and style of the perimeter fence
18 would be the same as the fencing that you see around
19 the existing solar garden south of Franklin.

20 At this location, the solar facility is
21 on both sides of the roadway, with the 67-foot
22 setback distance and vegetation outside the fence
23 line on each side. The draft vegetation management
24 plan includes a mixed height native species,
25 mixed -- some more than four-feet high, outside of

1 the fence line that will be maintained during
2 operations. The project was designed to avoid
3 clearing trees. So you can see the grove of trees
4 in the photo is expected to remain during project
5 operation.

6 Next slide.

7 As we worked on designing the project and
8 preparing the site permit application, we engaged
9 with local, state, and federal agencies and tribes
10 to gather input and recommendations. I'll highlight
11 a few examples. Following a project notification
12 letter, we received recommendations and guidance
13 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army
14 Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Natural
15 Resources.

16 After we completed the wetland
17 delineation and habitat assessment field studies to
18 understand the existing environmental constraints,
19 the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation
20 District approved the results of the wetland
21 delineation, and the DNR Natural Heritage review
22 confirmed no anticipated impacts to threatened and
23 endangered species.

24 We partnered with the Lower Sioux Indian
25 Community and Upper Sioux Community's Tribal

1 Historic Preservation Officers on the archeological
2 survey, and received concurrence from the state
3 historic preservation office on the results of the
4 survey. Finally, we coordinated with the Department
5 of Agriculture on the agricultural impact mitigation
6 plan, and the DNR and EERA on the vegetation
7 management plan that was submitted as appendices to
8 the site permit application.

9 Next slide.

10 In addition to soliciting feedback and
11 recommendations from agencies and tribes, we engaged
12 with the local townships and city community leaders
13 and adjacent project neighbors to ask for feedback
14 to better understand concerns. As we recognize due
15 to the proximity, the project would impact these
16 stakeholders directly.

17 A few highlights from our community
18 engagement include hosting the first open house in
19 October 2023 to introduce the project, answer
20 questions, and listen to feedback. Based on the
21 questions we heard at the first open house and other
22 meetings, we hosted a second open house in
23 April 2024 to share the project design and how we
24 incorporated and considered feedback. Finally, we
25 prioritized connecting with local community

1 organizations to identify partnership opportunities
2 and ways we can support.

3 Next slide.

4 We have a website where you can find
5 information about the project. We include the
6 project e-mail address here. However, please file
7 your comments with the PUC so that can be included
8 in the scoping document.

9 We want to thank the PUC and EERA for
10 coordinating this public meeting and providing an
11 opportunity for the communities to formally comment
12 on the project and scope of the environmental
13 assessment.

14 Thank you, also, to everyone who joined
15 this meeting tonight. We greatly value your input
16 and continued engagement with the Birch Coulee Solar
17 project and the permitting process.

18 With that, we will turn the floor over to
19 the EERA.

20 MS. LAUREN AGNEW: Great. Thank you.

21 Hello, everyone. My name's Lauren Agnew.
22 I am the assigned project manager from the
23 Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review
24 and Analysis Unit.

25 Next slide, please.

1 So our unit acts as technical advisors to
2 the Commission, and we are focused on providing
3 neutral third-party analysis of the potential human
4 and environmental impacts of projects such as Birch
5 Coulee. We do not advocate either way for the
6 acceptance or denial of the project. Our goal is to
7 help the Commission make informed decisions about
8 project status.

9 Next slide.

10 So my main task as the assigned manager
11 from Commerce is to prepare the environmental
12 assessment, and this will be used by the Commission
13 as a technical advisory resource for helping them
14 make decisions.

15 An environmental assessment is an
16 objective analysis of the proposed Birch Coulee
17 project, and in this environmental assessment, I'll
18 be evaluating both the potential human and
19 environmental impacts, identifying strategies to
20 avoid, minimize, or mitigate said impacts. Again,
21 as a neutral third party, I'm not advocating either
22 way for any option. I'm just providing the facts
23 for the Commission.

24 Next slide.

25 And so one of the main things that helps

1 me prepare this environmental assessment is public
2 input from the community that the project is located
3 in, and this public input focuses our environmental
4 assessment on the most relevant information for your
5 community.

6 We have a table of contents that contains
7 a lot of different topics in our environmental
8 assessment, both human and environmental impacts.
9 And we are soliciting feedback from you, the
10 community members, the attendants that are attending
11 tonight, on your questions, your comments, your
12 concerns about the various impacts that you feel
13 this project might have on your community, both to
14 yourselves and the environment around you.

15 And this is really valuable because each
16 community is unique, and we need this public
17 feedback to help identify what is unique about
18 Franklin and the surrounding area that I can discuss
19 in my environmental assessment.

20 Next slide, please.

21 So how do you comment? So we had --
22 yesterday at our in-person meeting, we had a verbal
23 comment period. We'll also be having one tonight at
24 the end of the presentation if anyone feels like
25 they want to, you know, speak to us. You can also

1 comment online on our website. There is an open
2 comment period now for Birch Coulee on the website
3 that you can click a button that says "submit a
4 public comment," and it sends it directly to me.

5 You can also physically mail or e-mail me
6 a comment. My contact information is listed here
7 for you. You can also find all of my contact
8 information on the EERA website under the Birch
9 Coulee project page. One note, our comment period
10 does end at the end of the month, so please send me
11 your comments by October 25th at 4:30 p.m.

12 Next slide.

13 All right. Finally, some commenting
14 etiquette for anyone who would like to speak. We
15 will be doing one speaker at a time. And when you
16 begin your comment, we first need you to state and
17 spell your name for our court reporter so she can
18 get it correct on the record.

19 Please limit your comments to a few
20 minutes, maintain respect for others, use respectful
21 language, and direct your comments or questions or
22 concerns to human and environmental impacts that
23 would be covered under the scope of the
24 environmental assessment.

25 Next slide.

1 So for those of you who are here today,
2 if you would like to comment, if you are on your
3 phone, you will press *3 to add yourself to the
4 comment queue, and that will show up for us, and you
5 can press *3 to remove yourself. If you are using
6 the Webex online, you can use the raise hand
7 function to indicate that you would like to speak,
8 and we will see that and can call on you. And then
9 when you're done, you can use the lower hand
10 function.

11 And then if you're using the Webex
12 application on your tablet or on your smartphone,
13 please use the chat icon and send a message that
14 says you would like to speak, and then we can
15 prepare it for you to speak. Don't specifically
16 message the questions in the comments. We want to
17 hear you specifically speak them so we can get you
18 on the record.

19 All right. So it looks like we have a
20 few attendees. So the floor is now open for anyone
21 who would like to make a comment.

22 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Well, it doesn't
23 look like anybody wants to talk at the moment. I'll
24 just say, again, briefly and give you maybe a minute
25 to think about it, that there's still plenty of time

1 to participate. You do have until October 25th to
2 submit comments in writing.

3 I think -- I think no one is really
4 interested in asking questions right now. So having
5 said that, if you do have questions in the future,
6 don't hesitate to contact myself or Lauren. And I
7 hope you all have a great evening and appreciate
8 your time. Thank you.

9 (Public comment concluded at 6:24 p.m.)

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

	agencies (3) 10:25;12:9;13:11	array (1) 8:21	6:19	17:11,19,21;18:16;
\$	AGNEW (2) 14:20,21	arrays (1) 8:18	both (4) 11:21;15:18;16:8, 13	19:2
\$1.20 (1) 7:24	agreement (1) 6:19	aspect (1) 9:18	boundaries (1) 9:16	Commerce (4) 3:7;4:5;14:23; 15:11
\$250,000 (1) 7:21	agricultural (1) 13:5	assembly (1) 10:2	boundary (2) 3:12;6:3	Commission (12) 3:4,16,19,23;4:1,6, 8,14;15:2,7,12,23
*	Agriculture (1) 13:5	assessment (11) 4:6;12:17;14:13; 15:12,15,17;16:1,4,8, 19;17:24	box (1) 8:18	communities (1) 14:11
*3 (2) 18:3,5	Agrimonti (1) 5:6	assigned (2) 14:22;15:10	boxes (1) 8:20	Community (9) 12:25;13:12,17,25; 16:2,5,10,13,16
A	ahead (1) 9:19	assisting (1) 4:21	briefly (1) 18:24	Community's (1) 12:25
able (1) 3:2	aid (1) 4:7	attend (1) 3:2	broad (1) 6:9	company (1) 5:14
aboveground (1) 6:18	aligned (1) 10:7	attendants (1) 16:10	button (1) 17:3	complete (1) 9:12
AC (3) 7:5;10:12,13	along (2) 10:9;11:10	attendees (1) 18:20	C	completed (1) 12:16
acceptance (1) 15:6	alternating (1) 7:3	attending (1) 16:10	cables (1) 10:13	components (4) 9:17;10:10,15,19
accordance (1) 6:18	Among (1) 5:22	availability (1) 4:16	call (1) 18:8	concerns (3) 13:14;16:12;17:22
acres (4) 3:11,12;6:4,6	Analysis (3) 14:24;15:3,16	average (1) 7:21	Camp (1) 5:19	concluded (1) 19:9
across (1) 5:11	annual (1) 7:17	avoid (3) 4:2;12:2;15:20	Can (22) 4:24;6:10;8:3;9:7, 25;10:8;12:3;14:2,4, 7;16:18,25;17:3,5,7, 17;18:5,6,8,9,14,17	concurrence (1) 13:2
activity (1) 9:20	anticipate (1) 9:25	avoids (1) 8:8	carbon (1) 7:16	confirmed (1) 12:22
acts (1) 15:1	anticipated (4) 6:14;7:14;9:11; 12:22	B	carry (1) 10:13	connect (3) 5:25;9:8;10:16
add (1) 18:3	appendices (1) 13:7	Bandon (1) 5:19	chat (1) 18:13	connecting (1) 13:25
addition (1) 13:10	appliances (1) 7:5	Based (2) 8:13;13:20	city (6) 5:20;7:18;8:8,13, 14;13:12	Conservation (1) 12:19
additional (1) 8:23	applicant (1) 3:6	beams (2) 10:4,9	civil (1) 9:22	conserves (1) 4:4
address (1) 14:6	applicants (1) 4:23	begin (3) 6:12;10:20;17:16	Clean (3) 5:9,13,15	considered (1) 13:24
adjacent (1) 13:13	application (4) 11:6;12:8;13:8; 18:12	begins (1) 10:3	clear (1) 9:15	consists (1) 10:3
Administrative (1) 4:16	appreciate (1) 19:7	below-ground (1) 6:18	cleared (1) 10:21	constraints (2) 8:6;12:18
advisor (1) 4:20	approved (1) 12:20	better (1) 13:14	clearing (1) 12:3	construct (2) 9:8;10:15
advisors (1) 15:1	approximately (4) 6:6;7:14,15,25	Birch (16) 3:10;5:3,13,14,18, 18;6:23;9:5,10,24; 10:22;14:16;15:4,16; 17:2,8	click (1) 17:3	construction (4) 6:11;8:1;9:3,10
advisory (1) 15:13	April (2) 8:5;13:23	bisects (1) 11:10	Colwell (1) 5:5	contact (4) 4:19;17:6,7;19:6
advocate (1) 15:5	archeological (2) 8:12;13:1	black (2) 6:4;8:25	comment (14) 4:10;14:11;16:21, 23;17:1,2,4,6,9,16; 18:2,4,21;19:9	contains (1) 16:6
advocating (1) 15:21	area (3) 6:7;8:16;16:18	blue (1) 8:17	commenting (1) 17:13	contents (1) 16:6
AES (3) 5:9,13,15	areas (7) 3:20,21;8:11,11,17, 22;10:21	bodies (1) 8:11	comments (8) 3:9;14:7;16:11;	context (1) 8:23
aesthetics (1) 3:25	Army (1) 12:13	bond (1)		continued (1) 14:16
affiliate (1) 5:15	around (3) 10:1;11:18;16:14			contractors (1) 9:22
Again (2) 15:20;18:24				control (1) 9:19

convert (2) 7:3;10:12 converters (1) 10:12 Cooley (1) 5:19 coordinated (1) 13:4 coordinating (1) 14:10 Corps (1) 12:14 cost (2) 4:3;6:20 Coulee (15) 3:10;5:3,13,14,18; 6:23;9:5,10,24;10:23; 14:16;15:5,16;17:2,9 counsel (1) 5:7 country (1) 5:11 County (5) 3:13;7:17;8:7; 11:16;12:19 course (1) 9:15 court (1) 17:17 cover (1) 6:20 covered (1) 17:23 CRAIG (5) 3:1,2;4:18,25;18:22 crews (1) 9:15 Culbertson (1) 4:20 current (5) 4:10;6:25;7:2,3; 11:12	delineation (2) 12:17,21 deliver (1) 6:10 delivered (1) 9:14 denial (1) 15:6 Department (5) 3:6;4:5;12:14;13:4; 14:23 dependent (1) 4:16 description (1) 3:5 design (4) 8:5;9:2,3;13:23 designed (1) 12:2 designing (1) 12:7 details (1) 7:11 determine (1) 9:23 developed (1) 5:12 developer (1) 5:5 developing (1) 5:10 different (2) 11:9;16:7 dioxide (1) 7:16 direct (3) 6:25;7:2;17:21 directly (2) 13:16;17:4 discuss (2) 6:23;16:18 discussions (1) 8:13 distance (2) 11:14,22 distributed (1) 8:20 district (2) 7:19;12:20 DNR (2) 12:21;13:6 docket (1) 4:21 document (1) 14:8 done (1) 18:9 draft (2) 10:23;11:23 due (4) 5:23;6:9;7:23; 13:14 during (6)	6:5;8:2,11;11:8; 12:1,4 E edge (1) 11:15 EERA (4) 13:6;14:9,19;17:8 effective (1) 4:4 efficient (1) 4:3 either (2) 15:5,21 electric (1) 3:17 electrical (1) 10:10 electricity (7) 6:25;7:2,4,5;10:11, 12,14 e-mail (2) 14:6;17:5 end (4) 6:16;16:24;17:10, 10 endangered (1) 12:23 energy (9) 3:11;5:9,10,13,15, 21;7:12;8:6;14:23 engage (1) 4:11 engaged (2) 12:8;13:11 engagement (2) 13:18;14:16 engineers (2) 9:22;12:14 entrenched (1) 10:13 environment (1) 16:14 environmental (19) 3:7,22;4:6;8:9; 12:18;14:12,23;15:4, 11,15,17,19;16:1,3,7, 8,19;17:22,24 equipment (4) 6:18;9:8,13;11:2 equivalent (1) 7:16 erosion (2) 9:19,21 establish (1) 10:25 establishing (1) 10:22 estimate (1) 4:13 estimated (1) 7:20	etiquette (1) 17:14 evaluating (1) 15:18 evening (2) 3:1;19:7 everyone (2) 14:14,21 examples (1) 12:11 excavating (1) 9:20 excavation (1) 9:20 excited (1) 5:2 existing (7) 5:21,24;8:16,19,25; 11:19;12:18 expansive (1) 3:24 expected (3) 6:6,12;12:4 experience (1) 5:9 exposure (1) 10:5 F facilities (1) 10:16 facility (3) 7:13;11:13,20 facing (1) 11:10 factors (2) 3:24;4:7 facts (1) 15:22 features (1) 8:9 federal (1) 12:9 feedback (6) 13:10,13,20,24; 16:9,17 feel (1) 16:12 feels (1) 16:24 feet (2) 3:15;11:15 fence (4) 11:15,17,22;12:1 fencing (1) 11:18 few (4) 12:11;13:17;17:19; 18:20 field (2) 8:10;12:17 figures (1)	7:20 file (1) 14:6 finalize (1) 9:2 Finally (4) 10:19;13:4,24; 17:13 find (2) 14:4;17:7 first (3) 13:18,21;17:16 Fish (1) 12:13 flat (1) 9:25 floor (2) 14:18;18:20 flowing (1) 7:7 flows (1) 7:2 focused (1) 15:2 focuses (2) 3:20;16:3 Focusing (1) 7:11 Following (1) 12:11 footprint (3) 6:6;8:15,24 formally (1) 14:11 four-feet (1) 11:25 Franklin (11) 5:20,21;7:7,18;8:8, 14,16,19;10:16; 11:19;16:18 full (1) 6:3 full-time (1) 8:1 function (2) 18:7,10 future (1) 19:5 G garden (1) 11:19 gather (1) 12:10 gathered (1) 7:5 gathering (1) 10:13 gathers (1) 10:11 general (1) 4:9
--	---	--	---	---

generates (1) 6:25 generating (2) 3:17;7:13 gigawatts (2) 5:12,12 goal (1) 15:6 Good (1) 3:1 graded (1) 10:2 grading (2) 9:20,23 Great (2) 14:20;19:7 greatly (1) 14:15 green (1) 8:18 grid (3) 6:1,9;7:7 GROUX (3) 4:24;5:1,4 grove (1) 12:3 guidance (1) 12:12	highlight (1) 12:10 highlights (1) 13:17 Highway (2) 5:22;9:1 Historic (2) 13:1,3 homes (1) 7:15 hope (1) 19:7 horizontal (1) 10:4 hosted (1) 13:22 hosting (1) 13:18 hour (1) 7:24 house (4) 8:5;13:18,21,22 household (1) 7:4 human (5) 3:22;15:3,18;16:8; 17:22	Indicating (1) 4:25 information (6) 4:19,21;14:5;16:4; 17:6,8 informed (1) 15:7 initial (1) 9:12 in-person (1) 16:22 input (4) 12:10;14:15;16:2,3 installation (2) 10:9,18 installed (3) 10:8,8,20 installing (1) 9:18 instance (1) 4:12 intend (1) 10:25 interconnection (1) 5:21 interested (1) 19:4 introduce (1) 13:19 introduction (1) 3:5 inverters (2) 7:3;8:21 involves (1) 6:17	17:21 large (1) 3:17 Lauren (4) 5:5;14:20,21;19:6 Law (1) 4:17 laydown (1) 8:22 layout (2) 8:4;9:6 lead (1) 5:4 leaders (1) 13:12 least (2) 3:2;6:15 left (1) 11:12 length (1) 6:15 less (1) 3:14 letter (1) 12:12 level (1) 5:17 levied (1) 7:23 lifespan (2) 6:14,16 limit (1) 17:19 limits (2) 5:20;8:14 line (7) 3:14;5:25;6:4;8:25; 9:1;11:23;12:1 Lisa (1) 5:6 list (1) 3:23 listed (2) 8:7;17:6 listen (1) 13:20 LLC (1) 5:14 local (3) 12:9;13:12,25 located (4) 5:18,22;8:25;16:2 location (2) 5:23;11:20 long (1) 5:25 look (2) 11:8;18:23 looked (1) 9:5 looks (3) 3:23;4:1;18:19 lot (1)	16:7 Lower (2) 12:24;18:9 M mail (1) 17:5 main (2) 15:10,25 maintain (1) 17:20 maintained (1) 12:1 making (1) 4:8 management (3) 10:24;11:23;13:7 manager (3) 5:6;14:22;15:10 map (1) 6:5 March (1) 4:13 mark (1) 9:16 match (1) 7:6 materials (1) 9:14 may (1) 9:23 maybe (1) 18:24 measures (1) 9:19 meeting (6) 3:9;4:10;5:2;14:10, 15:16;22 meetings (1) 13:22 megawatt (1) 7:24 megawatts (1) 3:18 members (1) 16:10 message (2) 18:13,16 metric (1) 7:15 might (1) 16:13 milestone (1) 6:8 minimize (3) 4:2;9:21;15:20 Minnesota (3) 3:16,21;10:25 Minnesotan (1) 7:14 minute (1) 18:24
H	I	J		
habitat (1) 12:17 hand (2) 18:6,9 hashed (1) 8:16 health (1) 3:25 hear (2) 4:24;18:17 heard (1) 13:21 hearing (1) 4:12 hearings (1) 4:17 height (2) 11:17,24 Hello (1) 14:21 help (3) 4:6;15:7;16:17 helping (1) 15:13 helps (1) 15:25 Heritage (1) 12:21 hesitate (1) 19:6 high (3) 5:17;7:6;11:25	icon (1) 18:13 identified (2) 8:9,11 identify (2) 14:1;16:17 identifying (1) 15:19 image (2) 6:22;11:14 impact (2) 13:5,15 impacts (9) 3:22;4:3;12:22; 15:4,19,20;16:8,12; 17:22 include (7) 3:4,13,21,24;6:22; 13:18;14:5 included (2) 8:15;14:7 includes (3) 6:2;10:21;11:24 including (1) 8:10 incorporated (1) 13:24 incorporates (1) 8:5 Indian (1) 12:24 indicate (1) 18:7	JANEZICH (5) 3:1,3;4:19,25;18:22 jobs (2) 7:25;8:2 joined (1) 14:14 Judge (1) 4:17 June (1) 4:15		
		K		
		key (2) 6:8;9:18		
		L		
		land (1) 8:7 landowner (1) 6:19 landowners (1) 6:3 language (1)		

minutes (1) 17:20 mitigate (2) 4:2;15:20 mitigation (1) 13:5 mixed (2) 11:24,25 mobilization (1) 9:13 moment (1) 18:23 month (1) 17:10 months (2) 9:12,15 more (2) 4:11;11:25 most (1) 16:4 moved (1) 10:1 much (2) 4:15;9:23 must (1) 6:9 myself (1) 19:6	10:5;11:11 note (1) 17:9 notification (1) 12:11	11:22,25 over (8) 3:7,12,18,24;4:17, 23;9:14;14:18 overview (2) 5:3,17 owning (1) 5:10	placed (1) 6:10 plan (4) 10:24;11:24;13:6,7 plant (1) 3:18 please (6) 14:6,25;16:20; 17:10,19;18:13 plenty (1) 18:25 pm (2) 17:11;19:9 point (1) 5:20 points (1) 11:9 pollinator-friendly (1) 11:1 portion (1) 5:19 position (1) 7:1 post (1) 6:19 potential (5) 3:22;4:2;9:21;15:3, 18 power (3) 3:17;6:11;7:14 preliminary (1) 9:2 preparation (1) 9:13 prepare (4) 4:5;15:11;16:1; 18:15 prepared (2) 10:23;11:7 preparing (1) 12:8 presentation (3) 3:4,8;16:24 Preservation (2) 13:1,3 preside (1) 4:17 press (2) 18:3,5 prior (1) 9:3 prioritized (1) 13:25 process (3) 3:5,8;14:17 production (1) 7:22 project (67) 3:6,10,11,13,15,19, 23;4:3,10,12,14;5:4,4, 6,7,13,17,18,23;6:1,2, 5,8,10,11,12,14,16,17, 23;7:11,12,13,23,24;	8:2,19,24;9:11,17,24; 10:15,16,19,23;11:8, 11,13;12:2,4,7,11; 13:13,15,19,23;14:5, 6,12,17,22;15:6,8,17; 16:2,13;17:9 projects (3) 9:7,9;15:4 properly (1) 11:4 proposed (3) 8:4;11:17;15:16 provide (3) 5:3;7:17,25 providing (3) 14:10;15:2,22 proximity (2) 5:24;13:15 Public (13) 3:3,16,25;4:12,17, 20;5:2;14:10;16:1,3, 16;17:4;19:9 PUC (2) 14:7,9 pump (1) 10:10
N				Q
name (4) 3:2;4:18;5:4;17:17 name's (1) 14:21 native (2) 10:25;11:24 Natural (2) 12:14,21 necessary (2) 5:25;9:23 need (2) 16:16;17:16 neighbors (1) 13:13 neutral (2) 15:3,21 new (1) 7:22 Next (18) 4:18;5:8,16;6:21; 7:10;8:18;9:4;10:6; 11:5;12:6;13:9;14:3, 25;15:9,24;16:20; 17:12,25 nine (1) 6:2 noise (1) 3:25 north (4) 5:22;8:25;9:1; 11:10 north/south (2)	objective (1) 15:16 October (3) 13:19;17:11;19:1 office (1) 13:3 Officers (1) 13:1 offset (1) 7:15 offsite (1) 9:22 one (5) 15:25;16:23;17:9, 15:19:3 online (2) 17:1;18:6 onsite (1) 10:1 open (7) 3:8;8:5;13:18,21, 22;17:1;18:20 operate (1) 9:7 operates (1) 6:24 operating (3) 5:10;6:13;11:3 operation (3) 5:12;11:8;12:5 operational (3) 8:15,23;11:13 operations (3) 6:5;8:2;12:2 opportunities (2) 4:11;14:1 opportunity (1) 14:11 optimize (1) 10:5 option (1) 15:22 orange (1) 8:20 ordinance (3) 8:7,8;11:16 organizations (1) 14:1 oriented (1) 10:4 others (1) 17:20 outlined (1) 3:20 outside (2)	page (1) 17:9 panel (2) 8:18;10:17 panels (3) 6:24;10:8,11 parcel (1) 8:14 parcels (1) 6:2 parent (1) 5:14 part (1) 11:6 participate (1) 19:1 participating (1) 6:3 particular (1) 11:9 partnered (1) 12:24 partnership (1) 14:1 party (1) 15:21 peak (1) 8:1 per (6) 7:15,16,21,21,24; 11:16 perimeter (2) 11:15,17 period (4) 4:11;16:23;17:2,9 permit (7) 3:5,15,20;6:15; 11:6;12:8;13:8 permitting (2) 5:6;14:17 phase (1) 10:20 phone (1) 18:3 photo (1) 12:4 physically (1) 17:5 pieces (1) 9:8 pivot (1) 9:7	power (3) 3:17;6:11;7:14 preliminary (1) 9:2 preparation (1) 9:13 prepare (4) 4:5;15:11;16:1; 18:15 prepared (2) 10:23;11:7 preparing (1) 12:8 presentation (3) 3:4,8;16:24 Preservation (2) 13:1,3 preside (1) 4:17 press (2) 18:3,5 prior (1) 9:3 prioritized (1) 13:25 process (3) 3:5,8;14:17 production (1) 7:22 project (67) 3:6,10,11,13,15,19, 23;4:3,10,12,14;5:4,4, 6,7,13,17,18,23;6:1,2, 5,8,10,11,12,14,16,17, 23;7:11,12,13,23,24;	qualifies (1) 3:17 queue (1) 18:4
				R
				racking (3) 10:3,3,7 raise (1) 18:6 really (2) 16:15;19:3 reasons (1) 5:23 received (2) 12:12;13:2 recognize (1) 13:14 recommendations (3) 12:10,12;13:11 record (2) 17:18;18:18 red (1) 8:22 relatively (1) 9:25 relevant (1) 16:4 remain (1) 12:4 remove (1) 18:5 removing (1)

6:17 renderings (1) 11:7 renewable (1) 5:10 Renville (4) 3:13;7:17;8:7; 12:19 reporter (1) 17:17 represented (1) 8:24 requires (1) 3:15 resource (1) 15:13 resources (2) 4:4;12:15 respect (1) 17:20 respectful (1) 17:20 restoration (1) 10:20 restored (1) 11:2 results (2) 12:20;13:3 revenue (3) 7:17,20,23 review (3) 3:7;12:21;14:23 reviewed (1) 10:24 reviews (1) 3:19 right (4) 11:14;17:13;18:19; 19:4 right-hand (1) 8:3 right-of-way (1) 11:16 road (1) 11:15 roadway (1) 11:21 rotate (1) 6:25 Rule (1) 3:21 runoff (1) 9:21 runs (1) 11:11	4:15 schematic (1) 6:22 school (1) 7:18 scope (2) 14:12;17:23 scoping (2) 5:2;14:8 SCOTT (3) 4:24;5:1,4 second (1) 13:22 secure (1) 4:4 sediment (1) 9:19 selected (1) 5:23 send (2) 17:10;18:13 sends (1) 17:4 sensitive (1) 8:9 service (2) 6:10;12:13 setback (2) 11:14,22 setbacks (1) 8:6 several (2) 9:15;11:7 shaded (1) 8:17 share (1) 13:23 shines (1) 6:24 show (2) 11:7;18:4 showed (1) 8:4 shown (2) 6:4;11:13 shows (1) 4:9 side (2) 8:3;11:23 sides (1) 11:21 Sioux (2) 12:24,25 site (15) 3:12,15,20;6:15; 8:4;9:6,13,14,16; 10:2;11:1,2,6;12:8; 13:8 sites (1) 5:11 size (1) 7:13 slated (1)	4:13 slide (20) 4:9,18,19,22;5:8, 16;6:21;7:10;9:4; 10:6;11:5;12:6;13:9; 14:3,25;15:9,24; 16:20;17:12,25 small (1) 8:20 smartphone (1) 18:12 soil (3) 9:21;10:22;12:19 soils (1) 9:25 Solar (19) 3:10,11;5:3,13,14, 18;6:23;7:12,23;8:1, 6,17,21;9:6,10;10:23; 11:19,20;14:16 Solar's (1) 9:6 soliciting (2) 13:10;16:9 south (1) 11:19 southern (1) 8:14 speak (6) 16:25;17:14;18:7, 14,15,17 speaker (1) 17:15 species (2) 11:24;12:23 specifically (2) 18:15,17 spell (1) 17:17 stabilizing (1) 10:21 stage (1) 9:18 stakeholders (1) 13:16 starting (1) 9:12 State (4) 9:1;12:9;13:2; 17:16 status (1) 15:8 steel (2) 10:4,8 step (1) 4:13 stepped (1) 7:6 still (1) 18:25 strategies (1) 15:19 stream (1)	7:23 Street (1) 11:10 studies (1) 12:17 study (1) 4:7 style (1) 11:17 submit (2) 17:3;19:2 submitted (1) 13:7 substation (9) 5:22,24;7:6,8;8:17, 19,20;10:14,17 suitable (1) 4:1 sun (1) 10:5 Sunlight (1) 6:24 sun's (1) 7:1 support (3) 10:4,9;14:2 sure (1) 11:3 surrounding (1) 16:18 survey (4) 8:12;9:16;13:2,4 surveys (1) 8:10 system (5) 6:9;7:9;8:6;10:3,7	third-party (1) 15:3 threatened (1) 12:22 three (1) 8:1 throughout (3) 7:1;8:21;11:1 timeline (1) 4:9 today (1) 18:1 tonight (4) 5:5;14:15;16:11,23 tons (1) 7:16 top (1) 10:22 topics (1) 16:7 topography (1) 9:24 total (1) 5:11 Townships (3) 5:19;7:18;13:12 track (1) 7:1 transmission (4) 3:14;5:25;7:8;9:1 treed (1) 8:11 trees (2) 12:3,3 Trevor (1) 4:20 Tribal (1) 12:25 tribes (2) 12:9;13:11 turn (2) 4:23;14:18 typical (1) 7:4
S			T	
safety (1) 3:25 same (2) 10:17;11:18 schedule (1)			table (1) 16:6 tablet (1) 18:12 talk (2) 9:7;18:23 talked (1) 9:6 task (1) 15:10 tax (2) 7:22,23 technical (2) 15:1,13 technician (1) 8:2 testing (1) 11:3 there'll (1) 4:11 thick (2) 6:4;8:24 third (1) 15:21	U
				under (2) 17:8,23 undergoes (1) 11:3 unique (2) 16:16,17 Unit (2) 14:24;15:1 up (3) 3:8;7:6;18:4 update (1) 6:8 updates (1) 6:9 Upper (1) 12:25

up-to-125-megawatt (1) 7:12 use (6) 7:5;8:7;17:20;18:6, 9,13 used (1) 15:12 using (2) 18:5,11 Utilities (2) 3:3,16 utility (1) 7:8	3:3 worked (1) 12:7 workers (1) 7:25 writing (1) 19:2	6:13 25,000 (1) 7:14 250,000 (1) 7:21 25th (2) 17:11;19:1		
	X	3		
	Xcel (1) 5:21	30 (1) 6:15 300 (1) 7:25		
V	Y			
valuable (1) 16:15 value (1) 14:15 vantage (1) 11:9 various (1) 16:12 vegetation (7) 9:16;10:22,24;11:1, 22,23;13:6 verbal (1) 16:22 view (3) 11:9,12,13 visual (1) 11:7 voltage (1) 7:7	yards (1) 8:22 year (4) 7:15,16,21,21 years (1) 6:15 yellow (1) 8:16 yesterday (1) 16:22	4 4:30 (1) 17:11 400th (1) 11:10		
		5		
	Z	50 (1) 3:18 51 (1) 5:12		
	zoning (1) 8:8	6		
	1	6:24 (1) 19:9 67 (1) 11:15 67-foot (1) 11:21		
W	1,000 (1) 3:12 1,042 (1) 6:4 1,500 (1) 3:15 115-kV (1) 3:14 12 (2) 3:24;9:11 125-megawatt (1) 3:11 18 (1) 9:12 184,000 (1) 7:15 19 (2) 5:22;9:1			
wants (1) 18:23 water (2) 8:10;12:19 way (2) 15:5,22 ways (2) 4:2;14:2 Webex (2) 18:6,11 website (4) 14:4;17:1,2,8 Welcome (1) 5:1 wetland (2) 12:16,20 wetlands (1) 8:10 Wildlife (1) 12:13 wiring (1) 10:10 within (3) 3:12;5:20;8:14 work (1)	2 2023 (1) 13:19 2024 (2) 8:5;13:23 2025 (2) 4:13,15 2028 (1) 6:12 2030 (1)	7 7.9 (1) 5:11 768 (2) 3:11;6:6 7850.4100 (1) 3:21		