

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

August 19, 2024

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

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

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this matter. As the PUC is aware our members help build and maintain energy infrastructure around the state. We appreciate the opportunity to review the Birch Coulee project application.

As noted in the application, Birch Coulee plans on paying workers in accordance with the prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements in the inflation reduction act (IRA). We also appreciate that union labor is being considered. We look forward to learning more about the project and discussing with the developer how the project can best maximize the job benefits for local workers as the regulatory process moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

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

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