

Agnew, Lauren (She/Her/Hers) (PUC)

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Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 9:25 AM
To: Agnew, Lauren (She/Her/Hers) (PUC)
Subject: Public Comment for Official Docket No. 24-267

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To whom it may concern-

We are writing to formally express concerns regarding the proposed solar project and its impacts on nearby residential properties and local citizens. Our residence is located within the solar project and will be surrounded by panels on three sides of our property.

Below are some concerns regarding this project and urge the decisions maker(s) to think of the following:

First, there has been insufficient clarity regarding who bears responsibility/mitigations if surrounding residents experience increased expenses as a result of this project such as:

- Potential increases or changes in property insurance due to the project.
- Long-term infrastructure strain and potential tax changes or/utility bills.
- Utility cost shifting to local residents.
- Any costs associated with short- and long-term impacts that we haven't identified yet

If residents incur higher costs in the future due to this project, what formal mechanism exists to provide relief? In addition, adequate emergency planning, training, and funding should be secured before this project is approved.

Second, what are the long and short-term health considerations that the data presented has not addressed? While solar energy is often characterized as low-impact, residents living in close proximity deserve transparency regarding the following:

- What is the long-term exposure to inverters and substations to project this size given the current setback?
- What is the glare and visual strain throughout the MN seasons?
- What construction related air quality impacts will occur while this is built over multiple years?

Third, there appears to be a lack of comprehensive, location-specific studies evaluating property value impacts when solar farms/panels are within .5 miles of a home and surrounding a home on multiple sides.

The PUC and additional documents listed for this project refer to studies addressing property values located 0.5 miles away from the solar farm but fail to give any data on properties within 0.5 miles, let alone within 500 feet of properties. Without this data how can homeowners assess why this will do to their property values?

In addition, if adverse impacts arise financially, environmentally, or health-related, who specifically manages this?

- The developer/ landowners leasing property?
- The PUC?
- Local government?

Residents need a clearly defined accountability and mitigation pathway before approval, not after harm has occurred.

Finally, how does this benefit the local citizens and how does this project materially benefit the surrounding residents, specifically Castle Rock Township.

- Will local citizens see reduced utility rates instead of inflated rates
- Are property taxes going to be offset not increases?

It appears the burden of this project will be disproportionately placed on those living closest to the project and nearby citizens. We respectfully request that these concerns be thoroughly addressed prior to any approval. Transparent, data driven analysis, and enforceable protections are essential to ensure that nearby residents are not exposed to long-term hardships and/or issues that arise due to this solar farm, if approved

Please file this in the official record for Docket No. 24-267.

Taylor and Ty