

Office of Land Management

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Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul MN 55101

RE: In the Matter of the Application of Byron Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit and Route Permit for the up to 200 MW Byron Solar Project and 345 kV Transmission Line in Olmsted and Dodge Counties, Minnesota PUC Docket Numbers: IP7041/GS-20-763 (Site Permit) IP7041/CN-20-764 (Certificate of Need) IP7041/TL-20-765 (High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit)
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 82-2500-38038

Dear Consumer Affairs Staff,

On October 24th, 2022, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) issued a Notice of Environmental Assessment Availability, Public Hearings and Comment Period on the Application of Byron Solar for a Certificate of Need, a Site Permit, and a High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Route Permit for the proposed Byron Solar Project. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the proposed project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

For the record, MnDOT offers the following comments analyzing the potential effects of the original (Blue) HVTL Route versus the newly proposed (Red) HVTL Route:

MnDOT's District 6 Planning and Permitting Staff have reviewed and compared the two proposed Routes for their effects on US Highway 14. It has been determined that both Routes have similar effects on the highway with preferred, perpendicular crossings near one another. While MnDOT has varying right-of-way widths within these two proposed crossings and has no preference on which Route is chosen for the project, the Applicant should be aware of these widths when considering pole spans across US Highway 14 to avoid placing poles that obstruct the sight distance of at-grade crossings in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
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