

**In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for a Site Permit for the up
to 66MW Solway Solar Project in Beltrami County, Minnesota**

Comments

PUC Docket Number: E017/GS-24-309

LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota (“LIUNA”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the site permit application filed by Otter Tail Power (“OTP”) for construction of the 66 megawatt (“MW”) Solway Solar Project in Beltrami County. We believe that the application satisfies the requirements of applicable statutes and rules governing the siting of large solar projects, and we urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to accept the applications as complete and allow the applicants to proceed under the alternative review process.

LIUNA represents more than 14,000 skilled construction laborers, including many that live in Northwest Minnesota, and many that receive their electric services from OTP. Our members and their families count on affordable and reliable electricity, not only to power their homes but also to serve construction contractors for whom they work, as well as energy-intensive industries that range from mining to manufacturing to refining to pipeline operation.

Like OTP’s Hoot Lake Solar project, Solway Solar has potential to deliver significant energy and socioeconomic benefits to a region of the state that has seen relatively little clean energy development. Based on our members’ experience working on the Hoot Lake project, we expect Solway Solar to provide family-supporting jobs and construction career opportunities that will benefit local workers and communities.

We believe that the application contains the information necessary for the Commission to proceed, and that a citizen advisory board is both unnecessary and a potential obstacle to public participation. We thank the Commission for its consideration and look forward to participating in this docket.

Dated: November 14, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota

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