

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND
AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Issued: April 30, 2025

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

PUC Docket Number: E017/GS-24-309

OAH Docket Number: 23-2500-40576

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on Otter Tail Power Company's (Otter Tail Power) site permit application for the construction and operation of the Solway Solar Project, an up to 66 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generating facility (Project) located in Lammers Township in Beltrami County, Minnesota. The application was filed with the Commission on October 11, 2024.

The proposed project would consist of approximately 100,000 solar panels and be located on approximately 267 acres within a 487-acre site. The main components of the project would include PV solar modules and tracking system, inverters, step-up transformers, collector lines, security fencing, access roads, stormwater treatment areas, weather stations, an operation and maintenance building, a substation, transformers, and a new approximately 500-foot overhead 115 kV transmission line that would connect the project using existing interconnection rights at the Solway Combustion Turbine Generating Station. The project would be constructed on property owned by Otter Tail Power Company. The applicant plans to construct the project on a schedule that facilitates an in-service date by the end of 2026.

Environmental Assessment

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) issued an environmental assessment (EA) for the project on April 30, 2025. The purpose of the EA is to provide information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, and possible mitigations for identified impacts. The EA is available on the Department's website: (<https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15909>) and on eDockets (see below). Print copies of the EA are available from the Department upon request; please contact Tessa Kothlow at tessa.kothlow@state.mn.us or 651-539-2732.

In-Person Hearing

Date: May 14, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Solway Elementary School
159 Lomen Avenue SE
Solway, MN 56678

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Online Hearing via WebEx

Date: May 15, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com>

Webinar Number: 2487 820 8198

Webinar Password: MNPUC

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free **Access Code:** 2487 820 8198

If you are joining the meeting via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat or raised-hand functions to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at:
<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Public Hearing Information

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Suzanne Todnem, an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with a report including findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input on the proposed project and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the site permit

application. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the applicant; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project and on the environmental assessment; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in the site permit.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online hearings.
- The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first.
- Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **May 30, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- *Should the Commission grant a site permit for the proposed solar energy generating system?*
- *If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the site permit?*

Submit Comments

Online <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>
Email consumer.puc@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail Consumer Affairs Office
 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
 121 7th Place East, Suite 350
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Additional Information

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The rules and statutes are available for review at: www.revisor.mn.gov

Review Process. Information on the review processes for certificates of need and site and route permits for large electric power facilities is available on the Commission's website at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/>

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets*, enter the docket number (24-309), and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

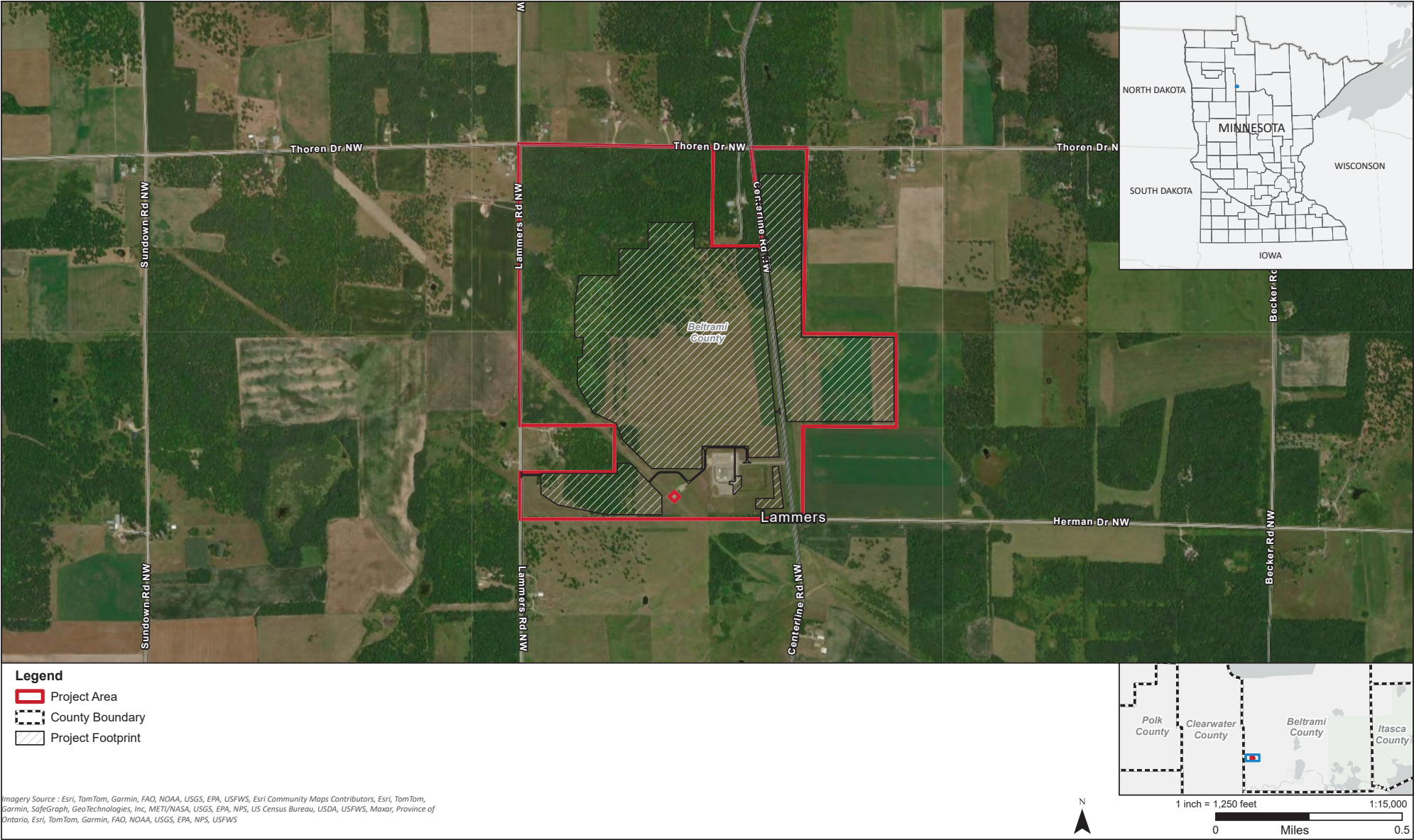
Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (24-309), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Cezar Panait at cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Project Overview Map

Appendix A, Figure A-2: Project Area and Project Footprint



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Anne Redmond, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket Number **E017/GS-24-309**

Dated this 30th day of April, 2025

/s/ Anne Redmond

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1	Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron		60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
2	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
3	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
4	Logan	Hicks	logan.m.hicks@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
5	Amrit	Hundal	amrit.hundal@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce		Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
6	Tessa	Kothlow	tessa.kothlow@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce		Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
7	Molly	Leisen	mleisen@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron P.A.		60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
8	Matthew	Olsen	molsen@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 South Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
9	Cezar	Panait	cezar.panait@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
10	Kevin	Pranis	kpranis@liunagroc.com	Laborers' District Council of MN and ND		81 E Little Canada Road St. Paul MN, 55117 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
11	Generic Notice	Regulatory	regulatory_filing_coordinators@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 S. Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List

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12	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
13	Michael	Riewer	mriewer@otpc.com		Otter Tail Power Company	PO Box 4496 Fergus Falls MN, 56538-0496 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
14	Preston	Riewer	priewer@otpc.com		Otter Tail Power Company	215 South Cascade St. Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
15	Nathaniel	Runke	nrunke@local49.org			611 28th St. NW Rochester MN, 55901 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
16	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List
17	Janet	Shaddix Eling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com		Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-309Official CC Service List
18	Suzanne	Todnem	suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 Robert St N PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-309Official CC Service List
19	Kim	Ward	kaward@otpc.com		Otter Tail Power Company	215 South Cascade Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official CC Service List

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1	Carley	Luggar	carley_luggar@hotmail.com			17957 Thoren Dr nw Solway MN, 56678 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Project Contact List
2	William	Luggar				17957 Thoren Dr NW Solway MN, 56678 United States	Paper Service		No	24-309Project Contact List

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1	David	Bell	david.bell@state.mn.us		Department of Health	POB 64975 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
2	Water Programs	Coordinator	waterprograms.bwsr@state.mn.us		Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	520 Lafayette Road N St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
3	Kate	Fairman	kate.fairman@state.mn.us		Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul MN, 55155-4032 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
4	Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us			Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
5	Chris	Green	chris.green@state.mn.us	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency		504 Fairgrounds Rd Suite 200 Marshall MN, 56258 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
6	Todd	Green	todd.a.green@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry	443 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul MN, 55155-4341 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
7	Chad	Konickson	chad.konickson@usace.army.mil	U.S.Army Corps of Engineers		332 Minnesota St. Suite E1500 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
8	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us		MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
9	Dawn S	Marsh	dawn_marsh@fws.gov	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service		Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Offices 4101 American Blvd E Bloomington MN, 55425 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
10	Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul MN, 55155-2538 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
11	Jayme	Trusty	execdir@swrdc.org	SWRDC		2401 Broadway Ave #1 Slayton MN, 56172 United States	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps
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13	Alan	Whipple	sa.property@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department Of Revenue	Property Tax Division 600 N. Robert Street St. Paul MN,	Electronic Service		No	Agency Reps

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