

**APPENDIX A**

**Project Notices**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

)

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

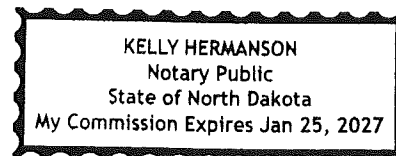
RE: 90 Day Notice by Benton Solar, LLC to Local Government Units regarding the Route Permit Application for the Benton Solar, LLC Transmission Line Project

SARAH SAPPINGTON, being duly sworn, deposes and states that on the 18th day of April, 2023 I served the attached Local Government Units Letter and Project Map to all persons on the attached mailing list in compliance with Minn. Stat. 216E.03, Subd. 3a by depositing the same in an envelope, postage prepaid via United States Mail.

*Sarah Sappington*

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023

*Kelly Hermanson*  
Notary Public



April 18, 2023

NAME

TITLE, Township Clerk

Street address

XXXXXX

RE: Notification of Future Route Permit Application for the Proposed 115 kilovolt Benton Solar Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Benton County, Minnesota

Dear XXX:

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes § 216E.03, Subdivision 3a, Benton Solar, LLC (“Benton Solar”) is providing this notice to each local unit of government within the proposed route of the Benton Solar high voltage transmission line (“Benton Solar Transmission Line”). Benton Solar is preparing a Route Permit Application to submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the Benton Solar Transmission Line, a 115 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line project that begins at the Benton Solar facility collector substation four miles east of the City of St. Cloud and ends at the existing Great River Energy Benton County substation located in the southwest quadrant of Benton County. The Benton Solar Transmission Line will be approximately 0.85 miles in length and is needed to interconnect the Benton Solar facility to the electric grid so that the electricity generated by the facility can be delivered to customers. Enclosed is a map showing the area for the proposed Benton Solar Transmission Line route.

Minnesota Statutes § 216E.03, Subdivision 3b provides local units of government the opportunity to request, within 30 days of receiving this notice, a preapplication consultation meeting with Benton Solar regarding the Benton Solar Transmission Line. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at 561-446-3380 or [Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com). You can also contact Danell Herzig at 561-310-4698 or [Danell.Herzig@nec.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nec.com).

Benton Solar appreciates your participation in this process and looks forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Brittney Paxson

Project Manager Development

Benton Solar, LLC

700 Universe Blvd

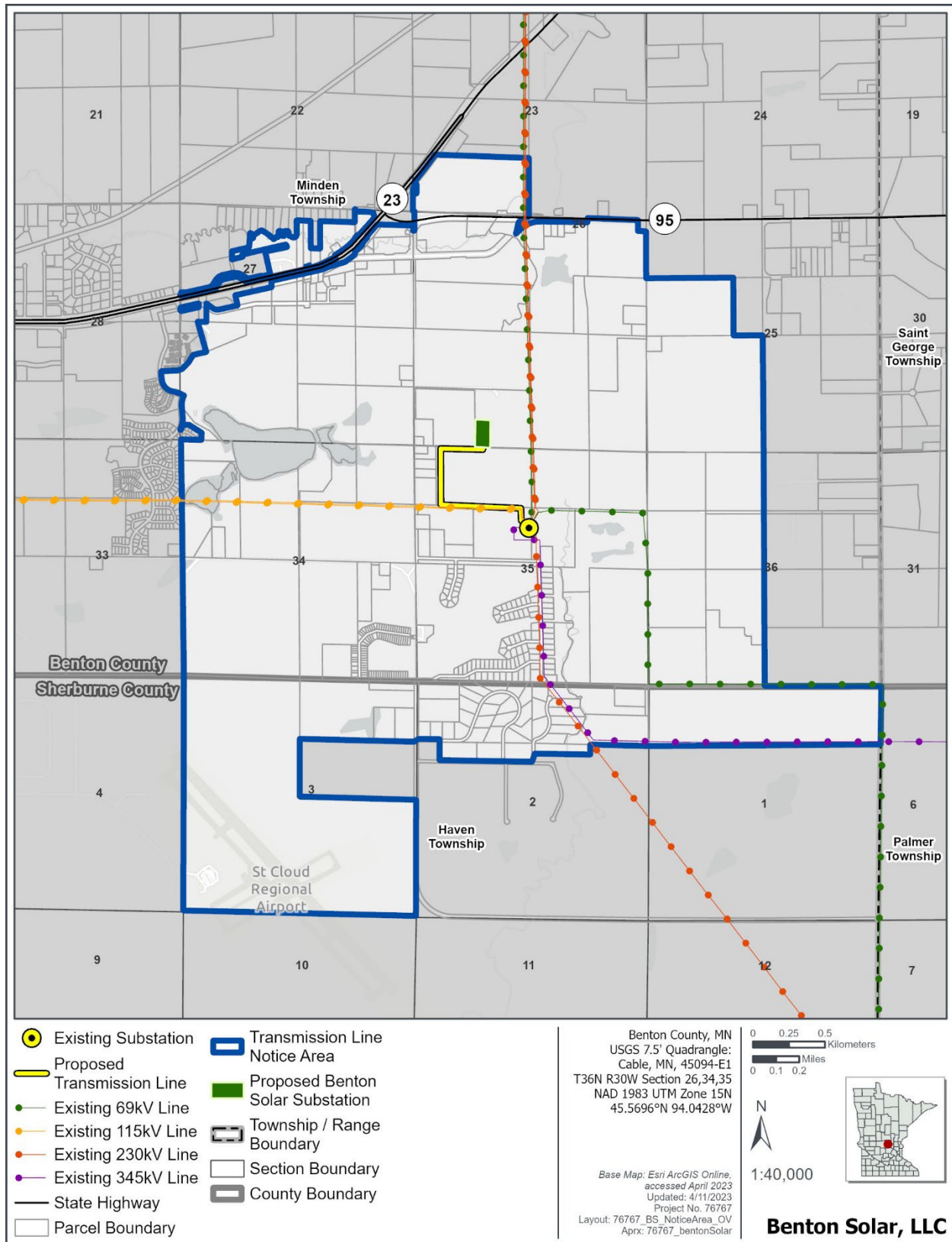
Juno Beach, FL 33408

[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)

561-446-3380

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Proposed Transmission Route Map

Figure 1 – Proposed Transmission Route Map



| Agency                        | First Name | Last Name | Title   | Address                      | City        | State | Zip Code | Phone Number   | Email  |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|----------------|--|
| <b>Local Government Units</b> |            |           |   |                              |             |       |          |                |  |
| Minden Township               | Cindy      | Abraham   | City Clerk  | 5756 Golden Spike Road       | Sauk Rapids | MN    | 56379    | 320-253-7915   | <a href="mailto:mindenclerk01@gmail.com">mindenclerk01@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Minden Township               | Pam        | Benoit    | Supervisor  | 2875 42nd Avenue NE          | Sauk Rapids | MN    | 56379    |                | <a href="mailto:MINDENSUPERVISOR2@GMAIL.COM">MINDENSUPERVISOR2@GMAIL.COM</a>           |
| Minden Township               | Mark       | Ebnet     | Supervisor  | 4780 15th St NE              | Sauk Rapids | MN    | 56379    | 320-253-6233   | <a href="mailto:mindensupervisor01@gmail.com">mindensupervisor01@gmail.com</a>         |
| Minden Township               | Steve      | Simones   | Supervisor  | 7415 30th St. NE             | Sauk Rapids | MN    | 56379    | 320-249-4413   | <a href="mailto:mindensupervisor3@gmail.com">mindensupervisor3@gmail.com</a>           |
| Haven Township                | Eric       | Meyer     | Chairman  | 4230 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339 | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56302    | (320) 406-1720 | <a href="mailto:supervisormeyer@haventwp.org">supervisormeyer@haventwp.org</a>         |
| Haven Township                | Tammy      | Schefers  | Deputy Clerk                                      | 4230 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339 | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56302    | (320) 406-1769 | <a href="mailto:clerk@haventwp.org">clerk@haventwp.org</a>                             |
| Haven Township                | Joe        | Then      | Supervisor  | 4231 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339 | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56302    | (320) 743-3717 | <a href="mailto:supervisorthen@haventwp.org">supervisorthen@haventwp.org</a>           |
| Haven Township                | Bruce      | Hentges   | Supervisor  | 4232 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339 | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56302    | (320) 743-3717 | <a href="mailto:supervisorhentges@haventwp.org">supervisorhentges@haventwp.org</a>     |
| Haven Township                | Mark       | Knowles   | Supervisor  | 4233 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339 | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56302    | (320) 743-3717 | <a href="mailto:supervisorknowles@haventwp.org">supervisorknowles@haventwp.org</a>     |
| St. Cloud                     | Karen      | Larson    | 2nd Ward Councilmember                            | 1201 7th Street South        | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56301    | (320) 370-1080 | <a href="mailto:Karen.Larson@ci.stcloud.mn.us">Karen.Larson@ci.stcloud.mn.us</a>       |
| St. Cloud                     | Dave       | Kleis     | Mayor   | 1201 7th Street South        | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56301    | 320-650-3105   | <a href="mailto:dave.kleis@ci.stcloud.mn.us">dave.kleis@ci.stcloud.mn.us</a>           |
| St. Cloud                     | Matt       | Glaesman  | Community Development Director, Planning & Zoning | 1201 7th Street South        | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56301    | 320-650-3110   | <a href="mailto:matt.glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us">matt.glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us</a>     |
| St. Cloud                     | Seth       | Kauffman  | City Clerk  | 1201 7th Street South        | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56301    | 320 255-7210   | <a href="mailto:seth.kauffman@ci.stcloud.mn.us">seth.kauffman@ci.stcloud.mn.us</a>     |
| St. Cloud                     | David      | Broxmeyer | Senior Planner                                    | 1201 7th Street South        | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56301    | 320-650-3114   | <a href="mailto:David.Broxmeyer@ci.stcloud.mn.us">David.Broxmeyer@ci.stcloud.mn.us</a> |
| St. Cloud                     | Cathy      | Mehelich  | Economic Development Director                     | 1201 7th Street South        | St. Cloud   | MN    | 56301    | 320-650-3111   | <a href="mailto:cathy.mehelich@ci.stcloud.mn.us">cathy.mehelich@ci.stcloud.mn.us</a>   |
| Benton County                 | Scott      | Johnson   | District 1 Commissioner, Chair                    | 6430 135th Avenue NE         | Foley       | MN    | 56329    | 320-492-3707   | <a href="mailto:sjohnson@co.benton.mn.us">sjohnson@co.benton.mn.us</a>                 |

|                  |            |           |                                     |                                |             |    |        |              |  |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----|--------|--------------|--|
| Benton County    | Montgomery | Headley   | County Administrator                | 531 Dewey Street               | Foley       | MN | 56329  | 320-968-5001 | <a href="mailto:mheadley@co.benton.mn.us">mheadley@co.benton.mn.us</a>                     |
| Benton County    | Steve      | Heinen    | District 3 Commissioner, Vice Chair | 1125 - 4-1/2 Avenue North      | Sauk Rapids | MN | 56379  | 320-259-6308 | <a href="mailto:sheinen@co.benton.mn.us">sheinen@co.benton.mn.us</a>                       |
| Benton County    | Roxanne    | Achman    | Land Services Director              | 531 Dewey Street               | Foley       | MN | 56329  | 320-968-5065 | <a href="mailto:rachman@co.benton.mn.us">rachman@co.benton.mn.us</a>                       |
| Benton County    | Beth       | Schlangen | District 5 Commissioner             | 717 1st Street NE              | St. Cloud   | MN | 56304  | 320-368-0761 | <a href="mailto:bschlangen@co.benton.mn.us">bschlangen@co.benton.mn.us</a>                 |
| Sherburne County | Lisa       | Fobbe     | District 5 Commissioner, Chair      | 13880 Business Center Drive NW | Elk River   | MN | 55330  | 763-220-5472 | <a href="mailto:lisa.fobbe@co.sherburne.mn.us">lisa.fobbe@co.sherburne.mn.us</a>           |
| Sherburne County | Bruce      | Messelt   | County Administrator                | 13880 Business Center Drive NW | Elk River   | MN | 55330  | 763-765-3001 | <a href="mailto:bruce.messelt@co.sherburne.mn.us">bruce.messelt@co.sherburne.mn.us</a>     |
| Sherburne County | Gary       | Gray      | District 4 Commissioner             | 13880 Business Center Drive NW | Elk River   | MN | 55330  | 763-213-3199 | <a href="mailto:gary.gray@co.sherburne.mn.us">gary.gray@co.sherburne.mn.us</a>             |
| Sherburne County | Lynn       | Waytashek | Planning & Zoning Administrator     | 13880 Business Center Drive NW | Elk River   | MN | 553300 | 763-765-4450 | <a href="mailto:zoning@co.sherburne.mn.us">zoning@co.sherburne.mn.us</a>                   |
| Sherburne County | Jessica    | Barthel   | Economic Development Coordinator    | 13880 Business Center Drive NW | Elk River   | MN | 553300 | 763-765-3014 | <a href="mailto:jessica.barthel@co.sherburne.mn.us">jessica.barthel@co.sherburne.mn.us</a> |

| Name  | Address                     | City          | State | Zip   |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| <b>Tribal Noticing</b>  |                             |               |       |       |
| Bois Forte Band of Chippewa   | 5344 Lake Shore Drive       | Nett Lake     | MN    | 55772 |
| Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers            | 5344 Lake Shore Drive       | Nett Lake     | MN    | 55772 |
| Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa                              | 1720 Big Lake Road          | Cloquet       | MN    | 55720 |
| Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Chairman Kevin DuPuis       | 1720 Big Lake Road          | Cloquet       | MN    | 55720 |
| Grand Portage Band of Chippewa  | PO Box 428                  | Grand Portage | MN    | 55605 |
| Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa                            | 83 Stevens Rd               | Grand Portage | MN    | 55605 |
| Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Chairman Robery Deschampe | PO Box 428                  | Grand Portage | MN    | 55605 |
| Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe   | 115 6th Street, NW, Suite E | Cass Lake     | MN    | 56633 |
| Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe   | 190 Salistar Drive NW       | Cass Lake     | MN    | 55663 |
| Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Chairman Faron Jackson Sr                    | 190 Sailstar Drive NW       | Cass Lake     | MN    | 56633 |
| Lower Sioux Indian Community  | 39527 Reservation Highway 1 | Morton        | MN    | 56270 |
| Lower Sioux Indian Community  | PO Box 308                  | Morton        | MN    | 56270 |
| Lower Sioux Indian Community, President Robert Larsen                   | 39527 Reservation Highway 1 | Morton        | MN    | 56270 |
| Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe   | 43408 Oodena Drive          | Onamia        | MN    | 56359 |
| Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin             | 43408 Oodena Drive          | Onamia        | MN    | 56359 |
| Prairie Island Indian Community   | 5636 Sturgeon Lake Road     | Welch         | MN    | 55089 |
| Prairie Island Indian Community, President Johnny Johnson               | 5636 Sturgeon Lake Road     | Welch         | MN    | 55089 |
| Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians                                       | 15484 Migizi Drive          | Red Lake      | MN    | 56671 |
| Red Lake Nation, Chairman Darrell Seki                                  | 15484 Migizi Drive          | Red Lake      | MN    | 56671 |
| Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community                                    | 2330 Sioux Trail, NW        | Prior Lake    | MN    | 55372 |
| Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Chairman Keith Anderson           | 2330 Sioux Trail, NW        | Prior Lake    | MN    | 55372 |
| Upper Sioux Community   | PO Box 147                  | Granite Falls | MN    | 56241 |
| Upper Sioux Community   | 5722 Travers Lane           | Granite Falls | MN    | 56241 |
| Upper Sioux Community, Chairman Kevin Jensvold                          | 5722 Travers Lane           | Granite Falls | MN    | 56241 |

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STATE OF North Dakota

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

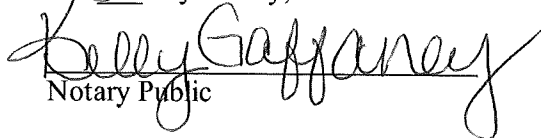
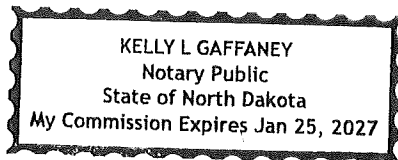
COUNTY OF Burleigh

RE: 90 Day Notice by Benton Solar, LLC to Local Government Units regarding the Route Permit Application for the Benton Solar, LLC Transmission Line Project

Sarah Sappington, being duly sworn, deposes and states that on the 17th day of July, 2024 I served the attached Local Government Units Letter and Project Map to all persons on the attached mailing list in compliance with Minn. Stat. 216E.03, Subd. 3a by depositing the same in an envelope, postage prepaid via United States Mail.



Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024

  
Notary Public

July 17, 2024

NAME

TITLE, Township Clerk

Street address

XXXXXX

RE: Notification of Future Route Permit Application for the Proposed 115 kilovolt Benton Solar Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Benton County, Minnesota

Dear XXX:

On April 18, 2023, Benton Solar, LLC (“Benton Solar”) sent a notice to each local unit of government within the proposed route of the Benton Solar high voltage transmission line (“Benton Solar Transmission Line”). Given the passage of time, Benton Solar is providing this refreshed notice containing updated route and contact information as a courtesy.

Benton Solar is preparing a Route Permit Application to submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the Benton Solar Transmission Line, a 115 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line project that begins at the Benton Solar facility collector substation four miles east/northeast of the City of St. Cloud and ends at the existing Great River Energy Benton County substation located in the southwest quadrant of Benton County. The Benton Solar Transmission Line will be approximately 0.5 miles in length and is needed to interconnect the Benton Solar facility to the electric grid so that the electricity generated by the facility can be delivered to customers. Enclosed is a map showing the area for the proposed Benton Solar Transmission Line route.

Minnesota Statutes § 216E.03, Subdivision 3b provides local units of government the opportunity to request, within 30 days of receiving this notice, a preapplication consultation meeting with Benton Solar regarding the Benton Solar Transmission Line. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (561) 797-5048 or [Adam.Gracia@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Adam.Gracia@nexteraenergy.com).

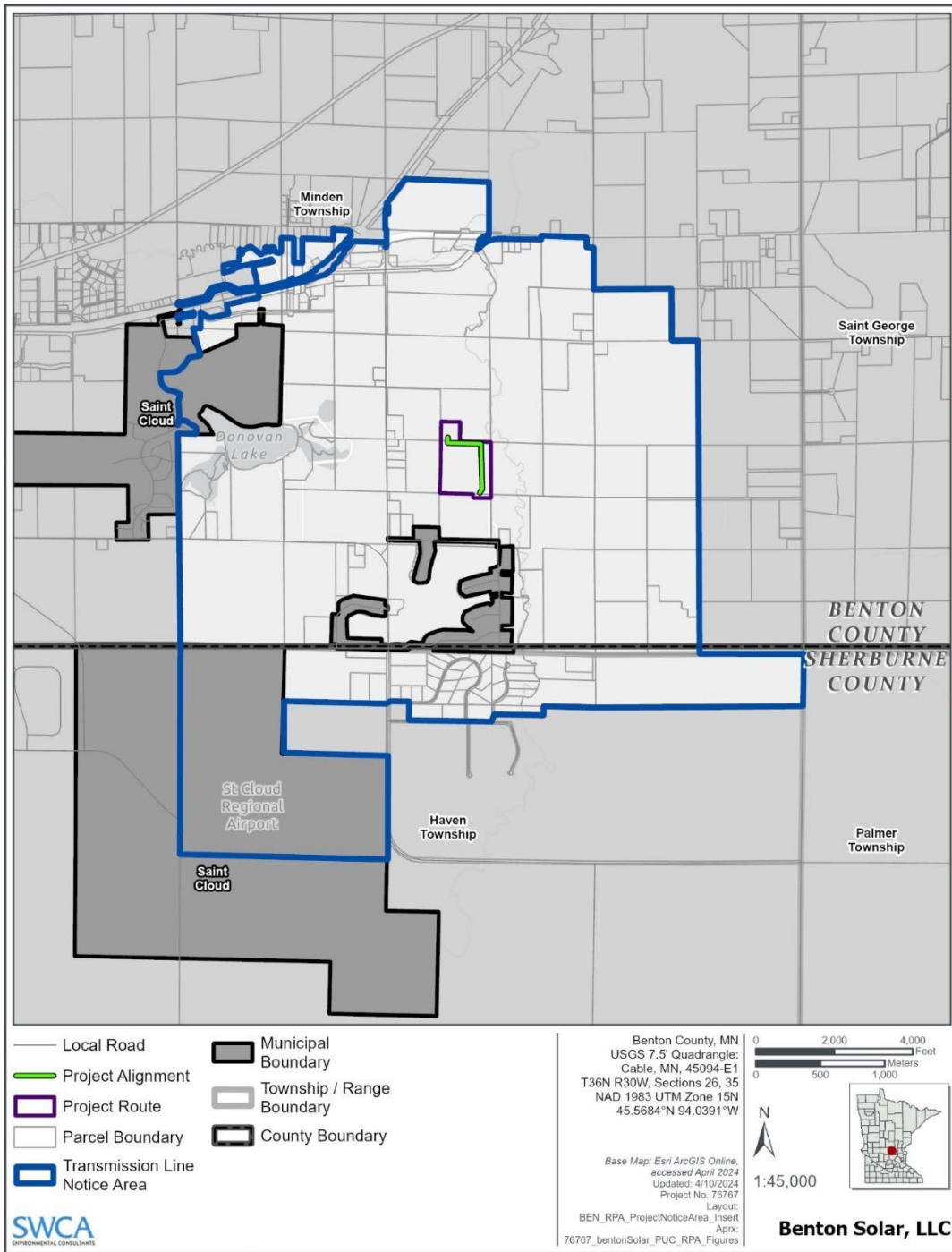
Benton Solar appreciates your participation in this process and looks forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Adam Gracia  
Senior Project Manager, Development  
Benton Solar, LLC  
700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, Florida 33408  
(561) 797-5048  
[Adam.Gracia@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Adam.Gracia@nexteraenergy.com)

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Proposed Transmission Route Map

Figure 1 – Proposed Transmission Route Map



| First Name | Last Name  | Agency                                       | Address                                 | City          | State | Zip Code |
|------------|------------|--|---|---------------|-------|----------|
| Cindy      | Abraham    | Minden Township                              | 5756 Golden Spike Road                  | Sauk Rapids   | MN    | 56379    |
| Pam        | Benoit     | Minden Township                              | 2875 42nd Avenue NE                     | Sauk Rapids   | MN    | 56379    |
| Mark       | Ebnet      | Minden Township                              | 4780 15th St NE                         | Sauk Rapids   | MN    | 56379    |
| Steve      | Simones    | Minden Township                              | 7415 30th St. NE                        | Sauk Rapids   | MN    | 56379    |
| Eric       | Meyer      | Haven Township                               | 4230 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339            | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56302    |
| Tammy      | Schefers   | Haven Township                               | 4230 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339            | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56302    |
| Joe        | Then       | Haven Township                               | 4231 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339            | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56302    |
| Randy      | Linn       | Haven Township                               | 4232 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339            | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56302    |
| Mark       | Knowles    | Haven Township                               | 4233 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339            | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56302    |
| Joesph     | Sexton     | Haven Township                               | 4233 45th Ave SE, PO Box 339            | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56302    |
| Karen      | Larson     | St. Cloud                                    | 1201 7th Street South                   | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56301    |
| Dave       | Kleis      | St. Cloud                                    | 1201 7th Street South                   | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56301    |
| Matt       | Glaesman   | St. Cloud                                    | 1201 7th Street South                   | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56301    |
| Seth       | Kauffman   | St. Cloud                                    | 1201 7th Street South                   | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56301    |
| David      | Broxmeyer  | St. Cloud                                    | 1201 7th Street South                   | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56301    |
| Cathy      | Mehelich   | St. Cloud                                    | 1201 7th Street South                   | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56301    |
| Jared      | Gapinski   | Benton County                                | 6430 135th Avenue NE                    | Foley         | MN    | 56329    |
| Montgomery | Headley    | Benton County                                | 531 Dewey Street                        | Foley         | MN    | 56329    |
| Ed         | Popp       | Benton County                                | 1125 - 4-1/2 Avenue North               | Sauk Rapids   | MN    | 56379    |
| Roxanne    | Achman     | Benton County                                | 531 Dewey Street                        | Foley         | MN    | 56329    |
| Beth       | Schlangen  | Benton County                                | 717 1st Street NE                       | St. Cloud     | MN    | 56304    |
| Lisa       | Fobbe      | Sherburne County                             | 13880 Business Center Drive NW          | Elk River     | MN    | 55330    |
| Bruce      | Messelt    | Sherburne County                             | 13880 Business Center Drive NW          | Elk River     | MN    | 55330    |
| Gary       | Gray       | Sherburne County                             | 13880 Business Center Drive NW          | Elk River     | MN    | 55330    |
| Lynn       | Waytashek  | Sherburne County                             | 13880 Business Center Drive NW          | Elk River     | MN    | 55330    |
| Jessica    | Barthel    | Sherburne County                             | 13880 Business Center Drive NW          | Elk River     | MN    | 55330    |
| Cathy      | Chavers    | Bois Forte Band of Chippewa                  | 5344 Lake Shore Drive                   | Nett Lake     | MN    | 55772    |
| Kevin      | DuPuis     | Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa   | 1720 Big Lake Road                      | Cloquet       | MN    | 55720    |
| Robert     | Deschampe  | Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | PO Box 428                              | Grand Portage | MN    | 55605    |
| Faron      | Jackson Sr | Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe                    | 190 Sailstar Drive NW                   | Cass Lake     | MN    | 56633    |
| Robert     | Larsen     | Lower Sioux Indian Community                 | 39527 Reservation Highway 1, PO Box 308 | Morton        | MN    | 56270    |
| Melanie    | Benjamin   | Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe                    | 43408 Oodena Drive                      | Onamia        | MN    | 56359    |

|        |          |  |   |               |    |       |
|--------|----------|--|---|---------------|----|-------|
| Grant  | Johnson  | Prairie Island Indian Community              | 5636 Sturgeon Lake Road                 | Welch         | MN | 55089 |
| Darrel | Seki     | Red Lake Nation                              | 15484 Migizi Drive                      | Red Lake      | MN | 56671 |
| Cole   | Miller   | Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community         | 2330 Sioux Trail, NW                    | Prior Lake    | MN | 55372 |
| Kevin  | Jensvold | Upper Sioux Community                        | 5722 Travers Lane                       | Granite Falls | MN | 56241 |
|        |          | Bois Forte Band of Chippewa                  | 5344 Lake Shore Drive                   | Nett Lake     | MN | 55772 |
|        |          | Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa   | 1720 Big Lake Road                      | Cloquet       | MN | 55720 |
|        |          | Grand Portage Band of Chippewa               | PO Box 428                              | Grand Portage | MN | 55605 |
|        |          | Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | 83 Stevens Rd                           | Grand Portage | MN | 55605 |
|        |          | Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe                    | 115 6th Street, NW, Suite E             | Cass Lake     | MN | 56633 |
|        |          | Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe                    | 190 Salistar Drive NW                   | Cass Lake     | MN | 55663 |
|        |          | Lower Sioux Indian Community                 | 39527 Reservation Highway 1, PO Box 308 | Morton        | MN | 56270 |
|        |          | Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe                    | 43408 Oodena Drive                      | Onamia        | MN | 56359 |
|        |          | Prairie Island Indian Community              | 5636 Sturgeon Lake Road                 | Welch         | MN | 55089 |
|        |          | Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians            | 15484 Migizi Drive                      | Red Lake      | MN | 56671 |
|        |          | Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community         | 2330 Sioux Trail, NW                    | Prior Lake    | MN | 55372 |
|        |          | Upper Sioux Community                        | 5722 Travers Lane, PO Box 147           | Granite Falls | MN | 56241 |

August 20, 2024

**Via Electronic Filing**

Mr. Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re: Notice of Intent by Benton Solar, LLC to Submit a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process  
Docket Nos. IP7115/GS-23-423; IP7115/ESS-24-283; IP7115/TL-23-425**

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

In accordance with Minn. R. 7850.2800, subp. 2, Benton Solar, LLC (“Benton Solar”) hereby respectfully provides notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) that Benton Solar intends to submit both a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application for the Benton Solar Project located in Benton County, Minnesota (“Project”) under the alternative permitting procedures of Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Project consists of an up to 100-megawatt nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility, a 100-megawatt battery energy storage system, and an approximately 0.5-mile 115 kilovolt high-voltage transmission line that will interconnect the Project to the electric grid. Benton Solar intends to submit the Applications to the Commission within the next month.

Thank you for your attention to this filing. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark R. Johnson

Mark R. Johnson  
Senior Attorney  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33408

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>In the Matter of the Application of Benton Solar, )</i> |                                   |
| <i>LLC for a Site Permit for the 100 MW Solar )</i>        | MPUC Docket No. IP7115/GS-23-423; |
| <i>Energy Generating System, a Site Permit for )</i>       | IP7115/ESS-24-283;                |
| <i>the 100 MW Battery Energy Storage System, )</i>         | IP7115/TL-23-425                  |
| <i>and a Route Permit for the Benton )</i>                 |                                   |
| <i>115-kV Transmission Line for the Benton )</i>           |                                   |
| <i>Solar Project in Benton County, Minnesota. )</i>        | <b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>     |

Print

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Document Upload Confirmation

Submission Information

Submission Number: 20248-209653

Submission Date/Time: 08/20/2024 12:38 PM

Filer Information

Filer: McDaniel, Kimberly

Company: NextEra Energy Resources

Email: kimberly.howenstine@fpl.com

Phone Number: 561-304-5604

Document Information

Document Date: 08/20/2024

Document Type: Notice

On Behalf Of: Benton Solar, LLC

Service List Information

| Docket # | List Name |
|----------|-----------|
| 23-423   | GS-23-423 |

Existing Dockets Information

| Related Industry | Year | Number |
|------------------|------|--------|
| Energy           | 23   | 423    |

Uploaded Documents Information

| Selected Document                              | Classification | Additional Information  |
|--|----------------|---|
| Benton Solar - Notice of Intent - 20240820.pdf | Public         | Notice of Intent by Benton Solar, LLC to Submit a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process |

Electronic Service

| Last Name                      | First Name     | Email                                | Company Name                       | Delivery Method    | View Trade Secret |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Commerce Attorneys             | Generic Notice | commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us    | Office of the Attorney General-DOC | Electronic Service | Yes               |
| Ferguson                       | Sharon         | sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us          | Department of Commerce             | Electronic Service | No                |
| Residential Utilities Division | Generic Notice | residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us | Office of the Attorney General-RUD | Electronic Service | Yes               |
| Seuffert                       | Will           | Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us            | Public Utilities Commission        | Electronic Service | Yes               |

[CSV](#) | [Excel](#) | [PDF](#)

Print

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Print

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Document Upload Confirmation

Submission Information

**Submission Number:** 20248-209655

**Submission Date/Time:** 08/20/2024 12:43 PM

Filer Information

**Filer:** McDaniel, Kimberly

**Company:** NextEra Energy Resources

**Email:** kimberly.howenstine@fpl.com

**Phone Number:** 561-304-5604

Document Information

**Document Date:** 08/20/2024

**Document Type:** Notice

**On Behalf Of:** Benton Solar, LLC

Service List Information

| Docket # | List Name |
|----------|-----------|
| 23-425   | TL-23-425 |

Existing Dockets Information

| Related Industry | Year | Number |
|------------------|------|--------|
| Energy           | 23   | 425    |

Uploaded Documents Information

| Selected Document                              | Classification | Additional Information  |
|--|----------------|---|
| Benton Solar - Notice of Intent - 20240820.pdf | Public         | Notice of Intent by Benton Solar, LLC to Submit a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process |

Electronic Service

| Last Name                      | First Name     | Email                                | Company Name                       | Delivery Method    | View Trade Secret |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Commerce Attorneys             | Generic Notice | commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us    | Office of the Attorney General-DOC | Electronic Service | Yes               |
| Ferguson                       | Sharon         | sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us          | Department of Commerce             | Electronic Service | No                |
| Residential Utilities Division | Generic Notice | residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us | Office of the Attorney General-RUD | Electronic Service | Yes               |
| Seuffert                       | Will           | Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us            | Public Utilities Commission        | Electronic Service | Yes               |

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Submission Information

Submission Number: 20248-209654

Submission Date/Time: 08/20/2024 12:42 PM

Filer Information

Filer: McDaniel, Kimberly

Company: NextEra Energy Resources

Email: kimberly.howenstine@fpl.com

Phone Number: 561-304-5604

Document Information

Document Date: 08/20/2024

Document Type: Notice

On Behalf Of: Benton Solar, LLC

Service List Information

| Docket # | List Name  |
|----------|------------|
| 24-283   | ESS-24-283 |

Existing Dockets Information

| Related Industry | Year | Number |
|------------------|------|--------|
| Energy           | 24   | 283    |

Uploaded Documents Information

| Selected Document                              | Classification | Additional Information  |
|--|----------------|---|
| Benton Solar - Notice of Intent - 20240820.pdf | Public         | Notice of Intent by Benton Solar, LLC to Submit a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process |

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| Last Name                      | First Name     | Email                                | Company Name                       | Delivery Method    | View Trade Secret |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Commerce Attorneys             | Generic Notice | commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us    | Office of the Attorney General-DOC | Electronic Service | Yes               |
| Ferguson                       | Sharon         | sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us          | Department of Commerce             | Electronic Service | No                |
| Residential Utilities Division | Generic Notice | residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us | Office of the Attorney General-RUD | Electronic Service | Yes               |
| Seuffert                       | Will           | Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us            | Public Utilities Commission        | Electronic Service | Yes               |

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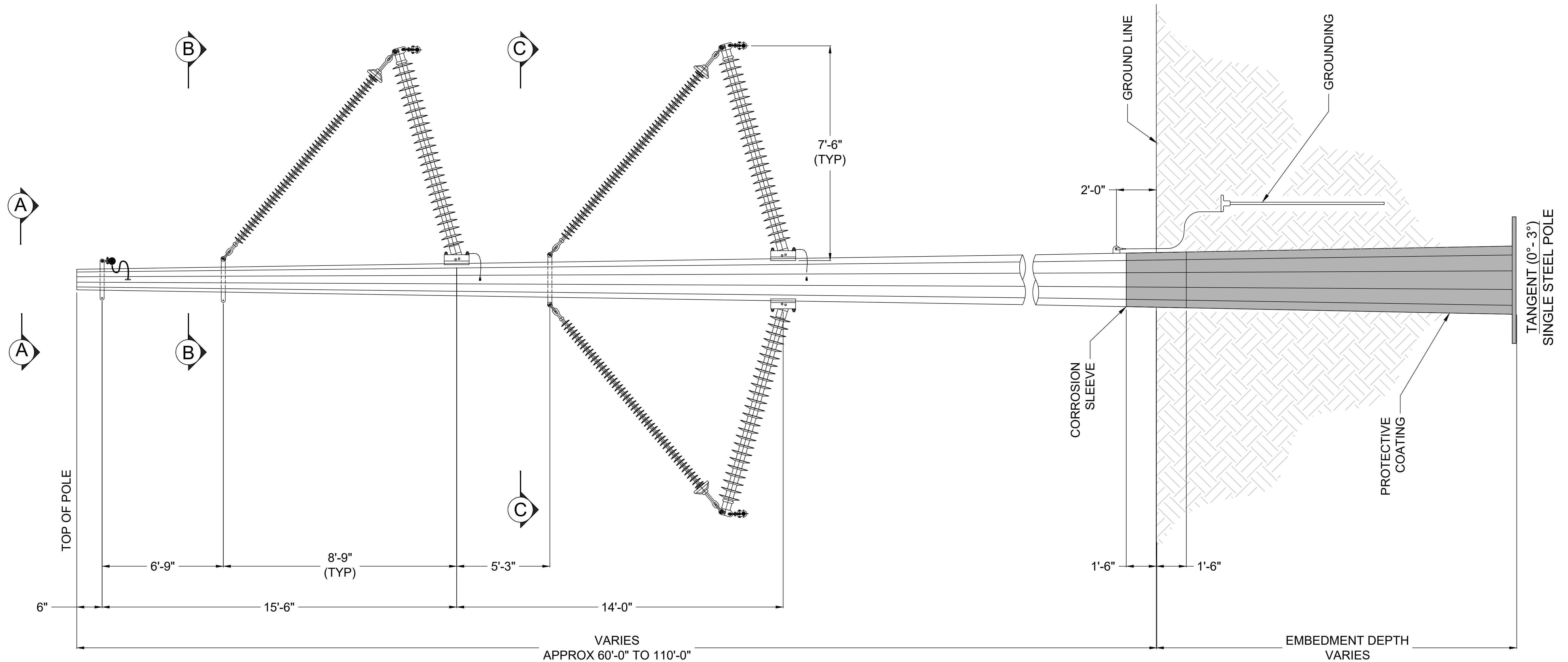
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## **APPENDIX B**

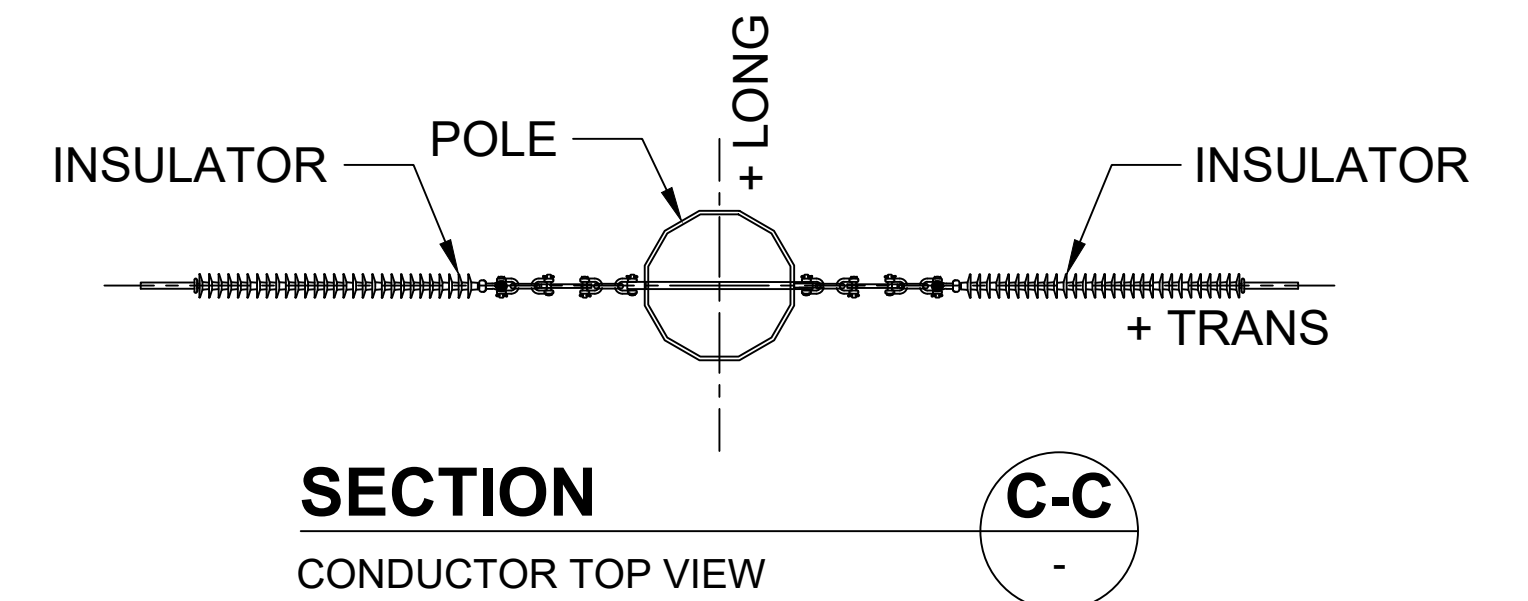
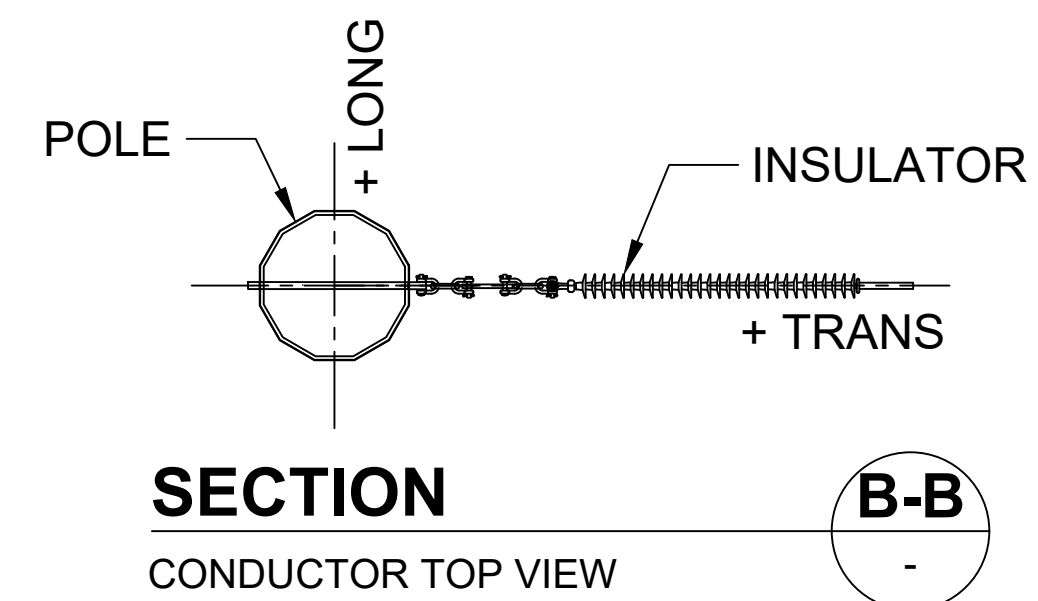
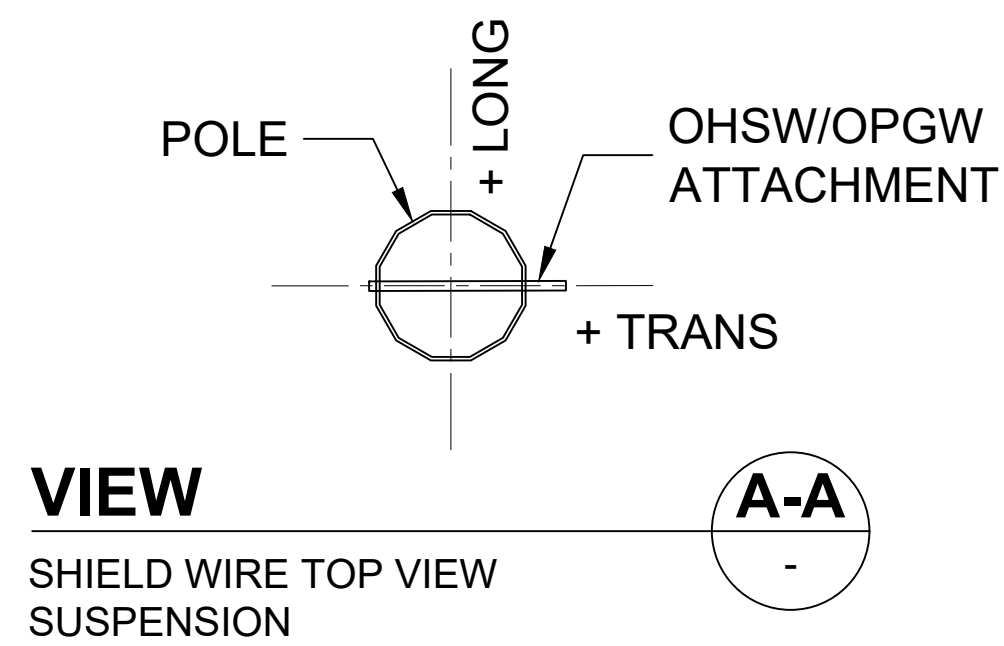
### **Technical Drawings**

**PRELIMINARY**  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



NOTES:

1. STRUCTURE HEIGHT(S), FRAMING, AND CONFIGURATION ARE PRELIMINARY. MODIFICATIONS MAY BE REQUIRED DURING DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN.
2. PRELIMINARY STRUCTURE DESIGN IS BASED ON PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENT AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FINAL ROUTE APPROVAL BY THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY (GRE).
3. EMBEDMENT DEPTH VARIES AND WILL BE DETERMINED BASED ON STRUCTURAL LOADING AND INVESTIGATED SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS.



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## **APPENDIX C**

### **Agency Correspondence**

April 13, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

[NAME  
TITLE  
Address  
XXXXXX]

**Re:   *Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota***

To [NAME]:

Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

The Project is designed for operation at a capacity of over 50 MW and thus is subject to the Minnesota Public Utility Commission's (Commission's) siting authority jurisdiction. Therefore, Benton will seek a Site Permit from the Commission under Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04 (Subdivision 2(8)), and Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 – 7850.3900.

The Project will be situated within an approximately 3,077.3-acre Project area located in Township (T) 36 North (N), Range (R) 29 West (W), Sections 7, 18, 19 and 30; and T36 N, R30 W, Sections 12-14, 23-26, and 34-36. The Project site plan has not been finalized at this time; however, the Project is likely to include the following facilities:

- Solar panels/modules
- Gravel access roads
- Inverters
- Underground collection lines
- Security fencing
- An operations and maintenance building
- A substation

The Project also will include an associated generation-tie line (gen-tie). Benton anticipates that the gen-tie will meet the relevant definition of a high-voltage transmission line in Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.01 (Subdivision 4). Therefore, Benton anticipates seeking a Route Permit from the Commission and intends to prepare a standalone Route Permit application. Benton will provide you with separate correspondence describing the gen-tie and requesting your associated comments.



To facilitate your review of the Project, we have enclosed a figure and corresponding shapefiles depicting the Project area. Project facilities will occupy only a portion of the Project area.

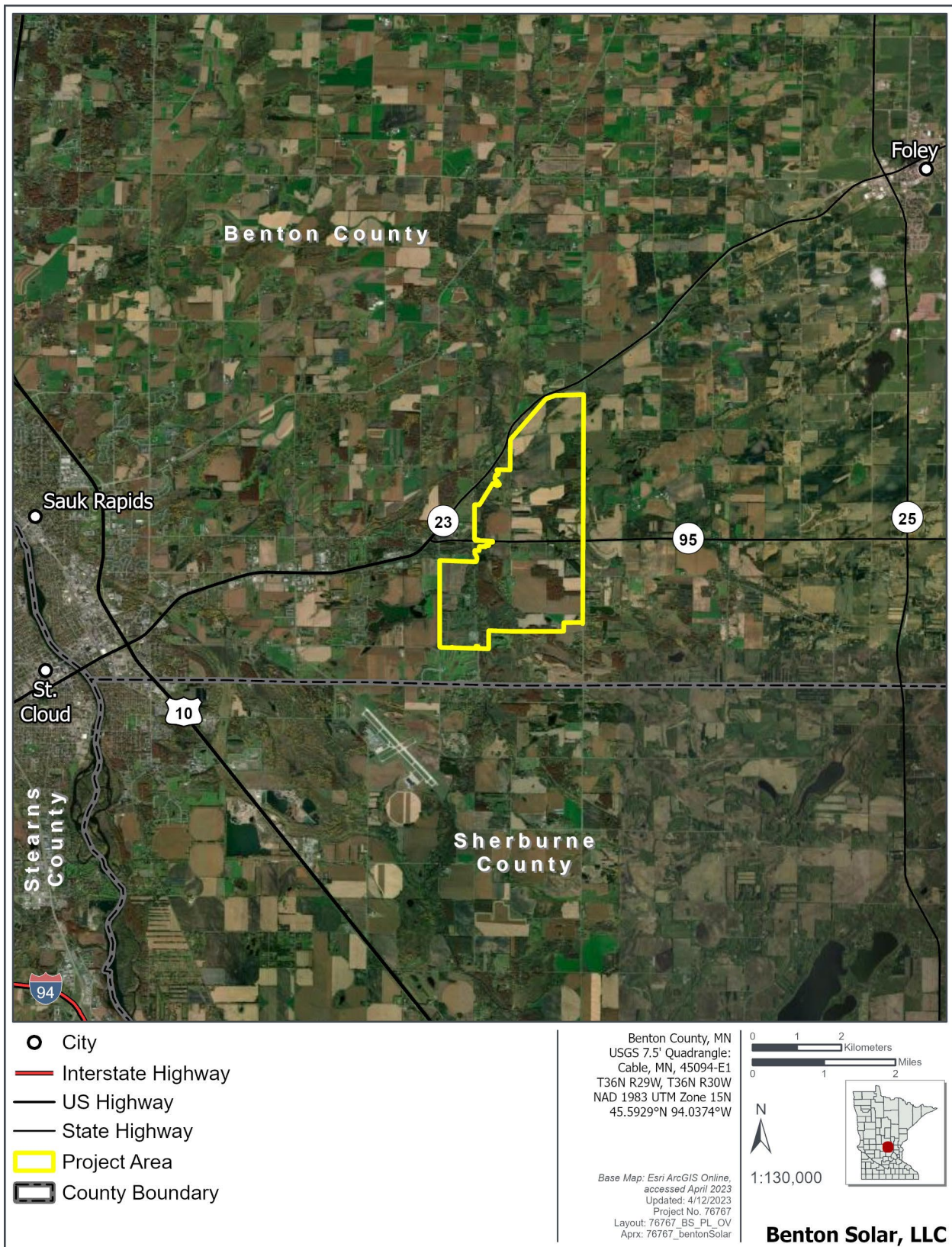
We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10. If you would like to request additional information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (561) 446-3380 or [Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com).

Respectfully,

**/s/ Brittney Paxson**

Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
Benton Solar, LLC  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 446-3380  
[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)

**ATTACHMENT 1:  
PROJECT AREA FIGURE**



**From:** [Paxson, Brittney](#)  
**To:** [Macdonald, Cody](#); [Kely Wabnitz](#); [Sarah Sappington](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:27:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



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**From:** Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Paxson, Brittney <Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com>  
**Cc:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>; Rasmussen, Elizabeth (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <Elizabeth.Rasmussen@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Hi Brittney,

I am replying to your email regarding the Benton Solar Energy Project on behalf of Grant Wilson. I would be your point of contact with Minnesota DNR to provide early coordination on utility-scale solar site plans prior to the filing of the PUC application. At that point, Cynthia Warzecha, our energy planner, will take over as the DNR point of contact during the PUC coordination process. Please include Cynthia in future communications regarding this project.

The DNR has developed a thorough guidance document for the development of solar sites: [DNR's 2023 Commercial Solar Siting Guidance](#). Project proposers are also required to prepare a [Vegetation Establishment and Management Plan](#) for all utility-scale solar projects (≥50 megawatts). If you have not already, I recommend that you review these documents as you develop your project plans and let me know if you have any questions. I am happy to meet to discuss any aspects of these documents or your specific plans in more detail. I also recommend that you submit this project for review to [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#), in order to coordinate with the DNR on any potential impacts to state-listed rare species and

required avoidance measures as you develop your site plans.

Thank you,

**Melissa Collins**

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Pronouns: She/her/hers

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5755

Email: [melissa.collins@state.mn.us](mailto:melissa.collins@state.mn.us)

[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)



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**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:40 AM

**To:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <[grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>; Kely Wabnitz <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; Sarah Sappington <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>

**Subject:** Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

**This message may be from an external email source.**

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Hi Grant,

Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10.

Thanks,

Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



**From:** [Paxson, Brittney](#)  
**To:** [Macdonald, Cody](#); [Kely Wabnitz](#); [Sarah Sappington](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:09:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[BentonSolarProjectArea\\_20230406.zip](#)  
[Wilson\\_Benton Solar Project\\_2023Apr13.pdf](#)  
[BentonSolarMap.pdf](#)

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fyi

Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



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**From:** Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** Paxson, Brittney <Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com>  
**Cc:** Rokala, Joe A (DNR) <joe.rokala@state.mn.us>; Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Hello:

We (Lands and Minerals Division) are not accustomed to being asked for a general review of an entire project. We do reviews when we get an application for a utility crossing license crossing for specific state lands and public waters. We process and approve that application and issue a license.

We cannot sink much time into a resource and technical review process until we have an application in front of us.

Also, there is not enough or the right type of information to allow us to pre-review the proposal as provided. There is no information on where the infrastructure is going to be or how power will be routed off the site, therefore, I don't know if you will need to apply for utility crossing licenses or not.

I am attaching a map that reflects the outline of the 3,000-plus acres you are indicating as the project area, along with an overlay three public watercourses within the area, and one or two lakes. If there are crossings of any of these watercourses, utility licenses will be required.



You can also read in general about the instructions, fees, and statutes involved in utility licensing by using this [link](#) to the website.

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions.

**Martha Vickery**

Central Region Operations Coordinator | Lands and Minerals Division

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5792

Fax: 651-772-7977

Email: [martha.vickery@state.mn.us](mailto:martha.vickery@state.mn.us)  
[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)



---

**From:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <[grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:10 AM

**To:** Lais, Dan R (DNR) <[dan.lais@state.mn.us](mailto:dan.lais@state.mn.us)>; Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <[martha.vickery@state.mn.us](mailto:martha.vickery@state.mn.us)>; Harper, Liz (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <[elizabeth.harper@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.harper@state.mn.us)>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <[Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us](mailto:Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us)>

**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Dan, Liz, Martha, and Melissa,

Can you advise on this request for review/comment?

Grant

**Grant L. Wilson**

Central Region Director

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Phone: 651.259.5635

---

**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:40 AM

**To:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <[grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>;



Kely Wabnitz <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; Sarah Sappington <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>

**Subject:** Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

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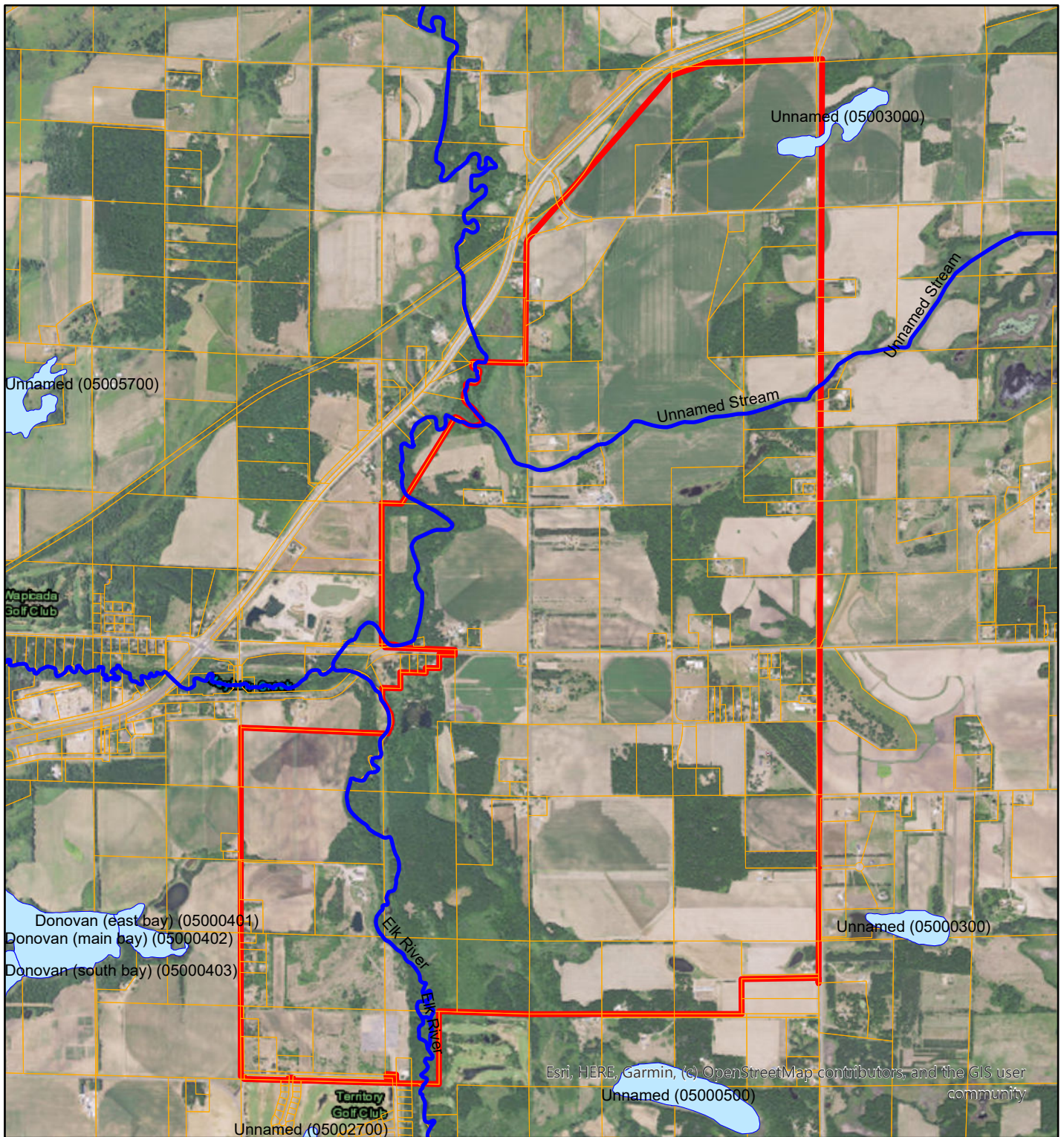
Hi Grant,

Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10.

Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401





## Proposed Benton Solar with Public Waters

- All Available Parcels in Minnesota (For Internal Use Only)
- Public Water Watercourse
- Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse
- Public Waters Basins
- Aquatic Management Area - AMA
- Fish Management Area - FMA
- Scientific and Natural Area - SNA

- State Forest Land
  - Other Forest Land
  - State Parks
  - State Park Recreation Areas
  - State Park Waysides
  - Wildlife Management Area - WMA
  - BentonSolarProjectArea\_20230406
- 0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

**From:** [Paxson, Brittney](#)  
**To:** [GraggJohnson, Kelly \(ADM\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Macdonald, Cody](#); [Kely Wabnitz](#); [Sarah Sappington](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota (SHPO No 2023-1118)  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023 9:48:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Thank you Kelly, appreciate the quick response.

Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



---

**From:** GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 5:20 PM  
**To:** Paxson, Brittney <Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota (SHPO No 2023-1118)

Hi Brittney – We previously provided comments on this project to SWCA Environmental Consultants and copied Cody MacDonald and Jake McQueen of Next Era. Please see the attached letter. We look forward to reviewing the results of the Phase I archaeological survey when they become available.

Also, please remove David Mather from your email correspondence.

Thanks,

Kelly



**Kelly Gragg-Johnson (she/her) | Environmental Review Program Specialist**

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 201-3285 | [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us)

Please [subscribe to receive SHPO notices](#) for the most current updates regarding office hours, accessing research files, or changes in submitting materials to the SHPO.

To access historic resource information please visit our webpage on [Using SHPO's Files](#).

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-

---

**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:37 AM

**To:** GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <[kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us)>; Mather, David (ADM) <[david.mather@state.mn.us](mailto:david.mather@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>; Kely Wabnitz <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; Sarah Sappington <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>

**Subject:** Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

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Hi Kelly and David,

Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10.

Thanks,

Brittney Paxson

Project Manager, Development

NextEra Energy Resources

(561) 446-3380 mobile

700 Universe Blvd.

Juno Beach, FL 33401





**From:** [Paxson, Brittney](#)  
**To:** [Macdonald, Cody](#); [Kely Wabnitz](#); [Sarah Sappington](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023 11:16:22 AM

---

Brittney Paxson  
NextEra Energy Resources  
Project Manager Development  
[\(561\) 446-3380](#) mobile

---

**From:** Sierra Cotter <[scotter@co.benton.mn.us](mailto:scotter@co.benton.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 11:11:21 AM  
**To:** Steffenson, Cade (BWSR) <[cade.steffenson@state.mn.us](mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us)>; Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>  
**Cc:** Roxanne Achman <[RAchman@co.benton.mn.us](mailto:RAchman@co.benton.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Hi Brittney,  
From a WCA standpoint, Cade is correct. A level 2 wetland delineation will be necessary prior to finalization. I have also included Roxanne, the Director of Land Services, so she can chime in from a zoning perspective, if needed. Both myself and Roxanne attended a meeting last year with Nextera Energy and therefore we have had a small introduction into the company and its goals. Please let me know if you have specific questions for us in the meantime.

Thank you,  
Sierra Cotter

---

**From:** Steffenson, Cade (BWSR) <[cade.steffenson@state.mn.us](mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** [Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)  
**Cc:** Sierra Cotter <[scotter@co.benton.mn.us](mailto:scotter@co.benton.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Benton County email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good morning Brittney. This was sent my way for prelim BWSR comments on your proposed solar project. My role is specific to areas of the project that may affect/impact wetlands under the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA-MR 8420). WCA is a locally administered rule (Benton County Dept of Development). I am involved via the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) along with LGU, DNR, and SWCD staff. My comment would be to recommend a wetland delineation be completed for those areas proposed (or considered) for placement of any roads, infrastructure, panels or other areas that may be disturbed. This will assist you in planning efforts and avoidance of wetland impacts to the extent possible.

Often times at this phase you could consider a level 1 delineation for planning purposes, but will

need to conduct a level 2 (onsite) delineation prior to finalization. A wetland consultant can also help you decide which options work for you at this phase.

Feel free to reach out to me or the LGU (cc'd) with any questions.

Cade Steffenson  
Wetland Specialist  
Board of Water & Soil Resources  
Office (320) 223-7073  
Cell (218) 820-0811

---

**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** Felix-Gerth, Annie (BWSR) <[annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us](mailto:annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>; Kely Wabnitz <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; Sarah Sappington <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>  
**Subject:** Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

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Hi Annie,

Hope all is well. Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10.

Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



**From:** [Paxson, Brittney](#)  
**To:** [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Herzig, Danell](#); [Macdonald, Cody](#); [Mcqueen, Jake](#); [Kely Wabnitz](#); [Sarah Sappington](#); [Peterson, Keith \(DOT\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:43:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

---

Thank you Stacy,

We will review and follow up with any outstanding questions.

Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



---

**From:** Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:52 AM  
**To:** Paxson, Brittney <Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com>  
**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com>; Macdonald, Cody <Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com>; Mcqueen, Jake <Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com>; Kely Wabnitz <kmertz@swca.com>; Sarah Sappington <SSappington@swca.com>; Peterson, Keith (DOT) <keith.peterson@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Good Morning Brittney,

At first glance and understanding that the physical project boundary will not encompass MnDOT TH 95 right-of way, below are initial comments on the project:

1. Areas of TH 23 where MnDOT looks to have right-of-way extending into the project area will need to be cross-referenced thoroughly and adjusted as needed.
2. MnDOT OES map layer shows 1 contaminated site within and 2 additional MPCA sites at the project boundary (65<sup>th</sup> Ave north of TH 95 and 55<sup>th</sup> Ave south of TH 95). These findings will likely be covered during your work with MPCA.
3. MnDOT OES map layer shows your project boundary overlapping a Cultural Resources Unit Historically Sensitive Area (no further details can be provided). These findings will likely be covered during your work with SHPO.



4. When available, MnDOT is interested in viewing the project's collection system and associated facilities for review of their potential effects on TH 23 and TH 95.
5. Future MnDOT District 3 construction projects can be found here: [MnDOT D3 Projects](#)

Thank you for the opportunity for early review and comment on this proposed project.

Please reach out once you have more project details that may affect MnDOT rights-of-way.

*Stacy Kotch Egstad*

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

O: 651-366-4635

[mndot.gov/](http://mndot.gov/)



---

**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:43 AM

**To:** Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <[stacy.kotch@state.mn.us](mailto:stacy.kotch@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>; Kely Wabnitz <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; Sarah Sappington <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>

**Subject:** Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

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Hi Stacy,

Hope all is well. Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10.

Thanks,

Brittney Paxson  
Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



**From:** [Paxson, Brittney](#)  
**To:** [Macdonald, Cody](#); [Sarah Sappington](#); [Gracia, Adam](#); [Kely Wabnitz](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 10:39:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[RE Benton Solar Energy Project Benton County Minnesota.msg](#)

---

Thanks,  
Brittney Paxson  
Lead Project Manager, Development  
NextEra Energy Resources  
(561) 446-3380 mobile  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33401



---

**From:** Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 10:10 AM  
**To:** Paxson, Brittney <Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com>  
**Cc:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Hi Brittney,  
Thank you for contacting DNR for early coordination regarding the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project. I have attached our previous comments in case you have any further questions or would like to meet to discuss in more detail. Please continue to coordinate with me and cc Cynthia Warzecha as the project moves forward.

Would it be possible to get shapefiles for the project? Have you already submitted the project to [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#)? And, when are you planning to submit your route permit application?

Thank you,

**Melissa Collins**

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources  
Pronouns: She/her/hers

## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5755

Email: [melissa.collins@state.mn.us](mailto:melissa.collins@state.mn.us)

[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)



---

**From:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <[grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:38 AM

**To:** Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <[martha.vickery@state.mn.us](mailto:martha.vickery@state.mn.us)>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <[Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us](mailto:Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** [Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)

**Subject:** FW: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Martha and Melissa,

Please see note below and attached file sent by Brittney from NextEra Energy Resources. Be in contact with her on any follow up.

Grant

### Grant L. Wilson

Central Region Director

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Phone: 651.259.5635

---

**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:55 AM

**To:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <[grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>; 'Kely Wabnitz' <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; 'Sarah Sappington' <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

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Hi Grant,

As noted in the letter dated April 13, 2023, attached is a KMZ depicting the Route, Proposed Alignment, and associated Right-of-Way that will be subject to the Benton Solar Route Permit Application.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Brittney Paxson

Lead Project Manager, Development

NextEra Energy Resources

(561) 446-3380 mobile

700 Universe Blvd.

Juno Beach, FL 33401



---

**From:** Paxson, Brittney <[Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Brittney.Paxson@nexteraenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:40 AM

**To:** [grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)

**Cc:** Herzig, Danell <[Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Danell.Herzig@nexteraenergy.com)>; Macdonald, Cody <[Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Cody.Macdonald@nexteraenergy.com)>; Mcqueen, Jake <[Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Jake.Mcqueen@nexteraenergy.com)>; Kely Wabnitz <[kmertz@swca.com](mailto:kmertz@swca.com)>; Sarah Sappington <[SSappington@swca.com](mailto:SSappington@swca.com)>

**Subject:** Benton Solar Energy Project, Benton County, Minnesota

Hi Grant,

Benton Solar, LLC (Benton), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), is writing to request your comments on the proposed Benton Solar Energy Project (Project). The Project is a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility to be located in Benton County, Minnesota.

We appreciate and welcome any comments your agency may have regarding the Project and resources under your jurisdiction, and respectfully ask for receipt of your comments by May 10.

Thanks,

Brittney Paxson

Project Manager, Development

NextEra Energy Resources

(561) 446-3380 mobile

700 Universe Blvd.

Juno Beach, FL 33401