



## Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

**Project Name:** Gopher State Solar - Revised Boundary

**Project Proposer:** Gopher State Solar

**Project Type:** Power, Solar

**Project Type Activities:** Other

**TRS:** T115 R34 S1, T115 R34 S2, T116 R33 S19, T116 R33 S30, T116 R34 S23, T116 R34 S24, T116 R34 S25, T116 R34 S26, T116 R34 S27, T116 R34 S34, T116 R34 S35, T116 R34 S36

**County(s):** Renville

**DNR Admin Region(s):** South

**Reason Requested:** PUC Site or Route Application

**Project Description:** Utility scale solar development. Timing and duration of construction is TBD

**Existing Land Uses:** Ag

**Landcover / Habitat Impacted:** Ag

**Waterbodies Affected:** None at this time

**Groundwater Resources Affected:** None at this time

**Previous Natural Heritage Review:** Yes, ERDB#: 2023-00339

**Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys:** No

### SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

| Category                                      | Results     | Response By Category          |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Project Details                               | No Comments | No Further Review Required    |
| Ecologically Significant Area                 | No Comments | No Further Review Required    |
| State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species | No Comments | No Further Review Required    |
| State-Listed Species of Special Concern       | No Comments | No Further Review Required    |
| Federally Listed Species                      | No Records  | Visit IPaC For Federal Review |



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological & Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

May 15, 2024

Project ID: MCE #2024-00452

Mandy Bohnenblust  
Merjent, Inc.  
1 Main Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Gopher State Solar - Revised Boundary  
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Given the project details provided on the cover page, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features. To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review before initiating project activities.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

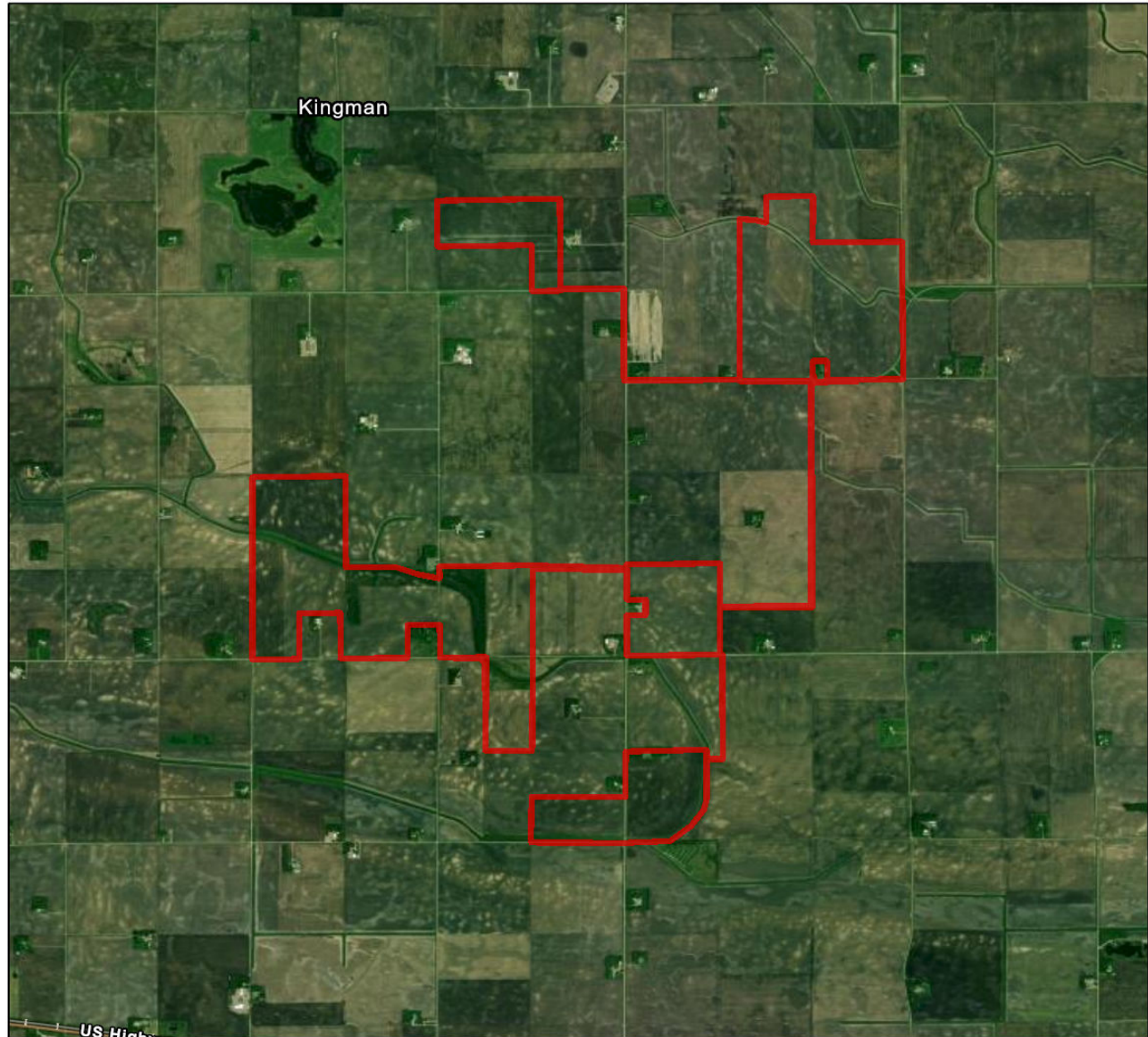
Sincerely,

*Jim Drake* Jim Drake  
Natural Heritage Review Specialist  
[James.F.Drake@state.mn.us](mailto:James.F.Drake@state.mn.us)

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool  
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)  
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info  
[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp\\_regioncontacts.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html)

# Gopher State Solar - Revised Boundary

## Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



0 0.35 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Miles

Project\_Boundary

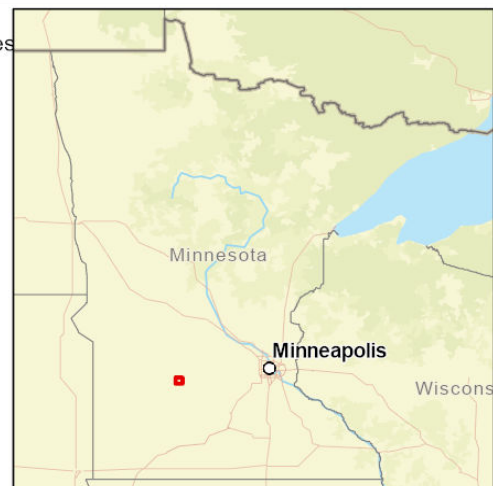
Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Size (acres): 1,642.80

County(s): Renville

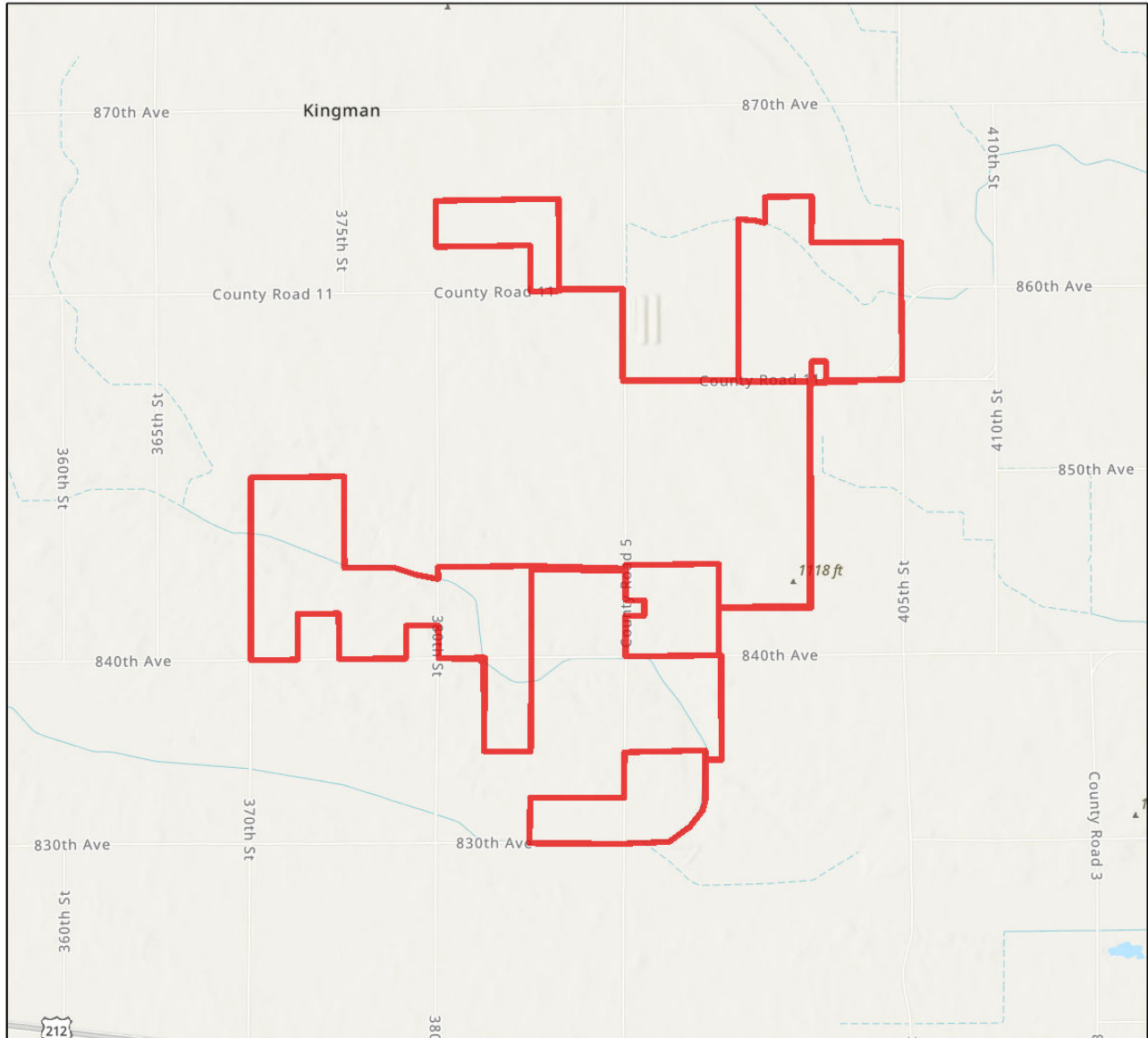
TRS: T115 R34 S1, T115 R34 S2, T116 R33 S19, T116 R33 S30, T116 R34 S23 +

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS  
Earthstar Geographics  
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,



# Gopher State Solar - Revised Boundary

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



 Project\_Boundary

Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Size (acres): 1,642.80

County(s): Renville

TRS: T115 R34 S1, T115 R34 S2, T116 R33 S19, T116 R33 S30, T116 R34 S23 +

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS  
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS  
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,

