

May 24, 2022

Dear Landowner,

The proposed transmission line project associated with the Byron Solar project may directly or indirectly impact your property.

This letter provides you with information about the project. It explains the state permitting process, and highlights opportunities for you to participate in that process. Lastly, it lists where to find additional information, and who to contact to get your questions answered.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the project and participate in the permitting process. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions (contact information below).

Proposed Project

Byron Solar, LLC (Byron Solar) proposes to construct a 200 megawatt (MW) solar generating facility on approximately 1,800 acres in Canisteo and Mantorville townships in Dodge County. The project also includes construction of approximately three of 345 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line in Dodge and Olmsted counties to connect the solar facility to the transmission grid at the Byron Substation, located just west of the city of Byron in Olmsted County (see attached map).

Byron Solar proposes to use single pole structures with heights of 90 to 170 feet, and spans of approximately 230 to 970 feet between structures. Byron Solar has identified a right-of-way of 150 feet, 75 feet either side of a center line. Byron Solar anticipates that construction will begin in early 2023 and be completed in time to begin operating at the end of 2024.

Permitting Process to Date

The project requires a route permit from the Public Utilities Commission ("commission") before it can be built. The applicants submitted a route permit application to the commission on August 30, 2021. The commission accepted the application as complete on November 17, 2021. This means that the applicants provided the information needed to begin the environmental review process.

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis ("EERA") staff within the Department of Commerce is responsible for conducting environmental review. Scoping was the first step. It provided an opportunity to submit comments on the content of the environmental assessment ("EA") that will be prepared for the project. The EA will study potential human and environmental impacts of the project. The EA will also discuss ways to minimize, avoid, or correct potential impacts.

Scoping also provided opportunities to suggest alternative transmission line routes for study in the EA. This process identified one route alternative (shown in red on the accompanying map) in addition to the applicant's proposed route. Property records indicate you own property on, or are located near, the newly proposed red alternative.

How to Participate

EERA staff are currently preparing the EA, which is anticipated to be complete and available in September 2022. After the EA is available a public hearing will be held in the project area. Notice of the public hearing will be published in a local newspaper and provided to persons on the project mailing list.

An administrative law judge (“ALJ”) from the Office of Administrative Hearings will oversee the public hearing and an associated comment period. At the hearing anyone may speak, ask questions, and submit comments about the project. The ALJ will accept written comments through the comment deadline.

After the comment period closes, the ALJ will provide the commission with a written report and recommendation on a preferred route and permit conditions. The commission will then hold an open meeting to review the record and decide whether to issue permits for the proposed project. If permits are issued, they will identify measures to mitigate potential impacts. The commission’s decision is expected in early 2023.

Project Mailing List

Placing your name on the project mailing list ensures you receive the most up-to-date information about the project. To place your name on the project mailing list contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2246 and provide the docket numbers (20-763, 20-764, and 20-765), your name, email address, and mailing address. Please indicate how you would like to receive notices—by email or U.S. mail.

More Information

Additional documents and information, including the route permit application, public comments received during scoping, and scoping decision, can be found on the State of Minnesota eDockets system by searching “20” for year and “765” for number: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> or on the EERA website: <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/eera/web/project/14509>.

Staff most familiar with the project include:

Commerce Environmental Review Manager
Suzanne Steinhauer
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
(651) 539-1843

Public Utilities Commission Project Manager
Michael Kaluzniak
mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us
(651) 201-2257

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Mike or me.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Steinhauer

Suzanne Steinhauer
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

Enclosures: Scoping Notice and Map



Issued May 23, 2022

Notice of Environmental Assessment Scoping Decision

*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*

Docket Nos. IP 7041/GS-20-763, CN-20-764, TL-20-765

The Department of Commerce issued the *Scoping Decision* for the environmental assessment (“EA”) to be prepared for the Byron Solar Project in Dodge and Olmsted Counties.

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (“EERA”) staff will prepare the EA, which will address the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project. The *Scoping Decision* identifies the issues that will be studied in the EA, as well as those issues that will not be addressed.

The *Scoping Decision* and other relevant documents are available on the State of Minnesota eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter year “20” and number “763, 764, or 765”) or the EERA website: <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/eera/web/project/14509>.

The EA is scheduled to be complete in September 2022. A public hearing will be held after the EA is complete and available for public review.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the EERA Environmental Review Manager, Suzanne Steinhauer, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or (651) 539-1843, or the Public Utilities Commission Project Manager, Mike Kaluzniak, publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2257.

To place your name on the project mailing list contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2204 and provide the docket number (20-763, 20-764, and 20-765), your name, email address, and mailing address. Please indicate how you would like to receive notices—by email or U.S. mail. Placing your name on the project mailing list ensures you receive the most up-to-date information about the project.

To request this document or the Scoping Decision in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 or 800-657-3782 (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.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
Letter to Landowners along route alternative**

Docket No. IP7041/GS-20-763, IP7041/CN-20-764, and IP7041/TL-20-765

Dated this 24th day of May 2022

/s/Sharon Ferguson

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