

Oral Public Meeting Comments Received for the
Cottage Grove Battery Energy Storage Project
Docket No. ESS-26-184

Public Meetings

1. July 7, 2026 – Cottage Grove, MN, 6:00 p.m.
2. July 8, 2026 – Virtual, On-Line Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

1 SCOPING & INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 26-184
2 COTTAGE GROVE - JULY 7, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.
3 FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
4

5 In the Matter of the Application of LSP CG Storage, LLC,
6 for a Site Permit for the up to 80 MW Cottage Grove BESS
Project in Washington County, Minnesota.
7

8 MPUC DOCKET NO: IP7180/ESS-26-184
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12 Glacial Valley Park Building
13 9900 Ravine Parkway
14 Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55106
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16 July 7, 2026
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25 COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RMR, RPR

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I N D E X

SPEAKER	PAGE
Jacques Harvieux	3
Konnar Klinksiek	5
Jessica Livingston	11
Bonnie Matter	18
Aidan Oldenburg	21
David Moeller	32

1 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Good evening. My
2 name is Jacques Harvieux. I am the lead advisory
3 staff member from the Commission here. Tonight is
4 the first public meeting for the Cottage Grove BESS
5 project; tomorrow night will be a virtual meeting,
6 both with the same format as well. The docket
7 number for the project is ESS-26-184. Please send
8 that docket number with you in any correspondence
9 you send the Commission.

10 The agenda for tonight's meeting is we
11 will go over an introduction of the Minnesota Public
12 Utilities Commission by myself, and then we will go
13 to a description of the proposed project by the
14 Applicant. And then we will go through a review of
15 the permit application review process by my
16 counterpart here, and then we will end with
17 questions and comments.

18 Meeting ground rules: Please be
19 respectful of others, including presenters and
20 commenters. We want to hear from everyone who wants
21 to comment today. Take turns commenting, one person
22 at a time. The court reporter is here to record the
23 meeting, including each person's comments, to help
24 the Commission make an informed decision.

25 The purpose of today's meeting is to

1 receive public input and to compile a record for the
2 Commission's permit decision. What you can do is
3 ask State staff about the review process and ask the
4 Applicant about the proposed project. You can also
5 comment, share your oral or written comments,
6 including your thoughts on the project, additional
7 information needs, and possible permit conditions.

8 The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
9 is an impartial decision-making body charged with
10 carrying out the permitting process of the facility,
11 making the final decision regarding the
12 application's permit, and managing the facility's
13 compliance from construction through operation.

14 The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
15 also regulates electric, natural gas, and landline
16 telephone utilities; sets rates and service
17 standards for investor-owned utilities; issues site
18 and route permits, which includes power plants,
19 natural gas, wind and solar, battery energy storage,
20 high-voltage transmission lines, and certain
21 pipelines. The Commission consists of five
22 Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor,
23 and who decide on permits, rates, and other utility
24 matters.

25 The anticipated and tentative schedule

1 for this application is here. We are currently here
2 at the public information meetings. We have a
3 comment period that closes on July 20th. From
4 there, the Commission will issue a draft route
5 permit and decide on the need for an environmental
6 assessment addendum and the scope of the
7 environmental report.

8 From here, we will go to the description
9 of the proposed project by the Applicant.

10 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Thank you so much.

11 Thank you, everybody here. My name is
12 Konnar Klinksiek. I'm a representative of the
13 owner/operator of the Cottage Grove thermal facility
14 and the proposed battery energy storage development.

15 Next slide.

16 There's three parties working on this
17 project. Fredrikson represents our legal counsel,
18 and then Westwood is the engineering firm. We have
19 representatives from both of them today here with
20 us.

21 Thank you guys for joining.

22 So a little bit of background on Panamint
23 Capital. Panamint is an energy redevelopment firm.
24 We go out and we acquire legacy thermal assets that
25 are somewhat towards the end of their life cycle,

1 and then we either redevelop those, maybe
2 decommission and replace with renewables, or
3 sometimes co-locate with renewable energy projects.
4 This is to, kind of, extend the life of existing
5 assets and help promote energy resiliency throughout
6 the communities.

7 So the project here is located or
8 co-located with our existing combined-cycle power
9 plants. It is just north of the existing 3M
10 manufacturing facility and then south of 61.

11 This map shows a little bit better here.
12 So in the bolded area is our combined-cycle power
13 plants, and then in that red section there is where
14 the batteries will be going. We should have some
15 closer-up pictures.

16 So just a brief background on how these
17 systems work themselves. So to the left here,
18 you'll see the BESS enclosure. It's about the size
19 of a storage container, one of those big shipping
20 containers that you would see on just any given, you
21 know, shipping facility. And so we store power in
22 those DC blocks. It will then be converted into --
23 or from DC electric to AC electric, which is
24 alternating current, and then it will be stepped up
25 in voltage to either go onto the grid or off the

1 grid.

2 So the storage happens on the left side
3 of the screen here, and then the -- stepping up the
4 electricity to the proper voltage to get onto the
5 transmission grid happens on the right side through
6 our medium-voltage transformers.

7 So the system size is going to be around
8 80 megawatts. It's a four-hour system itself. So
9 it will charge over a period of four hours and
10 discharge over the period of four hours. So that
11 80 megawatts is just a nameplate capacity, and the
12 actual storage will be able to hold 320-megawatt
13 hours.

14 We have contracted a power purchase
15 agreement, or PPA, with Xcel or Northern States
16 Power, the regional transmission owner here in
17 Cottage Grove. That should start after the, I
18 guess, completion of the project on June 1st of
19 2028, and will go for -- roughly 20 years is the
20 life of the project.

21 We're working through our interconnection
22 right now with MISO, and we're currently in the DPP
23 2022 study cycle. And so we're expecting to get our
24 interconnection application for the project in April
25 of 2027.

1 It should take up around three and a half
2 acres.

3 You're good, you can go ahead.

4 And currently we're working to finalize
5 the equipment itself. The battery units themselves,
6 currently specified as Sungrow Electronics and
7 Sungrow Americas, but that is subject to change.

8 And here is our layout. It might be
9 helpful to walk you guys through. So this is
10 oriented north to south, and the access to the power
11 plant comes off of the north here. So we'll share
12 the access with the existing power plant. And the
13 battery locations are these blue to light blue boxes
14 you see here on the screen, located west of the
15 existing facility and then north of the existing
16 facility.

17 We're planning on building, I guess, a
18 small road or attachment from the northwest here to
19 wrap around and meet the rest of the road to fully
20 encircle the combined-cycle and the battery project
21 here to ensure access from all given locations.

22 We're planning to run our DC cables, kind
23 of, going from the northeast here down to the
24 southwestern portion of the project, and then into
25 this blue box, which will be our substation. And

1 the substation will have a high-voltage circuit
2 breaker in there, main power transformer to, yeah,
3 ensure -- or just redundancy, and to step up the
4 power, once again, to the interconnection voltage of
5 115-kV.

6 Next, we have a few different images of
7 the project that our engineering firm, Westwood,
8 helped us put together. It just helps to have a
9 visual representation of what these units will look
10 like and where they will be going in relation to the
11 existing power plant.

12 So this one right here is kind of from
13 the north looking down upon the project, maybe
14 looking a little more north -- or sorry, southeast.
15 We have some from the cardinal directions coming up.

16 Here we have, the top one, this is
17 looking north at the project. It's a little hard to
18 see here where these units are, and it may actually
19 help if I stand up here, but you can see these
20 battery units are these little boxes here in
21 relation to the power plants. They're somewhat hard
22 to see from these renderings. And then looking
23 south, the same thing, they will be here on the
24 bottom right-hand side.

25 Next, we have looking east at the project

1 itself. So these rectangles you see along the
2 bottom line here are the units themselves. And
3 then, lastly, looking west at the project, you can
4 see them right here in this small section.

5 When it comes to fire safety, our chosen
6 battery units themselves will adhere to all national
7 fire codes. Our SCADA systems, which is the
8 supervisory control and data acquisition, they're
9 the ones that are constantly monitoring the battery
10 units themselves. They have a 24/7 approach, and
11 they will identify and isolate any, I guess, faults
12 that happen in the battery systems. And, then,
13 lastly, we are looking to do a complete hazard
14 mitigation report and plan to have it in place
15 before the battery is constructed.

16 Lastly, this is just a slide on our
17 continuous involvement with the community. We're
18 planning to have in place a community benefits plan.
19 We've been employing people at the power plant from
20 1997. We sell steam currently to the 3M facility,
21 which is just south of the combined-cycle power
22 plant. It's just a short walk away.

23 And we're planning to pay approximately
24 \$3.8 million worth of property taxes over -- to the
25 city of Cottage Grove over the 25-year life cycle of

1 the project. We're looking at 150 jobs during the
2 peak construction, and as part of our power purchase
3 agreement, we elected to -- to hire craftsmanship
4 workers under a collective bargaining agreement with
5 North America's Building Trades Union.

6 So, yeah, I guess we can go to the next
7 slide here.

8 We have a number of completed
9 environmental studies. These are all highlighted in
10 the permit application itself, and we go into
11 additional details there. These are just listed out
12 for anybody who would like to see them.

13 And then, lastly, this was our estimated
14 timeline of the project itself. You'll notice down
15 here at the very bottom is when we would expect to
16 be completed with the project; it's June 1st of
17 2028. Construction could start anywhere in the
18 beginning of 2027 to, kind of, the middle of 2027.

19 Yeah. I'd be happy to answer any and all
20 questions you have and take public comment.

21 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Thank you.

22 All right. I will be the last person to
23 present to you today before we open it up for public
24 comment. So my name is Jessica Livingston, and I am
25 the environmental review manager with the Public

1 Utilities Commission for the Cottage Grove BESS
2 project. So my job is to talk to you a little bit
3 about what the Commission's role is when it comes to
4 considering different human and environmental
5 impacts for the project.

6 So for this project, the consider -- the
7 Commission will consider a couple different things,
8 which include potential human and environmental
9 impacts, which can include things such as noise,
10 public health, or public services. They will also
11 consider ways to potentially reduce those impacts.
12 That can include avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating
13 the potential impacts.

14 The Commission will also consider
15 standard and special permit conditions that can be
16 included within the site permit that can mitigate
17 impacts, as well as understanding of the complaint
18 process, to make sure that people from the public
19 can be involved throughout the life of the permit.

20 So a summary of what a draft permit is,
21 that's something that the Commission issues that's
22 specific to the site permit that it's developed for.
23 So at the front table we have an example sample
24 permit that has all the standard permit conditions
25 for a battery energy storage system to date. What

1 we can do with this permit is develop it so it's
2 specific for this project and any impacts that you
3 all have concerns about.

4 So as we hear from you today, the
5 Commission will consider special permit conditions
6 based on staff review, as well as public input that
7 could potentially address and mitigate some of the
8 environmental impacts that might occur because of
9 the project.

10 Now, just to note, a draft permit does
11 not allow applicants to construct the project.
12 Rather, it gives a more clear description of what
13 could be included in a final permit if the
14 Commission decides to permit the project. We'll
15 provide a notice of the draft permit and take
16 comment on it once it's developed at a future public
17 hearing in September of this year.

18 So just to give a little visual on the
19 steps for the Commission's review of the permit
20 process, so today we are here at the sample permit
21 stage, which I said is at the front table here.
22 Next, we'll be developing the draft permit, which
23 will include things that were identified by you all
24 at the meeting tonight, as well as identified by
25 staff through our review of the environmental

1 assessment that's been provided for the docket. And
2 then, finally, the Commission will decide on a final
3 permit for this project moving forward.

4 For this project, applications must
5 include an environmental assessment that contains
6 any information on potential human and environmental
7 impacts that may be associated with
8 constructing/operating the project, and potential
9 ways to mitigate any identified impacts. For this
10 project, the environmental assessment is included in
11 Section 6 of the application, and we also have
12 physical copies of that in the back of the room
13 today as well.

14 What we're here to hear from you today
15 is, are there any potential human and environmental
16 impacts or unique characteristics that may be
17 missing from the application; are there any
18 mitigation measures that require further evaluation
19 in the application; and are there any other
20 alternative sites that should be considered that
21 could potentially mitigate impacts associated with
22 the project?

23 So just a reminder on what the topics for
24 comment are today. I have a written public comment
25 sheet at the front that also includes this. The

1 Commission will be considering comments on, are
2 there any potential human and environmental impacts,
3 unique characteristics, or mitigation measures for
4 the proposed project that need further development
5 in the environmental assessment, and if there needs
6 to be an environmental assessment addendum that
7 includes additional information about these
8 potential impacts.

9 We also consider if there are practical
10 methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential
11 impacts that the Commission should consider as a
12 part of the draft permit. So that can be specific
13 things related to the site. If there's wildlife you
14 know of in the area, if you want specific
15 protections for certain environmental resources,
16 that's something that the Commission will consider
17 as a special condition that could be included in a
18 draft permit. We will also consider if there are
19 any alternative sites that should be considered to
20 mitigate potential impacts associated with the
21 project.

22 So moving forward, based on the
23 information collected today, including your
24 comments, as well as all information filed into the
25 public record, the Commission will be making two

1 preliminary decisions that will happen before a
2 decision on the permit is made.

3 First, they will decide if an
4 environmental assessment addendum is necessary for
5 this project. So like I said, if there's anything
6 that relates to human and environmental impacts,
7 unique characteristics, or mitigation measures for
8 this potential project that needs to be added to the
9 current document, that is something the Commission
10 will want to consider.

11 In addition, the Commission will be
12 considering conditions that can be included in the
13 draft permit. So that can be special things like
14 protections for local species or environmental
15 resources that you all think should be important to
16 include in a final permit.

17 Before the decision is made by the
18 Commission, there will be another public hearing
19 that determines what the draft permit conditions
20 will be.

21 And then, finally, before opening it up
22 for public comment today, I'm just going to go
23 through the different ways that you can comment. So
24 we will have a court reporter here documenting
25 verbal comments at today's meeting. We also have a

1 comment sheet provided at the front table that you
2 can either fill out today and just hand it right to
3 me and I will file that in the docket, or you can
4 mail it. My address is listed on the back. You
5 just need to add postage on it, send it in the mail,
6 and I will receive it that way as well.

7 We also have an open public comment
8 document available online. If you go to
9 MN.gov/PUC/get-involved/public-comments, there's a
10 Filing a Comment tab. That lets you submit a
11 comment and it goes right to us. You can also send
12 a comment to me via email and mail. My email
13 address and office address are included.

14 So a reminder before we open it up for
15 public comment, I just wanted to do an overview of
16 commenting etiquette. Since we all took time out of
17 our day to be here, we want to make sure that
18 everybody has the opportunity to get their voice
19 heard. So we will do one speaker at a time, and
20 before you speak, we just ask that you state and
21 spell your full name for the court reporter so your
22 comment is captured within the record of this
23 document.

24 Also, please limit comments to a few
25 minutes. If you have a long comment that's going to

1 take a while, you can always come back once
2 everyone's had the chance to speak, but we just want
3 to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to
4 comment today. And then, as always, just maintain
5 respect for others as you are providing your
6 comment.

7 So I'm just going to leave up the topics
8 for comment as a reminder. We will be collecting
9 comments on potential human and environmental
10 impacts, unique characteristics, or mitigation
11 measures for the proposed project that need further
12 development in an EA addendum. We'll be collecting
13 comments on practical methods to minimize, mitigate,
14 or avoid potential impacts, and then if there are
15 any alternative sites that should be considered to
16 mitigate potential impacts for the project.

17 I will now open it up and see if anybody
18 wants to come up for a public comment.

19 MS. BONNIE MATTER: I have a public
20 comment. I have a public comment.

21 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: I can hand you
22 the microphone.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: No, that's fine.
24 That's fine. I can go up there, I don't care. And
25 so when you want me to sit down and we can go on

1 with other persons -- you know, people who want to
2 ask, then do that.

3 So thanks. Hi. I'm Bonnie Matter,
4 M-A-T-T-E-R. Thank you very much.

5 So as you moved through that
6 presentation, one question, what is a DPP?

7 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: DPP?

8 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah.

9 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: It's a point of
10 delivery. So whenever we ship in batteries,
11 there'll be delivered DPP, which is delivered to the
12 site.

13 MS. BONNIE MATTER: So DPP, delivery --

14 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I'm sorry, I do
15 not have the acronym off the top of my head. I
16 apologize.

17 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. No, that's --
18 don't apologize.

19 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yeah, so whenever
20 we're shipping the batteries, there'll be
21 delivered --

22 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay --

23 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: -- I'm sorry --

24 MS. BONNIE MATTER: -- in relation to
25 interconnection?

1 MS. BONNIE MATTER: -- no, you had it up
2 on the -- it was in one of the slides.

3 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I just want to
4 make sure I have exactly what we're looking at here.

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Oh, that was it. Go
6 up. Please go forward -- or back. There, the
7 project is in the DPP --

8 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Okay. Wonderful,
9 forget the delivery.

10 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay.

11 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Sorry. And
12 whenever we're delivering the batteries to the site,
13 DPP is delivering them to the site itself.

14 For this, this is MISO's interconnection
15 process. So they have a study cycle process for any
16 project that wants to interconnect to the MISO grid.
17 They're the Midcontinent Independent System
18 Operator.

19 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah.

20 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Okay. So they
21 operate in a number of states across the country,
22 and, essentially, they have one big electrical grid.
23 So whenever we want to apply to interconnect our
24 project to the grid, they put us into one of these
25 study cycles. DPP is definitive planning phase.

1 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. Definitive
2 planning, thank you.

3 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: And we are in the
4 2022 cycle, so DPP 2022.

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: I'm just trying to
6 get my mind around the terms.

7 So Westwood is over here. Hi. So do you
8 represent -- who do you represent exactly? Are you
9 representing? EIP?

10 MR. AIDAN OLDENBURG: We were hired by
11 Panamint to work on some environmental studies, the
12 engineering, and some of the permitting work.

13 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. But I also
14 noticed that you work with the other battery storage
15 systems, too.

16 MR. AIDAN OLDENBURG: We work on a lot of
17 projects throughout the state, yes.

18 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay, okay. So
19 you're real familiar with them?

20 MR. AIDAN OLDENBURG: Yeah.

21 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Great. Then, one of
22 the questions I would have about that then, if
23 you're real familiar with those projects and the PUC
24 is familiar with the projects now because you've
25 been looking at plenty of them, you would have an

1 idea of things that need to be added to any permit,
2 right? As these come up, you're adding them; as you
3 find out about them, you're adding them?

4 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: So, the sample
5 permit we provided today is specifically for energy
6 storage systems, and essentially what the sample
7 permit is, is the conditions that we have found as a
8 State agency that should be standardized in every
9 permit. Where we start adding them is where we get
10 to the draft permit, and then when we get to the
11 final permit level.

12 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. I'm sorry.
13 Because you guys know stuff inside and out, I'm
14 still trying to catch up.

15 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Sure.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: So you said, which
17 permit level? You said --

18 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: So where we're at
19 right now is --

20 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Oh, I know where
21 you're at.

22 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: -- at the scoping
23 meeting.

24 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah, yeah.

25 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: And so from here,

1 we'll develop what's considered a draft permit, and
2 that will -- and then we will -- the Commission will
3 decide upon that permit.

4 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay, okay.

5 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: So right now the
6 sample permit, that has all items that relate to
7 just general battery storage, and then we can add
8 stuff either through identification of the
9 environmental assessment or if there's something
10 that's brought up today, that can be added to the
11 draft permit later.

12 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Or things that you're
13 finding out as you move through some of these other
14 battery energy storage systems, correct?

15 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Sure. I mean,
16 that's -- those are decisions that are made by
17 people that are a higher level than both Jessica and
18 I. And it would take -- and it would obviously take
19 going through those processes to learn what those
20 specific things are, right? So these are still
21 very, very new facilities.

22 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Right. Very, very
23 new, yeah.

24 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: So to make a
25 decision on specifically what should be standardized

1 at this point, I don't think we have many examples
2 of what those would specifically be right now.

3 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Right, but you have a
4 subject matter expert here and they're involved in
5 every single one of them because I've been watching
6 them come through.

7 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Sure.

8 MS. BONNIE MATTER: So you guys know.

9 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Yeah. So, so
10 far they have provided an assessment within the
11 application that includes some of the environmental
12 impacts that have been identified for this project.
13 So if there's something related to that that we
14 think needs to be included as a special condition,
15 that would be something that the PUC considers.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay, so that helps.
17 Now, again, you want -- let me know if
18 you want me to stop asking because, I mean, I have
19 questions.

20 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: No, go for it.

21 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Keep going?

22 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Yeah.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. As far as the
24 battery size, I would assume -- I'll make an
25 assumption, like each component made up of four

1 batteries would be like the size of a semitrailer?

2 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: A little bit
3 smaller than that, yes. Actually, I don't know if
4 we have the dimensions on here.

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Because the slide is
6 a little misleading.

7 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yeah, so there is
8 no -- we should have put a picture of somebody up
9 there. They're roughly the size of a storage
10 container. So if you see a shipping unit out there,
11 that's the best way to relate to that.

12 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. So, how many
13 of those shipping containers?

14 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I think we're at
15 79 now.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Is that with the
17 augmentation?

18 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes, it is
19 highlighted in our application. I'm sorry, I don't
20 have those numbers off the top of my head, but I
21 believe we're around 80 with the augmentation.

22 MS. BONNIE MATTER: 80 of the trailers?

23 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes.

24 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah, okay. And
25 that's close enough. Okay. That answers that

1 question.

2 The SCADA (different pronunciation),
3 SCADA.

4 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. So is Panamint
6 responsible for having that on the site, or is that
7 Cottage Grove? Who takes care of that?

8 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: So we will install
9 those as part of our system. So they'll be
10 integrated into the battery system itself, and so it
11 will report to us, as well as Xcel.

12 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay.

13 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: So it will keep
14 everybody aware of when the batteries are charging,
15 discharging. Xcel will have control over that
16 charging, discharging, and the data is, yes,
17 available.

18 MS. BONNIE MATTER: But you'll own them;
19 the city doesn't own those?

20 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes, that is
21 correct.

22 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. So they're not
23 responsible for taking care of that.

24 Okay. And how do you communicate to the
25 city if there is -- something happens?

1 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I believe that
2 would just be through a 911 call.

3 MS. BONNIE MATTER: 911 call, okay.

4 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes. Whenever one
5 of these thermal runaway events happen, the proper
6 authorities will be contacted.

7 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. Excuse me, let
8 me see my questions. So if we don't know the -- if
9 we don't know -- if you don't know the type of
10 battery yet, how do you know what to mitigate for
11 risks?

12 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: So right now we're
13 planning on using the Sungrow PowerTitan 2.0, is the
14 full name of the battery system itself. So we're
15 running all of our plans off of that.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: A lithium?

17 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes, it's a
18 lithium iron phosphate system, and so those meet all
19 the national fire codes. And we're working with
20 Xcel to ensure that we meet all of their
21 requirements, as well as the MISO requirements, and
22 so those systems do meet those.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. So the biggest
24 concern that I have -- and I shared this with you
25 earlier -- is I'm concerned about protecting people,

1 okay, our fire people. I mean, because it sounds
2 like when these thermal runaways happen -- and God
3 hopes that they never ever do, but when they do,
4 it's -- it's not a typical fire that they show up
5 at. So it's important that those people are
6 protected, that they know what they need to do to
7 protect themselves, et cetera.

8 And then, also, the proximity to the
9 county road -- our new -- this new road we're
10 building -- 100th Street -- and also that Langdon
11 Village, to make sure that everything is okay. I
12 mean, I don't know, when one of these things gets
13 out of control, how much room do they need? You
14 know, I don't know.

15 So -- and I'm sure you can tell us what
16 that is, right?

17 Okay. And how is it -- how is it
18 controlled; what do they do? It's not water, they
19 have to have a special -- what?

20 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: So in the battery
21 systems themselves, they have fire suppression
22 units, as well as the SCADA systems for alerting the
23 proper authorities that a thermal event or a fault
24 occurs. After that, we've been in conversations
25 with the fire department here at the city of Cottage

1 Grove, made them aware of the project, and asked to
2 see if they had any concerns on that front. I
3 believe they wanted to see some flow rates for
4 the existing fire hydrants that we have onsite.

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: But you don't use
6 water?

7 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes, for a thermal
8 runaway event, we do not use water. It would be
9 some sort of a foam situation --

10 MS. BONNIE MATTER: And they have that?

11 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: -- a chemical --

12 I believe they do. That would be a
13 question for the fire department themselves. We met
14 with them. They did not seem to have any concerns
15 regarding the project.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Are you listening,
17 Jennifer?

18 Okay. Thank you. And then if there is a
19 thermal runaway, what exactly happens? Because it's
20 not inside the container, right? It gets out of the
21 container, that's the issue.

22 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah.

24 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: From my
25 understanding, the fire department will be there to

1 mitigate any spread and to monitor the thermal
2 runaway event. When I said runaway, we do not want
3 it to spread to any of the other containers out
4 there. So if a fault were to occur in a unit, we
5 would obviously shut the plant down itself. And
6 from my current understanding, the battery systems
7 would burn and the fire department would be there to
8 monitor the spread of that and be sure it will not
9 spread.

10 MS. BONNIE MATTER: You're listening
11 (indicating)?

12 Thank you. Okay. Do -- the railroad,
13 does that vibration have any impact on battery life?

14 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: No.

15 MS. BONNIE MATTER: I'm serious.

16 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yeah. No, not
17 that I know of.

18 MS. BONNIE MATTER: All right. Let's
19 see, there's currently a number of these BESS sites
20 in process around the state, and I've already --
21 you've shared that you are learning from the
22 implementations that are going on. You're gathering
23 information and you're updating your guidelines, et
24 cetera. That's what I kind of heard. If I
25 misheard, please let me know.

1 The other thing, I can talk to you
2 offline about this, but Xcel -- actually, well,
3 there's so many names going on, but Xcel and NSP --
4 NSP, I guess, signed the PPA. Can that please be
5 added to the current docket to keep it all together?

6 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: So what's usually
7 part of the permit in this case is, because they're
8 not a utility that can sell to consumers, is they --
9 they're required to have a power purchase agreement.
10 So they are selling their energy to Xcel, who can --
11 who can then put it into the market and sell it on
12 the grid. So it is typically a requirement in the
13 permit that they must have that in order to even
14 begin construction, so that will be a part of that.

15 MS. BONNIE MATTER: You will put it into
16 the eDocket?

17 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: I will put it into
18 their permit.

19 MS. BONNIE MATTER: No, the -- well, it's
20 nice to have everything in one place.

21 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Yeah, and their
22 permit will be in the eDocket.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah, but will it
24 refer to the eDocket that the PPA is currently
25 sitting in?

1 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Their power
2 purchase agreement would be a document that is
3 specifically between them --

4 MR. DAVID MOELLER: And we -- David
5 Moeller from Fredrikson & Byron.

6 We did reference that in the application
7 as well, the eDocket for the Xcel PPA that the
8 Public Utilities Commission approved in March.

9 MS. BONNIE MATTER: But people who don't
10 know about eDockets and don't understand how they
11 work don't realize that you have to click on that
12 piece to get over to -- you know what I mean?

13 MR. DAVID MOELLER: We can add a link to
14 a filing in the future so that it's in the docket
15 there.

16 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: I suppose my
17 question for you would be, what would be your
18 specific interest within their power purchase
19 agreement?

20 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Because I think it
21 should all be -- there are -- okay. My interest is
22 because the number of names involved, the number of
23 companies involved in this whole -- whole piece,
24 it's really amazing. And some of the questions that
25 I have are not appropriate for this meeting and I'm

1 not going to ask them.

2 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Sure.

3 MS. BONNIE MATTER: I will probably put
4 them into the eDocket, and then they can be put out
5 to wherever they need to go to be answered. But
6 there are literally -- I mean, if you want me to
7 start naming the names, the companies that are
8 involved in this, I can do that. But I think all of
9 this needs to be kept together, okay? My opinion.

10 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Yeah. So from my
11 understanding of the way the -- we're collecting the
12 information now, and like they stated in the
13 application for the Public Utilities Commission,
14 that is very much together. If you feel that they
15 should have a filing linking that, they certainly
16 can do that.

17 I will tell you that the reason that they
18 require a power purchase agreement is because they
19 can -- they can apply to build a facility in the
20 state of Minnesota, but they are not a regulated
21 utility to sell that power to consumers. So that is
22 the reason why they require a power purchase
23 agreement.

24 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah. And I'm just
25 thinking that the city is going to need a full

1 record of this -- of this piece. It's so new and
2 this is going on all over. All I'm -- this is not
3 the one area that I'm interested in, believe me.
4 This -- I came across this piece. I'm more
5 interested in something else, okay? This is all
6 new, and you -- we rely on you to protect the
7 citizens of Minnesota, okay?

8 That's all I'm sharing with you. I
9 will -- I'll send you some additional information
10 though. I will.

11 And as far as -- who is responsible for
12 running and maintaining the site?

13 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: (Nods head.)

14 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay.

15 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: That would be us.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Panamint?

17 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes.

18 MS. BONNIE MATTER: And Panamint knows
19 how to run -- because it sounds like they're a
20 relatively new company.

21 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: We would work with
22 the battery manufacturers themselves in what's
23 called a long-term service agreement. So they would
24 help run the site and maintain it and work through
25 any maintenance that's required.

1 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah, yeah. Okay.
2 And I think we talked about MISO, I don't quite know
3 how -- I know MISO is a regional operation. They're
4 regional and they're kind of overseeing what Xcel
5 does and all of these other power companies
6 throughout the state and even in other states.

7 Okay. Do -- Xcel and Basin Electric
8 Power, who are going to be out at that facility,
9 they're going to be buying power from that
10 cogeneration facility. So they're buying it from --
11 that's -- I'm not going to go down this road.
12 Because this is more -- this is not about
13 environmental, so I'm not going to ask that
14 question; I'll ask that elsewhere.

15 Okay. Oh, the hazardous waste disposal
16 on those batteries? The life on the batteries?

17 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Is about 20 years.

18 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Really?

19 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Maybe more than
20 20 years. They will degrade a little bit over time,
21 and that's why we filed the supplemental filing for
22 the augmentation. They might be able to last a
23 little longer than the 20 years.

24 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. And so where
25 do they go when they're done? Is Panamint

1 responsible for making sure that they're disposed of
2 properly?

3 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Yes.

4 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Do you know where
5 they will be disposed of?

6 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I don't believe we
7 have a location. We do have a decommissioning plan
8 where -- we'll set up and put into place, where
9 we'll set aside some money in order for those to be
10 adequately removed after the life of the project.

11 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. And so the
12 decommissioning plan, of course, would go beyond
13 just the batteries itself, correct?

14 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: It would carry
15 onto the medium-voltage transformers and the
16 equipment that's installed on-site.

17 MS. BONNIE MATTER: No, I don't mean
18 that. The actual physical plant.

19 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I'm sorry, I don't
20 quite -- the thermal power plant?

21 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah.

22 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: These are separate
23 projects. So they're going to be operated
24 separately and maintained separately. So the
25 decommissioning plan has nothing to do with that

1 thermal project.

2 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: For this PUC
3 process, the decommissioning plan will only be
4 focused on the battery.

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. So if
6 something happened to that plant, who's -- who's --
7 who owns it?

8 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: They would have
9 had a decommissioning plan for the original site
10 permit that was provided before they constructed
11 that plant.

12 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: As part of that
13 process.

14 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Yes. So, it
15 would be the owner of the facility.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Is the owner of the
17 facility here?

18 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: We are the owner,
19 yes.

20 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay.

21 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: This was built
22 back in 1995.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay.

24 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: It's planning to
25 continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

1 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. Great.

2 Okay. Gas emissions, anything on that?

3 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Greenhouse gas
4 emissions --

5 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah.

6 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: -- is that your
7 question?

8 Yeah, I think that was included in their
9 environmental assessment as part of the site permit
10 application.

11 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. I'll go look
12 at that.

13 Industrial water usage and discharge.

14 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: That should also
15 be included in the application, I believe.

16 MS. BONNIE MATTER: That's in there?

17 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I don't think
18 we're planning on using much.

19 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Excellent.

20 And air emissions.

21 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: That's also
22 included in the environmental assessment, yes.

23 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. And I think
24 that's all I've got for now, and I'll send the other
25 ones into the eDocket. Thank you very much for your

1 time.

2 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Of course, thank
3 you.

4 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Unless somebody wants
5 to share something? No? Everybody's pretty quiet.
6 Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Yeah.

8 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Thank you.

9 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: Thank you.

10 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Yeah.

11 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Is there anybody
12 else that would like to make a public comment at
13 this time? We can always take a break, if anyone
14 would change their mind, otherwise --

15 MS. BONNIE MATTER: One other question.

16 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Yeah.

17 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: You can stand from
18 right there.

19 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Yeah, that's
20 okay. If no one else is going to comment, you can
21 sit down.

22 MS. BONNIE MATTER: So what if the
23 battery storage thing doesn't work out?

24 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: Not to answer your
25 question with a question, but what do you mean not

1 work out?

2 MS. BONNIE MATTER: What if they start
3 using it and decide, no, this isn't working? It's
4 new.

5 MR. KONNAR KLINKSIEK: I'm sorry, to
6 answer that, I believe the decommissioning bond
7 would go into effect there. If the project is no
8 longer viable, then that money would be in place to
9 remove the project, just like it would be after the
10 end of the life of the project.

11 MS. BONNIE MATTER: Thank you. I guess,
12 that's all I've got.

13 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Okay. I'm just
14 going to do a final check to see if there was
15 anybody else that would like to make a public
16 comment today.

17 And it sounds like no, so we will adjourn
18 this public meeting today. And just a reminder that
19 the public written comment period is open until
20 July 20th. So you can send those to me, and we will
21 make sure that those get submitted into eDockets as
22 well. Thank you, everyone, for attending the
23 meeting tonight.

24 (Public comment concluded.)

25

	ahead (1) 8:3	36:9	3:4;6:18;12:1;	burn (1) 30:7
\$	AIDAN (3) 21:10,16,20	assessment (11) 5:6;14:1,5,10;15:5, 6:16;4;23:9;24:10;	30:19	buying (2) 35:9,10
\$3.8 (1) 10:24	air (1) 38:20	38:9,22	best (1) 25:11	Byron (1) 32:5
A	alerting (1) 28:22	assets (2) 5:24;6:5	better (1) 6:11	
able (2) 7:12;35:22	allow (1) 13:11	associated (3) 14:7,21;15:20	beyond (1) 36:12	C
AC (1) 6:23	along (1) 10:1	assume (1) 24:24	big (2) 6:19;20:22	cables (1) 8:22
access (3) 8:10,12,21	alternating (1) 6:24	assumption (1) 24:25	biggest (1) 27:23	call (2) 27:2,3
acquire (1) 5:24	alternative (3) 14:20;15:19;18:15	attachment (1) 8:18	bit (5) 5:22;6:11;12:2; 25:2;35:20	called (1) 34:23
acquisition (1) 10:8	always (3) 18:1,4;39:13	attending (1) 40:22	blocks (1) 6:22	came (1) 34:4
acres (1) 8:2	amazing (1) 32:24	augmentation (3) 25:17,21;35:22	blue (3) 8:13,13,25	can (41) 4:2,4;8:3;9:19; 10:3;11:6;12:9,12,15, 16,19;13:1;15:12; 16:12,13,23;17:2,3, 11;18:1,21,24,25; 23:7,10;28:15;31:1,4, 8,10,11;32:13;33:4,8, 16,19,19;39:13,17,20; 40:20
acronym (1) 19:15	Americas (1) 8:7	authorities (2) 27:6;28:23	body (1) 4:9	capacity (1) 7:11
across (2) 20:21;34:4	America's (1) 11:5	available (2) 17:8;26:17	bolded (1) 6:12	Capital (1) 5:23
actual (2) 7:12;36:18	answered (1) 33:5	avoid (2) 15:10;18:14	bond (1) 40:6	captured (1) 17:22
actually (3) 9:18;25:3;31:2	anticipated (1) 4:25	avoiding (1) 12:12	BONNIE (82) 18:19,23;19:3,8,13, 17,22,24;20:1,5,10, 19;21:1,5,13,18,21; 22:12,16,20,24;23:4, 12,22;24:3,8,16,21, 23;25:5,12,16,22,24; 26:5,12,18,22;27:3,7, 16,23;29:5,10,16,23; 30:10,15,18;31:15,19, 23;32:9,20;33:3,24; 34:14,16,18;35:1,18, 24;36:4,11,17,21; 37:5,16,20,23;38:1,5, 11,16,19,23;39:4,10, 15,22;40:2,11	cardinal (1) 9:15
add (3) 17:5;23:7;32:13	apologize (2) 19:16,18	aware (2) 26:14;29:1		care (3) 18:24;26:7,23
added (4) 16:8;22:1;23:10; 31:5	Applicant (3) 3:14;4:4;5:9	away (1) 10:22	both (3) 3:6;5:19;23:17	carry (1) 36:14
addendum (4) 5:6;15:6;16:4; 18:12	applicants (1) 13:11	B	bottom (3) 9:24;10:2;11:15	carrying (1) 4:10
adding (3) 22:2,3,9	application (13) 3:15;5:1;7:24; 11:10;14:11,17,19; 24:11;25:19;32:6; 33:13;38:10,15	back (5) 14:12;17:4;18:1; 20:6;37:22	box (1) 8:25	case (1) 31:7
addition (1) 16:11	applications (1) 14:4	background (2) 5:22;6:16	boxes (2) 8:13;9:20	catch (1) 22:14
additional (4) 4:6;11:11;15:7; 34:9	application's (1) 4:12	bargaining (1) 11:4	break (1) 39:13	certain (2) 4:20;15:15
address (4) 13:7;17:4,13,13	apply (2) 20:23;33:19	based (2) 13:6;15:22	breaker (1) 9:2	certainly (1) 33:15
adequately (1) 36:10	appointed (1) 4:22	Basin (1) 35:7	brief (1) 6:16	cetera (2) 28:7;30:24
adhere (1) 10:6	approach (1) 10:10	batteries (9) 6:14;19:10,20; 20:12;25:1;26:14; 35:16,16;36:13	brought (1) 23:10	chance (1) 18:2
adjourn (1) 40:17	appropriate (1) 32:25	battery (24) 4:19;5:14;8:5,13, 20;9:20;10:6,9,12,15; 12:25;21:14;23:7,14; 24:24;26:10;27:10, 14;28:20;30:6,13; 34:22;37:4;39:23	build (1) 33:19	change (2) 8:7;39:14
advisory (1) 3:2	approved (1) 32:8	begin (1) 31:14	building (3) 8:17;11:5;28:10	characteristics (4) 14:16;15:3;16:7; 18:10
again (2) 9:4;24:17	approximately (1) 10:23	beginning (1) 11:18	built (1) 37:21	charge (1) 7:9
agency (1) 22:8	April (1) 7:24	benefits (1) 10:18		charged (1) 4:9
agenda (1) 3:10	area (3) 6:12;15:14;34:3	BESS (4)		charging (2)
agreement (9) 7:15;11:3,4;31:9; 32:2,19;33:18,23; 34:23	around (6) 7:7;8:1,19;21:6; 25:21;30:20			
	aside (1)			

26:14,16 check (1) 40:14 chemical (1) 29:11 chosen (1) 10:5 circuit (1) 9:1 citizens (1) 34:7 city (5) 10:25;26:19,25; 28:25;33:25 clear (1) 13:12 click (1) 32:11 close (1) 25:25 closer-up (1) 6:15 closes (1) 5:3 codes (2) 10:7;27:19 cogeneration (1) 35:10 collected (1) 15:23 collecting (3) 18:8,12;33:11 collective (1) 11:4 co-locate (1) 6:3 co-located (1) 6:8 combined-cycle (4) 6:8,12;8:20;10:21 coming (1) 9:15 comment (29) 3:21;4:5;5:3;11:20, 24;13:16;14:24,24; 16:22,23;17:1,7,10, 11,12,15,22,25;18:4, 6,8,18,20,20;39:12, 20;40:16,19,24 commenters (1) 3:20 commenting (2) 3:21;17:16 comments (9) 3:17,23;4:5;15:1, 24;16:25;17:24;18:9, 13 Commission (25) 3:3,9,12,24;4:8,14, 21;5:4;12:1,7,14,21; 13:5,14;14:2;15:1,11, 16,25;16:9,11,18; 23:2;32:8;33:13	Commissioners (1) 4:22 Commission's (3) 4:2;12:3;13:19 communicate (1) 26:24 communities (1) 6:6 community (2) 10:17,18 companies (3) 32:23;33:7;35:5 company (1) 34:20 compile (1) 4:1 complaint (1) 12:17 complete (1) 10:13 completed (2) 11:8,16 completion (1) 7:18 compliance (1) 4:13 component (1) 24:25 concern (1) 27:24 concerned (1) 27:25 concerns (3) 13:3;29:2,14 concluded (1) 40:24 condition (2) 15:17;24:14 conditions (7) 4:7;12:15,24;13:5; 16:12,19;22:7 consider (10) 12:6,7,11,14;13:5; 15:9,11,16,18;16:10 considered (4) 14:20;15:19;18:15; 23:1 considering (3) 12:4;15:1;16:12 considers (1) 24:15 consists (1) 4:21 constantly (1) 10:9 construct (1) 13:11 constructed (2) 10:15;37:10 constructing/operating (1) 14:8 construction (4) 4:13;11:2,17;31:14	consumers (2) 31:8;33:21 contacted (1) 27:6 container (4) 6:19;25:10;29:20, 21 containers (3) 6:20;25:13;30:3 contains (1) 14:5 continue (1) 37:25 continuous (1) 10:17 contracted (1) 7:14 control (3) 10:8;26:15;28:13 controlled (1) 28:18 conversations (1) 28:24 converted (1) 6:22 copies (1) 14:12 correspondence (1) 3:8 Cottage (7) 3:4;5:13;7:17; 10:25;12:1;26:7; 28:25 counsel (1) 5:17 counterpart (1) 3:16 country (1) 20:21 county (1) 28:9 couple (1) 12:7 course (2) 36:12;39:2 court (3) 3:22;16:24;17:21 craftsmanship (1) 11:3 current (4) 6:24;16:9;30:6; 31:5 currently (7) 5:1;7:22;8:4,6; 10:20;30:19;31:24 cycle (5) 5:25;7:23;10:25; 20:15;21:4 cycles (1) 20:25	data (2) 10:8;26:16 date (1) 12:25 DAVID (3) 32:4,4,13 day (1) 17:17 DC (3) 6:22,23;8:22 decide (6) 4:23;5:5;14:2;16:3; 23:3;40:3 decides (1) 13:14 decision (6) 3:24;4:2,11;16:2, 17;23:25 decision-making (1) 4:9 decisions (2) 16:1;23:16 decommission (1) 6:2 decommissioning (6) 36:7,12,25;37:3,9; 40:6 definitive (2) 20:25;21:1 degrade (1) 35:20 delivered (3) 19:11,11,21 delivering (2) 20:12,13 delivery (3) 19:10,13;20:9 department (4) 28:25;29:13,25; 30:7 description (3) 3:13;5:8;13:12 details (1) 11:11 determines (1) 16:19 develop (2) 13:1;23:1 developed (2) 12:22;13:16 developing (1) 13:22 development (3) 5:14;15:4;18:12 different (5) 9:6;12:4,7;16:23; 26:2 dimensions (1) 25:4 directions (1) 9:15 discharge (2) 7:10;38:13	discharging (2) 26:15,16 disposal (1) 35:15 disposed (2) 36:1,5 docket (6) 3:6,8;14:1;17:3; 31:5;32:14 document (4) 16:9;17:8,23;32:2 documenting (1) 16:24 done (1) 35:25 down (7) 8:23;9:13;11:14; 18:25;30:5;35:11; 39:21 DPP (9) 7:22;19:6,7,11,13; 20:7,13,25;21:4 draft (12) 5:4;12:20;13:10,15, 22;15:12,18;16:13, 19;22:10;23:1,11 during (1) 11:1
E				
EA (1) 18:12 earlier (1) 27:25 east (1) 9:25 eDocket (6) 31:16,22,24;32:7; 33:4;38:25 eDockets (2) 32:10;40:21 effect (1) 40:7 EIP (1) 21:9 either (4) 6:1,25;17:2;23:8 elected (1) 11:3 electric (4) 4:15;6:23,23;35:7 electrical (1) 20:22 electricity (1) 7:4 Electronics (1) 8:6 else (4) 34:5;39:12,20; 40:15 elsewhere (1) 35:14				

email (2) 17:12,12 emissions (3) 38:2,4,20 employing (1) 10:19 encircle (1) 8:20 enclosure (1) 6:18 end (3) 3:16;5:25;40:10 energy (9) 4:19;5:14,23;6:3,5; 12:25;22:5;23:14; 31:10 engineering (3) 5:18;9:7;21:12 enough (1) 25:25 ensure (3) 8:21;9:3;27:20 environmental (26) 5:5,7;11:9,25;12:4, 8;13:8,25;14:5,6,10, 15;15:2,5,6,15;16:4,6, 14;18:9;21:11;23:9; 24:11;35:13;38:9,22 equipment (2) 8:5;36:16 ESS-26-184 (1) 3:7 essentially (2) 20:22;22:6 estimated (1) 11:13 et (2) 28:7;30:23 etiquette (1) 17:16 evaluation (1) 14:18 even (2) 31:13;35:6 evening (1) 3:1 event (3) 28:23;29:8;30:2 events (1) 27:5 everybody (3) 5:11;17:18;26:14 Everybody's (1) 39:5 everyone (3) 3:20;18:3;40:22 everyone's (1) 18:2 exactly (3) 20:4;21:8;29:19 example (1) 12:23 examples (1)	24:1 Excellent (1) 38:19 Excuse (1) 27:7 existing (8) 6:4,8,9;8:12,15,15; 9:11;29:4 expect (1) 11:15 expecting (1) 7:23 expert (1) 24:4 extend (1) 6:4 F facilities (1) 23:21 facility (12) 4:10;5:13;6:10,21; 8:15,16;10:20;33:19; 35:8,10;37:15,17 facility's (1) 4:12 familiar (3) 21:19,23,24 far (3) 24:10,23;34:11 fault (2) 28:23;30:4 faults (1) 10:11 feel (1) 33:14 few (2) 9:6;17:24 file (1) 17:3 filed (2) 15:24;35:21 Filing (4) 17:10;32:14;33:15; 35:21 fill (1) 17:2 final (6) 4:11;13:13;14:2; 16:16;22:11;40:14 finalize (1) 8:4 finally (2) 14:2;16:21 find (1) 22:3 finding (1) 23:13 fine (2) 18:23,24 fire (11) 10:5,7;27:19;28:1, 	4,21,25;29:4,13,25; 30:7 firm (3) 5:18,23;9:7 first (2) 3:4;16:3 five (1) 4:21 flow (1) 29:3 foam (1) 29:9 focused (1) 37:4 foreseeable (1) 37:25 forget (1) 20:9 format (1) 3:6 forward (3) 14:3;15:22;20:6 found (1) 22:7 four (3) 7:9,10;24:25 four-hour (1) 7:8 Fredrikson (2) 5:17;32:5 front (5) 12:23;13:21;14:25; 17:1;29:2 full (3) 17:21;27:14;33:25 fully (1) 8:19 further (3) 14:18;15:4;18:11 future (3) 13:16;32:14;37:25 G gas (4) 4:15,19;38:2,3 gathering (1) 30:22 general (1) 23:7 gets (2) 28:12;29:20 given (2) 6:20;8:21 gives (1) 13:12 God (1) 28:2 goes (1) 17:11 Good (2) 3:1;8:3 Governor (1)	4:22 Great (2) 21:21;38:1 Greenhouse (1) 38:3 grid (7) 6:25;7:1,5;20:16, 22,24;31:12 ground (1) 3:18 Grove (7) 3:4;5:13;7:17; 10:25;12:1;26:7;29:1 guess (6) 7:18;8:17;10:11; 11:6;31:4;40:11 guidelines (1) 30:23 guys (4) 5:21;8:9;22:13; 24:8 H half (1) 8:1 hand (2) 17:2;18:21 happen (4) 10:12;16:1;27:5; 28:2 happened (1) 37:6 happens (4) 7:2,5;26:25;29:19 happy (1) 11:19 hard (2) 9:17,21 HARVIEUX (24) 3:1,2;22:4,15,18,22, 25;23:15,24;24:7,20, 22;31:6,17,21;32:1, 16;33:2,10;37:12; 39:2,7,17,24 hazard (1) 10:13 hazardous (1) 35:15 head (3) 19:15;25:20;34:13 health (1) 12:10 hear (3) 3:20;13:4;14:14 heard (2) 17:19;30:24 hearing (2) 13:17;16:18 help (4) 3:23;6:5;9:19; 34:24 helped (1)	9:8 helpful (1) 8:9 helps (2) 9:8;24:16 Hi (2) 19:3;21:7 higher (1) 23:17 highlighted (2) 11:9;25:19 high-voltage (2) 4:20;9:1 hire (1) 11:3 hired (1) 21:10 hold (1) 7:12 hopes (1) 28:3 hours (3) 7:9,10,13 human (7) 12:4,8;14:6,15; 15:2;16:6;18:9 hydrants (1) 29:4 I idea (1) 22:1 identification (1) 23:8 identified (4) 13:23,24;14:9; 24:12 identify (1) 10:11 images (1) 9:6 impact (1) 30:13 impacts (20) 12:5,9,11,13,17; 13:2,8;14:7,9,16,21; 15:2,8,11,20;16:6; 18:10,14,16;24:12 impartial (1) 4:9 implementations (1) 30:22 important (2) 16:15;28:5 include (6) 12:8,9,12;13:23; 14:5;16:16 included (10) 12:16;13:13;14:10; 15:17;16:12;17:13; 24:14;38:8,15,22 includes (4)
---	---	--	---	---

4:18;14:25;15:7; 24:11 including (4) 3:19;23;4:6;15:23 Independent (1) 20:17 indicating (1) 30:11 Industrial (1) 38:13 information (9) 4:7;5:2;14:6;15:7; 23;24;30:23;33:12; 34:9 informed (1) 3:24 input (2) 4:1;13:6 inside (2) 22:13;29:20 install (1) 26:8 installed (1) 36:16 integrated (1) 26:10 interconnect (2) 20:16;23 interconnection (5) 7:21;24;9:4;19:25; 20:14 interest (2) 32:18;21 interested (2) 34:3,5 into (14) 6:22;8:24;11:10; 15:24;20:24;26:10; 31:11;15,17;33:4; 36:8;38:25;40:7,21 introduction (1) 3:11 investor-owned (1) 4:17 involved (5) 12:19;24:4;32:22, 23;33:8 involvement (1) 10:17 iron (1) 27:18 isolate (1) 10:11 issue (2) 5:4;29:21 issues (2) 4:17;12:21 items (1) 23:6	3:1,2;22:4,15,18,22, 25;23:15,24;24:7,20, 22;31:6,17,21;32:1, 16;33:2,10;37:12; 39:2,7,17,24 Jennifer (1) 29:17 JESSICA (17) 11:21,24;18:21; 23:5,17;24:9;37:2,8, 14;38:3,6,21;39:8,11, 16,19;40:13 job (1) 12:2 jobs (1) 11:1 joining (1) 5:21 July (2) 5:3;40:20 June (2) 7:18;11:16	last (2) 11:22;35:22 lastly (4) 10:3,13,16;11:13 later (1) 23:11 layout (1) 8:8 lead (1) 3:2 learn (1) 23:19 learning (1) 30:21 leave (1) 18:7 left (2) 6:17;7:2 legacy (1) 5:24 legal (1) 5:17 lets (1) 17:10 level (3) 22:11,17;23:17 life (9) 5:25;6:4;7:20; 10:25;12:19;30:13; 35:16;36:10;40:10 light (1) 8:13 limit (1) 17:24 line (1) 10:2 lines (1) 4:20 link (1) 32:13 linking (1) 33:15 listed (2) 11:11;17:4 listening (2) 29:16;30:10 literally (1) 33:6 lithium (2) 27:16,18 little (11) 5:22;6:11;9:14,17, 20;12:2;13:18;25:2,6; 35:20,23 LIVINGSTON (16) 11:21,24;18:21; 23:5;24:9;37:2,8,14; 38:3,6,21;39:8,11,16, 19;40:13 local (1) 16:14 located (2) 6:7;8:14	location (1) 36:7 locations (2) 8:13,21 long (1) 17:25 longer (2) 35:23;40:8 long-term (1) 34:23 look (2) 9:9;38:11 looking (10) 9:13,14,17,22,25; 10:3,13;11:1;20:4; 21:25 lot (1) 21:16	23;32;9,20;33:3,24; 34:14,16,18;35:1,18, 24;36:4,11,17,21; 37:5,16,20,23;38:1,5, 11,16,19,23;39:4,10, 15,22;40:2,11 M-A-T-T-E-R (1) 19:4 matters (1) 4:24 may (3) 9:18;14:7,16 maybe (3) 6:1;9:13;35:19 mean (8) 23:15;24:18;28:1, 12;32:12;33:6;36:17; 39:25 measures (4) 14:18;15:3;16:7; 18:11 medium-voltage (2) 7:6;36:15 meet (4) 8:19;27:18,20,22 meeting (12) 3:4,5,10,18,23,25; 13:24;16:25;22:23; 32:25;40:18,23 meetings (1) 5:2 megawatts (2) 7:8,11 member (1) 3:3 met (1) 29:13 methods (2) 15:10;18:13 microphone (1) 18:22 Midcontinent (1) 20:17 middle (1) 11:18 might (3) 8:8;13:8;35:22 million (1) 10:24 mind (2) 21:6;39:14 minimize (2) 15:10;18:13 minimizing (1) 12:12 Minnesota (5) 3:11;4:8,14;33:20; 34:7 minutes (1) 17:25 misheard (1) 30:25 misleading (1)
	K		M	
	Keep (3) 24:21;26:13;31:5 kept (1) 33:9 kind (6) 6:4;8:22;9:12; 11:18;30:24;35:4 KLINKSIEK (50) 5:10,12;19:7,9,14, 19,23;20:3,8,11,20; 21:3;25:2,7,14,18,23; 26:4,8,13,20;27:1,4, 12,17;28:20;29:7,11, 22,24;30:14,16;34:13, 15,17,21;35:17,19; 36:3,6,14,19,22; 37:18,21,24;38:14,17; 39:9;40:5 knows (1) 34:18 KONNAR (50) 5:10,12;19:7,9,14, 19,23;20:3,8,11,20; 21:3;25:2,7,14,18,23; 26:4,8,13,20;27:1,4, 12,17;28:20;29:7,11, 22,24;30:14,16;34:13, 15,17,21;35:17,19; 36:3,6,14,19,22; 37:18,21,24;38:14,17; 39:9;40:5		ma'am (1) 26:4 mail (3) 17:4,5,12 main (1) 9:2 maintain (2) 18:4;34:24 maintained (1) 36:24 maintaining (1) 34:12 maintenance (1) 34:25 making (3) 4:11;15:25;36:1 manager (1) 11:25 managing (1) 4:12 manufacturers (1) 34:22 manufacturing (1) 6:10 many (3) 24:1;25:12;31:3 map (1) 6:11 March (1) 32:8 market (1) 31:11 MATTER (83) 18:19,23;19:3,8,13, 17,22,24;20:1,5,10, 19;21:1,5,13,18,21; 22:12,16,20,24;23:4, 12,22;24:3,4,8,16,21, 23;25:5,12,16,22,24; 26:5,12,18,22;27:3,7, 16,23;29:5,10,16,23; 30:10,15,18;31:15,19,	
J	L			
JACQUES (24)	landline (1) 4:15 Langdon (1) 28:10			

25:6 MISO (5) 7:22;20:16;27:21; 35:2,3 MISO's (1) 20:14 missing (1) 14:17 mitigate (10) 12:16;13:7;14:9,21; 15:10,20;18:13,16; 27:10;30:1 mitigating (1) 12:12 mitigation (5) 10:14;14:18;15:3; 16:7;18:10 MNgov/PUC/get-involved/public-comments (1) 17:9 MOELLER (3) 32:4,5,13 money (2) 36:9;40:8 monitor (2) 30:1,8 monitoring (1) 10:9 more (5) 9:14;13:12;34:4; 35:12,19 move (1) 23:13 moved (1) 19:5 moving (2) 14:3;15:22 much (6) 5:10;19:4;28:13; 33:14;38:18,25 must (2) 14:4;31:13 myself (1) 3:12	18:11;22:1;28:6,13; 33:5,25 needs (5) 4:7;15:5;16:8; 24:14;33:9 new (8) 23:21,23;28:9,9; 34:1,6,20;40:4 Next (5) 5:15;9:6,25;11:6; 13:22 nice (1) 31:20 night (1) 3:5 Nods (1) 34:13 noise (1) 12:9 north (8) 6:9;8:10,11,15; 9:13,14,17;11:5 northeast (1) 8:23 Northern (1) 7:15 northwest (1) 8:18 note (1) 13:10 notice (2) 11:14;13:15 noticed (1) 21:14 NSP (2) 31:3,4 number (7) 3:7,8;11:8;20:21; 30:19;32:22,22 numbers (1) 25:20	17:19;19:6;20:2,22, 24:21;21:24;5:27;4; 28:12;31:20;34:3; 39:15,20 ones (2) 10:9;38:25 online (1) 17:8 only (1) 37:3 onsite (1) 29:4 on-site (1) 36:16 onto (3) 6:25;7:4;36:15 open (5) 11:23;17:7,14; 18:17;40:19 opening (1) 16:21 operate (2) 20:21;37:25 operated (1) 36:23 operation (2) 4:13;35:3 Operator (1) 20:18 opinion (1) 33:9 opportunity (2) 17:18;18:3 oral (1) 4:5 order (2) 31:13;36:9 oriented (1) 8:10 original (1) 37:9 others (2) 3:19;18:5 otherwise (1) 39:14 out (16) 4:10;5:24;11:11; 17:2,16;22:3,13; 23:13;25:10;28:13; 29:20;30:3;33:4;35:8; 39:23;40:1 over (10) 3:11;7:9,10;10:24, 25;21:7;26:15;32:12; 34:2;35:20 overseeing (1) 35:4 overview (1) 17:15 own (2) 26:18,19 owner (4) 7:16;37:15,16,18	owner/operator (1) 5:13 owns (1) 37:7 P Panamint (7) 5:22,23;21:11;26:5; 34:16,18;35:25 part (7) 11:2;15:12;26:9; 31:7,14;37:12;38:9 parties (1) 5:16 pay (1) 10:23 peak (1) 11:2 people (8) 10:19;12:18;19:1; 23:17;27:25;28:1,5; 32:9 period (4) 5:3;7:9,10;40:19 permit (46) 3:15;4:2,7,12;5:5; 11:10;12:15,16,19,20, 22,24,24;13:1,5,10, 13,14,15,19,20,22; 14:3;15:12,18;16:2, 13,16,19;22:1,5,7,9, 10,11,17;23:1,3,6,11; 31:7,13,18,22;37:10; 38:9 permits (2) 4:18,23 permitting (2) 4:10;21:12 person (2) 3:21;11:22 persons (1) 19:1 person's (1) 3:23 phase (1) 20:25 phosphate (1) 27:18 physical (2) 14:12;36:18 picture (1) 25:8 pictures (1) 6:15 piece (4) 32:12,23;34:1,4 pipelines (1) 4:21 place (5) 10:14,18;31:20; 36:8;40:8 plan (7)	10:14,18;36:7,12, 25;37:3,9 planning (9) 8:17,22;10:18,23; 20:25;21:2;27:13; 37:24;38:18 plans (1) 27:15 plant (10) 8:11,12;9:11;10:19, 22;30:5;36:18,20; 37:6,11 plants (4) 4:18;6:9,13;9:21 Please (6) 3:7,18;17:24;20:6; 30:25;31:4 plenty (1) 21:25 point (2) 19:9;24:1 portion (1) 8:24 possible (1) 4:7 postage (1) 17:5 potential (13) 12:8,13;14:6,8,15; 15:2,8,10,20;16:8; 18:9,14,16 potentially (3) 12:11;13:7;14:21 power (25) 4:18;6:8,12,21; 7:14,16;8:10,12;9:2,4, 11,21;10:19,21;11:2; 31:9;32:1,18;33:18, 21,22;35:5,8,9;36:20 PowerTitan (1) 27:13 PPA (4) 7:15;31:4,24;32:7 practical (2) 15:9;18:13 preliminary (1) 16:1 present (1) 11:23 presentation (1) 19:6 presenters (1) 3:19 pretty (1) 39:5 probably (1) 33:3 process (10) 3:15;4:3,10;12:18; 13:20;20:15,15; 30:20;37:3,13 processes (1) 23:19
N	O			
name (5) 3:2;5:11;11:24; 17:21;27:14 nameplate (1) 7:11 names (3) 31:3;32:22;33:7 naming (1) 33:7 national (2) 10:6;27:19 natural (2) 4:15,19 necessary (1) 16:4 need (9) 5:5;15:4;17:5;	obviously (2) 23:18;30:5 occur (2) 13:8;30:4 occurs (1) 28:24 off (5) 6:25;8:11;19:15; 25:20;27:15 office (1) 17:13 offline (1) 31:2 OLDENBURG (3) 21:10,16,20 once (3) 9:4;13:16;18:1 one (17) 3:21;6:19;9:12,16;			

project (50) 3:5,7,13;4:4,6;5:9, 17:6;7:7;18,20,24; 8:20,24;9:7,13,17,25; 10:3;11:1,14,16;12:2, 5,6;13:2,9,11,14;14:3, 4,8,10,22;15:4,21; 16:5,8;18:11,16;20:7, 16,24;24:12;29:1,15; 36:10;37:1;40:7,9,10				
	Q			
	quiet (1) 39:5 quite (2) 35:2;36:20			
projects (5) 6:3;21:17,23,24; 36:23 promote (1) 6:5 pronunciation (1) 26:2 proper (3) 7:4;27:5;28:23 properly (1) 36:2 property (1) 10:24 proposed (6) 3:13;4:4;5:9,14; 15:4;18:11 protect (2) 28:7;34:6 protected (1) 28:6 protecting (1) 27:25 protections (2) 15:15;16:14 provide (1) 13:15 provided (5) 14:1;17:1;22:5; 24:10;37:10 providing (1) 18:5 proximity (1) 28:8 public (30) 3:4,11;4:1,8,14;5:2; 11:20,23,25;12:10,10, 18;13:6,16;14:24; 15:25;16:18,22;17:7, 15;18:18,19,20;32:8; 33:13;39:12;40:15, 18,19,24 PUC (3) 21:23;24:15;37:2 purchase (7) 7:14;11:2;31:9; 32:2,18;33:18,22 purpose (1) 3:25 put (9) 9:8;20:24;25:8; 31:11,15,17;33:3,4; 36:8	R	rely (1) 34:6 reminder (4) 14:23;17:14;18:8; 40:18 remove (1) 40:9 removed (1) 36:10 renderings (1) 9:22 renewable (1) 6:3 renewables (1) 6:2 replace (1) 6:2 report (3) 5:7;10:14;26:11 reporter (3) 3:22;16:24;17:21 represent (2) 21:8,8 representation (1) 9:9 representative (1) 5:12 representatives (1) 5:19 representing (1) 21:9 represents (1) 5:17 require (3) 14:18;33:18,22 required (2) 31:9;34:25 requirement (1) 31:12 requirements (2) 27:21,21 resiliency (1) 6:5 resources (2) 15:15;16:15 respect (1) 18:5 respectful (1) 3:19 responsible (4) 26:6,23;34:11;36:1 rest (1) 8:19 review (7) 3:14,15;4:3;11:25; 13:6,19,25 right (19) 7:5,22;9:12;10:4; 11:22;17:2,11;22:2, 19;23:5,20,22;24:2,3; 27:12;28:16;29:20; 30:18;39:18 right-hand (1)	9:24 risks (1) 27:11 road (5) 8:18,19;28:9,9; 35:11 role (1) 12:3 room (2) 14:12;28:13 roughly (2) 7:19;25:9 route (2) 4:18;5:4 rules (1) 3:18 run (3) 8:22;34:19,24 runaway (5) 27:5;29:8,19;30:2,2 runaways (1) 28:2 running (2) 27:15;34:12	13:17 serious (1) 30:15 service (2) 4:16;34:23 services (1) 12:10 set (2) 36:8,9 sets (1) 4:16 share (3) 4:5;8:11;39:5 shared (2) 27:24;30:21 sharing (1) 34:8 sheet (2) 14:25;17:1 ship (1) 19:10 shipping (5) 6:19,21;19:20; 25:10,13 short (1) 10:22 show (1) 28:4 shows (1) 6:11 shut (1) 30:5 side (3) 7:2,5;9:24 signed (1) 31:4 single (1) 24:5 sit (2) 18:25;39:21 site (12) 4:17;12:16,22; 15:13;19:12;20:12, 13;26:6;34:12,24; 37:9;38:9 sites (4) 14:20;15:19;18:15; 30:19 sitting (1) 31:25 situation (1) 29:9 size (5) 6:18;7:7;24:24; 25:1,9 slide (4) 5:15;10:16;11:7; 25:5 slides (1) 20:2 small (2) 8:18;10:4 smaller (1)
			S	
			safety (1) 10:5 same (2) 3:6;9:23 sample (5) 12:23;13:20;22:4,6; 23:6 SCADA (4) 10:7;26:2,3;28:22 schedule (1) 4:25 scope (1) 5:6 scoping (1) 22:22 screen (2) 7:3;8:14 section (3) 6:13;10:4;14:11 seem (1) 29:14 sell (4) 10:20;31:8,11; 33:21 selling (1) 31:10 semitrailer (1) 25:1 send (7) 3:7,9;17:5,11;34:9; 38:24;40:20 separate (1) 36:22 separately (2) 36:24,24 September (1)	

25:3 solar (1) 4:19 somebody (2) 25:8;39:4 sometimes (1) 6:3 somewhat (2) 5:25;9:21 sorry (8) 9:14;19:14,23; 20:11;22:12;25:19; 36:19;40:5 sort (1) 29:9 sounds (3) 28:1;34:19;40:17 south (4) 6:10;8:10;9:23; 10:21 southeast (1) 9:14 southwestern (1) 8:24 speak (2) 17:20;18:2 speaker (1) 17:19 special (6) 12:15;13:5;15:17; 16:13;24:14;28:19 species (1) 16:14 specific (6) 12:22;13:2;15:12, 14:23;20;32:18 specifically (4) 22:5;23:25;24:2; 32:3 specified (1) 8:6 spell (1) 17:21 spread (4) 30:1,3,8,9 staff (4) 3:3;4:3;13:6,25 stage (1) 13:21 stand (2) 9:19;39:17 standard (2) 12:15,24 standardized (2) 22:8;23:25 standards (1) 4:17 start (5) 7:17;11:17;22:9; 33:7;40:2 State (7) 4:3;17:20;21:17; 22:8;30:20;33:20;	35:6 stated (1) 33:12 States (3) 7:15;20:21;35:6 steam (1) 10:20 step (1) 9:3 stepped (1) 6:24 stepping (1) 7:3 steps (1) 13:19 still (2) 22:14;23:20 stop (1) 24:18 storage (12) 4:19;5:14;6:19;7:2, 12:12;25;21:14;22:6; 23:7,14;25:9;39:23 store (1) 6:21 Street (1) 28:10 studies (2) 11:9;21:11 study (3) 7:23;20:15,25 stuff (2) 22:13;23:8 subject (2) 8:7;24:4 submit (1) 17:10 submitted (1) 40:21 substation (2) 8:25;9:1 summary (1) 12:20 Sungrow (3) 8:6,7;27:13 supervisory (1) 10:8 supplemental (1) 35:21 suppose (1) 32:16 suppression (1) 28:21 sure (13) 12:18;17:17;18:3; 20:4;22:15;23:15; 24:7;28:11,15;30:8; 33:2;36:1;40:21 system (8) 7:7,8;12:25;20:17; 26:9,10;27:14,18 systems (10) 6:17;10:7,12;21:15;	22:6;23:14;27:22; 28:21,22;30:6 T tab (1) 17:10 table (3) 12:23;13:21;17:1 talk (2) 12:2;31:1 talked (1) 35:2 taxes (1) 10:24 telephone (1) 4:16 tentative (1) 4:25 terms (1) 21:6 thanks (1) 19:3 there'll (2) 19:11,20 thermal (10) 5:13,24;27:5;28:2, 23;29:7,19;30:1; 36:20;37:1 thinking (1) 33:25 though (1) 34:10 thoughts (1) 4:6 three (2) 5:16;8:1 throughout (4) 6:5;12:19;21:17; 35:6 timeline (1) 11:14 today (16) 3:21;5:19;11:23; 13:4,20;14:13,14,24; 15:23;16:22;17:2; 18:4;22:5;23:10; 40:16,18 today's (2) 3:25;16:25 together (4) 9:8;31:5;33:9,14 tomorrow (1) 3:5 Tonight (3) 3:3;13:24;40:23 tonight's (1) 3:10 took (1) 17:16 top (3) 9:16;19:15;25:20 topics (2)	14:23;18:7 towards (1) 5:25 Trades (1) 11:5 trailers (1) 25:22 transformer (1) 9:2 transformers (2) 7:6;36:15 transmission (3) 4:20;7:5,16 trying (2) 21:5;22:14 turns (1) 3:21 two (1) 15:25 type (1) 27:9 typical (1) 28:4 typically (1) 31:12 U under (1) 11:4 Union (1) 11:5 unique (4) 14:16;15:3;16:7; 18:10 unit (2) 25:10;30:4 units (8) 8:5;9:9,18,20;10:2, 6,10;28:22 Unless (1) 39:4 up (22) 6:24;7:3;8:1;9:3,15, 19;11:23;16:21; 17:14;18:7,17,18,24; 20:1,6;22:2,14;23:10; 24:25;25:8;28:4;36:8 updating (1) 30:23 upon (2) 9:13;23:3 usage (1) 38:13 use (2) 29:5,8 using (3) 27:13;38:18;40:3 usually (1) 31:6 Utilities (8) 3:12;4:8,14,16,17; 12:1;32:8;33:13	utility (3) 4:23;31:8;33:21 V verbal (1) 16:25 via (1) 17:12 viable (1) 40:8 vibration (1) 30:13 Village (1) 28:11 virtual (1) 3:5 visual (2) 9:9;13:18 voice (1) 17:18 voltage (3) 6:25;7:4;9:4 W walk (2) 8:9;10:22 wants (4) 3:20;18:18;20:16; 39:4 waste (1) 35:15 watching (1) 24:5 water (4) 28:18;29:6,8;38:13 way (3) 17:6;25:11;33:11 ways (3) 12:11;14:9;16:23 west (2) 8:14;10:3 Westwood (3) 5:18;9:7;21:7 what's (3) 23:1;31:6;34:22 whenever (5) 19:10,19;20:12,23; 27:4 wherever (1) 33:5 whole (2) 32:23,23 who's (2) 37:6,6 wildlife (1) 15:13 wind (1) 4:19 within (4) 12:16;17:22;24:10; 32:18
--	---	--	---	--

Wonderful (1) 20:8	25-year (1) 10:25			
work (10) 6:17;21:11,12,14, 16;32:11;34:21,24; 39:23;40:1	3			
workers (1) 11:4	320-megawatt (1) 7:12			
working (5) 5:16;7:21;8:4; 27:19;40:3	3M (2) 6:9;10:20			
worth (1) 10:24	6			
wrap (1) 8:19	6 (1) 14:11			
written (3) 4:5;14:24;40:19	61 (1) 6:10			
X	7			
Xcel (10) 7:15;26:11,15; 27:20;31:2,3,10;32:7; 35:4,7	79 (1) 25:15			
Y	8			
year (1) 13:17	80 (4) 7:8,11;25:21,22			
years (4) 7:19;35:17,20,23	9			
1	911 (2) 27:2,3			
100th (1) 28:10				
115-kV (1) 9:5				
150 (1) 11:1				
1995 (1) 37:22				
1997 (1) 10:20				
1st (2) 7:18;11:16				
2				
2.0 (1) 27:13				
20 (4) 7:19;35:17,20,23				
2022 (3) 7:23;21:4,4				
2027 (3) 7:25;11:18,18				
2028 (2) 7:19;11:17				
20th (2) 5:3;40:20				
24/7 (1) 10:10				

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
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10
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SCOPING & INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 26-184
VIRTUAL - JULY 8, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.
FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**In the Matter of the Application of LSP CG Storage, LLC,
for a Site Permit for the up to 80 MW Cottage Grove BESS
Project in Washington County, Minnesota.**

MPUC DOCKET NO: IP7180/ESS-26-184

Hearing held remotely via:
Webex & Telephone

July 8, 2026

COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RMR, RPR

1 MR. JACQUES HARVIEUX: All right. This
2 is Jacques Harvieux with the Minnesota Public
3 Utilities Commission. I am here with the Applicant
4 and my counterpart. There is no attendees currently
5 for the virtual session of this public information
6 and scoping meeting, and we will be adjourning.
7 Thank you very much.

8 (Meeting concluded.)
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A	U			
adjourning (1) 2:6	Utilities (1) 2:3			
Applicant (1) 2:3	V			
attendees (1) 2:4	virtual (1) 2:5			
C				
Commission (1) 2:3				
concluded (1) 2:8				
counterpart (1) 2:4				
currently (1) 2:4				
H				
HARVIEUX (2) 2:1,2				
I				
information (1) 2:5				
J				
JACQUES (2) 2:1,2				
M				
meeting (2) 2:6,8				
Minnesota (1) 2:2				
much (1) 2:7				
P				
Public (2) 2:2,5				
R				
right (1) 2:1				
S				
scoping (1) 2:6				
session (1) 2:5				