

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben
Hwikwon Ham
Valerie Means
Joseph K. Sullivan
John A. Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Iron Pine
Solar Power, LLC for a Site Permit for the Iron
Pine Solar Project in Pine County, Minnesota

SERVICE DATE: July 2, 2024

DOCKET NO. IP-7114/GS-23-414

In the Matter of the Application of Iron Pine
Solar Power, LLC for a Route Permit for a
230 kV Transmission Line in Pine County,
Minnesota

DOCKET NO. IP-7114/TL-23-415

The above-entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

- 1. Accepted Iron Pine Solar's joint site and route permit application as substantially complete.**
- 2. Did not appoint an advisory task force for the joint site and route permit application at this time.**
- 3. Authorized joint review of Iron Pine Solar's combined site and route permit application jointly with the project's certificate of need application, including joint environmental review.**
- 4. Requested a full ALJ report with recommendations for the project's public hearing.**

This decision is issued by the Commission's consent calendar subcommittee, under a delegation of authority granted under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (a). Unless a party, a participant, or a Commissioner files an objection to this decision within ten days of receiving it, it will become the Order of the full Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (b).

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce, which are attached and hereby incorporated into the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary



To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.



June 5, 2024

Mr. Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: EERA Comments and Recommendations on Application Completeness
Iron Pine Solar Project
Docket Nos. IP-7114/GS-23-414, TL-23-415, CN-23-416

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Attached are the comments and recommendations of Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff, filed in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Application of Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC for a Certificate of Need for a 230 kV Transmission Line in Pine County, Minnesota; and In the Matter of Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC's Joint Application for a Site Permit and Route Permit for a 325-MW Solar Energy Generation System and a 230 kV HVTL Gen-Tie Line in Pine County, Minnesota.

The applications for the project were filed on May 15, 2024, by:

Joey Shannon
Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC
510 Bering Dr, Suite 300
Houston TX 77057

EERA staff recommends that the Commission accept the applications as substantially complete. EERA staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erika Wilder

Erika Wilder
Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis



BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ANALYSIS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IRON PINE SOLAR PROJECT Docket Nos. IP-7114/GS-23-414, TL-23-415, CN-23-416

Date: June 5, 2024

EERA Staff: Erika Wilder | 651-539-1009 | erika.wilder@state.mn.us

In the Matter of the Application of Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, for a Certificate of Need, a Site Permit, and a Route Permit for the up to 325 MW Iron Pine Solar Large Electric Generating Facility and 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line in Pine County, Minnesota

Issues Addressed: These comments and recommendations address the completeness of the joint site and route permit application; contested issues of fact; the appointment of an advisory task force; and the advisability of combining the proceedings.

Additional documents and information can be found on eDockets:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (23-414 [Site Permit], 23-415 [Route Permit], and 23-416 [Certificate of Need]) and on the Department of Commerce's website:
<https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15441>

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530 (voice).

Introduction and Background

Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC (applicant) proposes to construct and operate an up to 325 megawatt (MW) solar facility in Pine County, Minnesota. The applicant also proposes to construct an approximate one mile long 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the project substation and a new switchyard to be constructed by the applicant to connect the solar facility to Minnesota Power's existing Arrowhead-Bear Creek 230 kV transmission line. The solar facility and the 230 kV transmission line are together referred to as the Iron Pine Solar Project herein. The applicant is seeking three approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the project:

- A site permit for the solar facility;
- A high-voltage transmission line (HVTL) route permit for the proposed 230 kV transmission line and switchyard; and

- A certificate of need for the proposed 230 kV transmission line¹

On May 15, 2024, Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, filed an application for a certificate of need, and a joint site and route permit application with the Commission. On May 22, 2024, the Commission issued a notice soliciting comments on the completeness of the two applications.² In addition to completeness, the notice also requested comments on:

- Are there any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the applications?
- Should the certificate of need application be evaluated using the Commission's informal process or referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceedings?
- Should an advisory task force be appointed?
- Should the site and route permit application be processed jointly with the certificate of need application (i.e., public meetings, environmental review, and public hearings)?
- Should the Commission direct the Executive Secretary to issue an authorization to the applicant to initiate consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Project Purpose

The Iron Pine Solar Project would generate up to 325 MW of energy at the Iron Pine solar facility and deliver the power to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator. The applicant is proposing to construct this facility to sell energy, capacity, and renewable energy credits, either bundled or unbundled, to one or more electric utilities and/or commercial customers. Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, is actively marketing the project to a number of potential off-takers and may sell the power in the form of a Power Purchase Agreement, virtual power purchase agreement, or similar contract, or the project could be owned directly by a utility.³

Project Description

The Iron Pine Solar Project consists of two major components, a new solar facility of up to 325 MW, and approximately one mile of new 230 kV HVTL and switchyard to be constructed between the solar facility and the existing Minnesota Power Arrowhead-Bear Creek 230 kV transmission line. The project is located south of the town of Willow River and northeast of the town of Rutledge (see Figure 1: Iron Pine Solar Project Overview Map, attached).

325 MW Solar Facility

Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, proposes to construct and operate an up to 325 MW solar facility that would occupy approximately 1,537 acres. The project would use photovoltaic solar panels mounted on a tracking system reaching up to 15 feet in height. New underground collection cables would gather and

¹ A large energy facility is defined in Minn. Stat. 216B.2421. As it applies to this project, subdivision 2 (2) specifies a large energy facility as any high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 200 kilovolts or more and greater than 1,500 feet in length.

² Public Utilities Commission, *Notice of Comment Period on Application Completeness*, May 22, 2024, eDocket ID: [20245-206970-03](#)

³ Iron Pine Solar Project Joint Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Site Permit Solar Large Electric Generating Facility and a Route Permit for a High Voltage Transmission Line, at p. 2

direct the electric power generated by the solar panels to a new project substation. The substation would connect to the electrical grid via a new 230 kV transmission line described below.

The solar facility would also include approximately 16 miles of access roads, fencing, an operations and maintenance building, vehicle parking, inverters and transformers, stormwater basins, and meteorological equipment.

230 kV Transmission Line and Switchyard

The project includes construction of approximately 5,275 feet (1 mile) of new 230 kV transmission line that would connect the proposed solar facility to the existing Minnesota Power Arrowhead-Bear Creek 230 kV transmission line. The new 230 kV single circuit line would originate from the project substation at the solar facility. From the project substation, the proposed transmission route extends east through agricultural fields and forest until it reaches the Arrowhead-Bear Creek 230 kV transmission line. New transmission line structures would be up to approximately 140 feet high, and be placed roughly in the center of the ROW with 80 feet of ROW on each side. The total proposed ROW is approximately 19.43 acres.

The area of the proposed switchyard is currently forested and covers approximately 3.9 acres. The trees would be removed to accommodate an access road and a fenced-in gravel pad that would contain electrical equipment facilitating the connection to the existing Minnesota Power Arrowhead-Bear Creek 230 kV transmission line.

Regulatory Requirements and Processes

The project requires review and approval through three separate processes: the site permitting process, the route permitting process, and the certificate of need process.

Large Electric Power Generating Plant Site Permit

Under Minnesota Statute 216E.03, no person may construct a large electric power generating plant in Minnesota without a site permit from the Commission. As proposed, the Iron Pine Solar facility would be capable of operating at up to 350 MW and would require a site permit from the Commission.⁴ Because the project is powered by solar energy, the site permit application qualifies for Commission review under the alternative permitting process described in Minnesota Statute 216E.04.⁵

Site permit applications must provide information about the applicant, a description of the project, and discussion of potential human and environmental impacts and mitigation measures.⁶ Review under the alternative permitting process does not require an applicant to propose alternative sites in their permit application; however, if alternative sites were evaluated and rejected, the application must describe these sites and reasons for rejecting them.⁷

With an application, the Commission may accept it as complete, reject it and advise the applicant of the deficiencies, or accept it as complete upon filing of supplemental information.⁸ The environmental

⁴ Minn. Stat. 216E.03, Subd. 1; Minn. Stat. 216E.01, Subd. 5

⁵ Minn. Stat. 216E.04, Subd. 2 (noting those projects that are eligible to proceed under an alternative permitting process).

⁶ Minn. R. 7850.1900

⁷ Minn. R. 7850.3100

⁸ Minn. R. 7850.3200

review and permitting process begins when the Commission determines that a permit application is complete; the Commission has six months (or nine months, with just cause) from the date of this determination to reach a permit decision.⁹

High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit

Under Minnesota Statute 216E, no person may construct an HVTL in Minnesota without a route permit from the Commission. As proposed, the transmission line would consist of approximately one mile of new 230 kV transmission line and therefore requires a route permit from the Commission.¹⁰ HVTL projects greater than 200 kV and less than 5 miles in length qualify for the alternative review process.¹¹

Route permit applications for HVTLs must provide specific information about a project including applicant information, route descriptions, and potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures. The Commission may accept an application as complete, reject an application and require additional information to be submitted, or accept an application as complete upon filing of supplemental information. The environmental review and permitting process begins on the date the Commission determines that a route permit application is complete.¹² The Commission has six months (or nine months, with just cause) from the date of this determination to reach a route permit decision.¹³

Certificate of Need

Minnesota Statute 216B.243 precludes construction of any large energy facility¹⁴ without a certificate of need issued by the Commission. The project includes a one mile long 230 kV transmission line necessary to connect the solar facility plant to the electrical grid; accordingly, the HVTL meets the statutory definition of a large energy facility and requires a certificate of need from the Commission.¹⁵ The certificate of need application must be considered using the process prescribed by Minnesota Statute 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules 7849.

Advisory Task Force

The Commission may appoint an advisory task force to aid the environmental review process. An advisory task force must include representatives of local governmental units in the project area.¹⁶ A task force assists EERA with identifying impacts and mitigation measures (including site and route alternatives) to be evaluated in an environmental document prepared by EERA. A task force expires upon issuance of the scoping decision.¹⁷

The Commission is not required to appoint an advisory task force for every project. If the Commission does not appoint a task force, citizens may request that one be appointed.¹⁸ If such a request is made, the Commission would then need to determine at a subsequent meeting if a task force should be appointed or not.

⁹ Minn. Stat. 216E.04, Subd. 7

¹⁰ Minn. Stat. 216E.03, Subd. 2; Minn. Stat. 216E.01, Subd. 4

¹¹ Minn. Statute 216E.04, subd. 2(4)

¹² Minn. R. 7850.2000

¹³ Minn. R. 7850.3900

¹⁴ Minn. Stat. 216B.2421 Definition of large energy facility as it applies to the project: any high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 200 kilovolts or more and greater than 1,500 feet in length.

¹⁵ Minn. Stat. 216B.2421; Minn. Stat. 216B.243

¹⁶ Minn. Stat. 216E.08

¹⁷ Minn. R. 7850.3600

¹⁸ Ibid.

The decision whether to appoint an advisory task force does not need to be made at the time of application acceptance; however, it should be made as soon as practicable to ensure its charge can be completed prior to issuance of the environmental document scoping decision.

Environmental Review

Site permit applications and route permit applications are subject to environmental review conducted by Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff. Projects proceeding under the alternative permitting process require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA).¹⁹ An EA is a document which contains an overview of the resources affected by a proposed project and describes the potential human and environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures. An EA is the only state environmental review document required for site and route permit applications reviewed under the alternative permitting process.

EERA conducts public information and scoping meetings during a public comment period to inform the content of the EA.²⁰ The Department of Commerce determines the scope of the EA,²¹ and may include alternative sites or routes suggested during the scoping process if they would aid the Commission in making permit decisions.

Certificate of need applications are also subject to environmental review conducted by EERA. EERA must prepare an environmental report (ER) for the proposed project.²² If an applicant for a certificate of need applies for a site or route permit (for the same project) prior to completion of the ER, EERA may elect to prepare an EA in lieu of an environmental report.²³ If an EA is prepared in lieu of an environmental report, the EA must include an analysis of alternatives to the project required by Minnesota Rule 7849.1500.

Public Hearing

Site or route permit applications reviewed under the alternative permitting process require that a public hearing be held in the project area after the EA for the project has been completed and released.²⁴ The hearing is typically presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. If certificate of need, site, or route permitting processes are proceeding concurrently, the Commission may order that a joint hearing be held to consider both project need and permitting.²⁵ The Commission may request that the ALJ provide solely a summary of public testimony. Alternatively, the Commission may request that the ALJ provide a full report with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding the project.

EERA Staff Analysis and Comments

EERA staff provides the following analysis and comments in response to the Commission's notice requesting comments on completeness and other issues related to Iron Pine Solar's applications.

¹⁹ Minn. R. 7850.3700

²⁰ Minn. R. 7850.3700, subp. 2

²¹ Ibid. at subp. 3

²² Minn. R. 7849.1200

²³ Minn. R. 7849.1900

²⁴ Minn. R. 7850.3800

²⁵ Minn. Stat. 216B.243, Subd. 4

Completeness of Applications

EERA has reviewed the joint site and route permit application against the application completeness requirements of Minnesota Rule 7850.1900 (see Table 1). Based on its review, EERA believes the joint site permit and route permit application provides the information required by rule in a format that members of the public can access.

Although further information will be required to complete the EA, EERA staff believes the submitted application contains the information necessary to initiate review of the project. EERA staff recommends that the Commission accept Iron Pine Solar's joint application as substantially complete.

Contested Issues of Fact

Based on its review of Iron Pine Solar's application and the record to date, EERA staff has not identified any contested issues of fact. Staff is unaware of any issues or concerns associated with the application or project that require a contested case hearing.

EERA staff recommends that the Commission request a full ALJ report for the project's public hearing. EERA staff believes that a full ALJ report with recommendations provides an unbiased, efficient, and transparent method to air and resolve any issues that may emerge as the record is developed. Requiring a full ALJ report reduces the burden on Commission staff and helps to ensure that the Commission has a robust record on which to base its decision. Additionally, a full ALJ report does not significantly lengthen the site and route permitting process. EERA staff has provided a draft schedule for the environmental review and permitting process, which includes a comparison of potential hearing work products and schedules – i.e., a summary of public testimony vs. a full ALJ report with findings, conclusions, and recommendations (see Table 2).

Advisory Task Force

EERA staff has analyzed the merits of establishing an advisory task force for the Iron Pine Solar project. Staff concludes that a task force is not warranted for the project at this time. In analyzing the need for an advisory task force for a project, EERA considered four characteristics: project size, project complexity, known or anticipated controversy, and sensitive resources.

Project Size. The Iron Pine Solar project would utilize a relatively large area of land, approximately 1,600 acres. However, the concerns associated with a large acreage are balanced by the fact that land for the project has been assembled by negotiated agreements with landowners. That is, the project area represents landowners interested in and willing to dedicate their land to solar electric production.

Project Complexity. With respect to energy production, transmission, and land use, the project is not complex. Based on its review of the application, EERA staff believes the project is no more complex than projects previously permitted by the Commission. There are no proposed unique construction techniques or operational features that make the project complex.

The relatively large size of the solar facility and the presence of wetlands may pose stormwater control and vegetation management challenges. Although these are important factors in project design, construction, and operation, they appear to EERA to be technical issues outside the typical scope of a task force.

Known or Anticipated Controversy. To date, there is one public comment in the record. The comment is from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources regarding land stewardship, and a request to initiate and have continued communication about the project. Iron Pine Solar has conducted outreach with state and federal agencies as well as Minnesota tribal nations and local governments in the project area. Land to be utilized by the project has been assembled by agreements with local landowners. EERA staff does not anticipate controversy with the project, particularly controversy that could be resolved by a task force.

Sensitive Natural Resources. There are sensitive natural resources occurring near and adjacent to the project area. The potential impacts to sensitive natural resources have been largely identified by public agencies, and EERA believes a task force would not provide substantial additional information than would be typically provided during the scoping process.

EERA believes that the existing EA scoping and development process contains adequate opportunity for the public and agencies to identify potential project impacts and possible mitigation measures that may address these impacts. Based on the information available at this time, EERA believes that an advisory task force is not warranted for the project. EERA's evaluation of the need for an advisory task force may change based on additional public comment or new information.

Joint Processing of the Applications

The Commission has before it a certificate of need application, and a joint site and route permit application for the project. It appears to EERA staff that the need and permitting processes for the project would proceed concurrently. Thus, at this time, EERA staff anticipates that it will prepare one environmental review document, an environmental assessment (EA), for the project.

EERA staff believes that preparation of an EA in lieu of an environmental report for the certificate of need will not lengthen the certificate of need or site or route permitting processes. Additionally, Iron Pine Solar has requested that the certificate of need, site, and route permitting processes be conducted jointly.²⁶ EERA also believes that joint environmental review is less confusing for the public, local governments, agencies, and tribes, and that there are benefits to having an environmental analysis of need and siting in one document.

EERA Staff Recommendations

EERA staff recommends that:

- The Commission accept Iron Pine Solar's joint site and route permit application as substantially complete.
- The Commission not appoint an advisory task force for the joint site and route permit application at this time.
- The Commission process Iron Pine Solar's combined site and route permit application jointly with the project's certificate of need application, including joint environmental review.
- The Commission request a full ALJ report with recommendations for the project's public hearing.

²⁶ Application, Section 1.4.5

Figure 1: Iron Pine Solar Project Overview Map

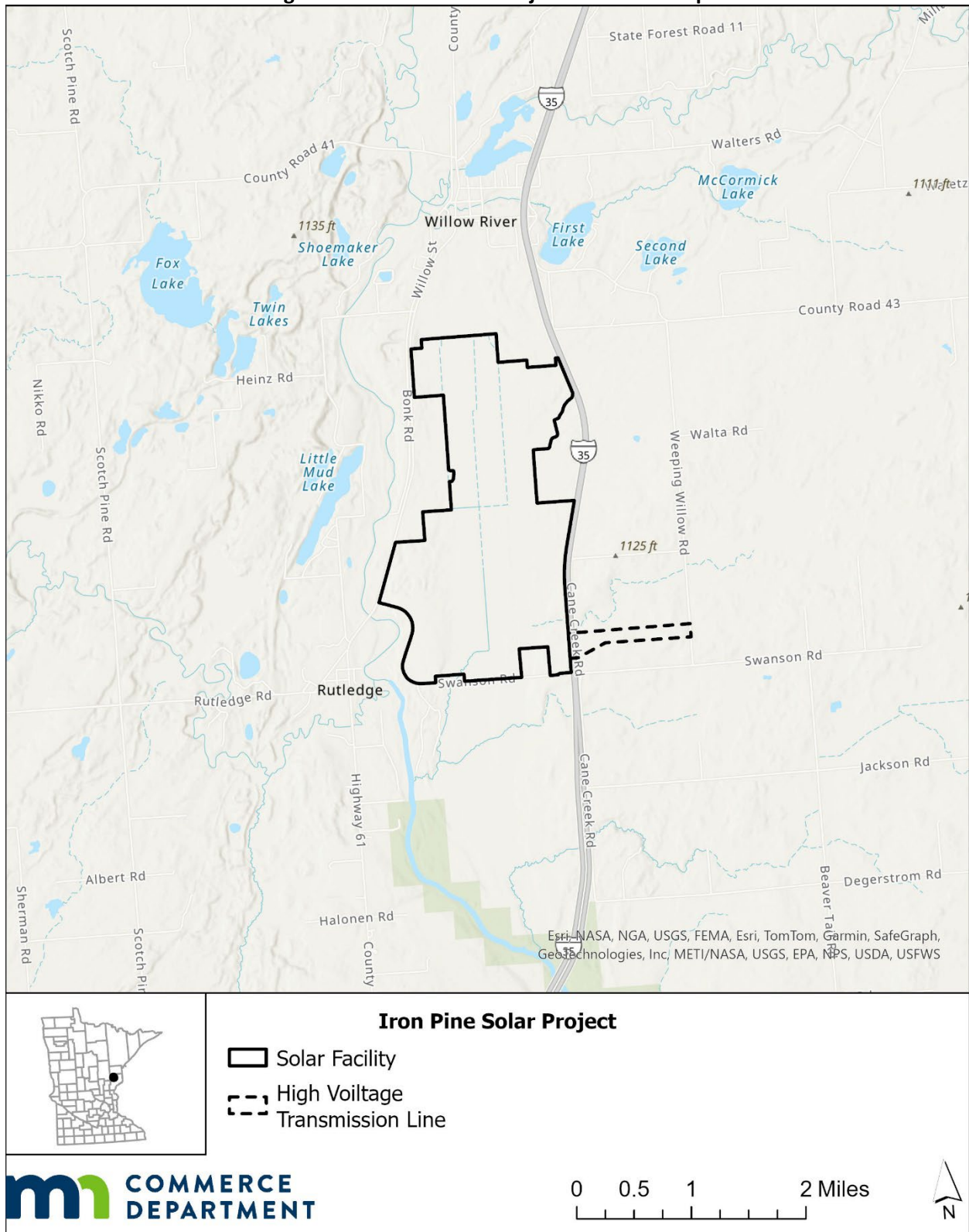


Table 1: Application Completeness Site Permit and HVTL Route Permit

Authority	Required Information	Application Location	EERA Staff Comments
Minnesota Rule 7850.1900, Subpart 1: Site Permit Application for Large Electric Generating Plant			
A.	A statement of proposed ownership of the facility at the time of filing the application and after commercial operation;	1.2.1	Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Swift Current Energy, is the owner of the project.
B.	The precise name of any person or organization to be initially named as permittee or permittees and the name of any other person to whom the permit may be transferred if transfer of the permit is contemplated;	1.2	Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC would be the permittee.
C.	At least two proposed sites for the proposed large electric power generating plant and identification of the applicant's preferred site and the reasons for the preference;	Not required	As a solar electric power generating plant seeking permitting under the alternative permitting process of Minnesota Statute 216E.04, alternative sites are not required under this process.
D.	A description of the proposed large electric power generating plant and all associated facilities, including the size and type of the facility;	5.1	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
E.	The environmental information required under subpart 3;	See Minnesota Rule 7850.1900, Subpart 3 below.	
F.	The names of the owners of the property for each proposed site;	Appendix F	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
G.	The engineering and operational design for the large electric power generating plant at each of the proposed sites;	5.0	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
H.	A cost analysis of the large electric power generating plant at each proposed site, including the costs of constructing and operating the facility that are dependent on design and site;	Table 6	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
I.	An engineering analysis of each of the proposed sites, including how each site could accommodate expansion of generating capacity in the future;	3.3; 5.0	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
J.	Identification of transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems that will be required to construct, maintain, and operate the facility;	5.0	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.

Authority	Required Information	Application Location	EERA Staff Comments
K.	A listing and brief description of federal, state, and local permits that may be required for the project at each proposed site;	1.4; Table 3	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
L.	A copy of the certificate of need for the project from the Commission or documentation that an application for a certificate of need has been submitted or is not required;	1.4.2	A certificate of need is required for the project. See M. Rule 7850.1900, subp. 2(O) below.
Minnesota Rule 7850.1900, subp. 2: Required Route Permit Information			
A.	A statement of proposed ownership of the facility at the time of filing the application and after commercial operation;	1.2.1	Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Swift Current Energy, is the owner of the project.
B.	The precise name of any person or organization to be initially named as permittee or permittees and the name of any other person to whom the permit may be transferred if transfer of the permit is contemplated;	1.2	Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC would be the permittee.
C.	At least two proposed routes for the proposed high voltage transmission line and identification of the applicant's preferred route and the reasons for the preference;	Not required	Not applicable per Minn. R. 7850.3100
D.	A description of the proposed high voltage transmission line and all associated facilities including the size and type of the high voltage transmission line;	2.2.3, 5.1.4	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement
E.	The environmental information required under subpart 3.	See Minn. R. 7850.1900, subpart 3 below.	
F.	Identification of land uses and environmental conditions along the proposed routes;	6.2.11	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement
G.	The names of each owner whose property is within any of the proposed routes for the high voltage transmission line;	Appendix F	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement
H.	United States Geological Survey topographical maps or other maps acceptable to the commission showing the entire length of the high voltage transmission line on all proposed routes;	Appendix B	Multiple maps are provided, including a project overview map and detailed route maps.
I.	Identification of existing utility and public rights-of-way along or parallel to the proposed routes that have the potential to share the right-of-way with the proposed line;	6.2.10, 6.2.12; Appendix B, Map 7	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.

Authority	Required Information	Application Location	EERA Staff Comments
J.	The engineering and operational design concepts for the proposed high voltage transmission line, including information on the electric and magnetic fields of the transmission line;	2.2.3, 4.3, 5.1.4, 5.3.2, 6.2.3; Appendix L	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
K.	Cost analysis of each route, including the costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the high voltage transmission line that are dependent on design and route;	Table 6	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
L	A description of possible design options to accommodate expansion of the high voltage transmission line in the future;	4.5	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
M	The procedures and practices proposed for the acquisition and restoration of the right-of-way, construction, and maintenance of the high voltage transmission line;	5.3.2	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
N.	A listing and brief description of federal, state, and local permits that may be required for the proposed high voltage transmission line; and	1.4, Table 3	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
O.	A copy of the Certificate of Need or the certified HVTL list containing the proposed high voltage transmission line or documentation that an application for a Certificate of Need has been submitted or is not required.	1.4.2	A certificate of need is required for the project. Iron Pine Solar Power, LLC, applied to the Commission for a certificate of need on May 15, 2024.
Minn. R. 7850.1900, subp. 3: Environmental Information			
A.	A description of the environmental setting for each site or route;	6.1	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
B.	A description of the effects of construction and operation of the facility on human settlement, including, but not limited to, public health and safety, displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services;	6.2	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
C.	A description of the effects of the facility on land-based economies, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;	6.3	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
D.	A description of the effects of the facility on archaeological and historic resources;	6.4	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
E.	A description of the effects of the facility on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna;	6.6	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.

Authority	Required Information	Application Location	EERA Staff Comments
F.	A description of the effects of the facility on rare and unique natural resources;	6.6.8	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
G.	Identification of human and natural environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the facility is approved at a specific site or route; and	6.8	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.
H.	A description of measures that might be implemented to mitigate the potential human and environmental impacts identified in items A to G and the estimated costs of such mitigative measures.	6.2 – 6.9	Information is provided to satisfy this requirement.

Table 2: EERA Conceptual Schedule

Approximate Date	Permitting Day	Permitting Process Step
May 2024	--	Joint Site and Route Permit Application Submitted
June 2024	--	Comment Period on Application Completeness
June 2024	--	Commission Considers Application Acceptance
June 2024	0	Application Acceptance Order
July 2024	5	Notice of Public Information and Scoping Meeting
August 2024	30	Public Information and Scoping Meeting
August 2024	50	Comment Period Closes
September 2024	60	EERA provides EA scope recommendations to Commission
September 2024	80	Commission considers EA scoping recommendations
September 2024	85 ²⁷	Commerce issues EA Scoping Decision
January 2025	180	EA Issued Notice of EA Availability and Public Hearing
January 2025	200	Joint Public Hearing
February 2025	220	Public Hearing Comment Period Closes
February 2025	230	Applicant Responses to Hearing Comments
Summary of Public Testimony		
February 2025	240	Applicant Proposed Findings
March 2025	255	EERA Responses to Comments on EA; Technical Analysis; Replies to Applicant Proposed Findings
March 2025	255	ALJ Submits Summary of Public Testimony
April 2025	285	Commission Staff Prepares Findings and Proposed Site and Route Permits
May 2025	305	Commission Considers CN, Site, and Route Permit Issuance
Full ALJ Report with Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations		
February 2025	240	Applicant Proposed Findings
March 2025	255	EERA Responses to Comments on EA; Technical Analysis; Replies to Applicant Proposed Findings
April 2025	285	ALJ Submits Full Report
May 2025	300	Exceptions to ALJ Report
May 2025	315	Commission Staff Prepares Proposed Site and Route Permits
May 2025	325	Commission Considers CN, Site, and Route Permit Issuance

²⁷ Timing assumes no action by the Commission and no order required.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER

Docket Number: **IP-7114/GS-23-414; IP-7114/TL-23-415**

Dated this **2nd** day of **July, 2024**

/s/ Robin Benson

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Kevin	Pranis	kpranis@liunagroc.com	Laborers' District Council of MN and ND	81 E Little Canada Road St. Paul, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Joey	Shannon	jshannon@swiftcurrentenergy.com	Swift Current Energy	510 Bering Drive, Suite 300 Houston, TX 77057	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414
Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-414_GS-23-414

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Kevin	Pranis	kpranis@liunagroc.com	Laborers' District Council of MN and ND	81 E Little Canada Road St. Paul, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Joey	Shannon	jshannon@swiftcurrentenergy.com	Swift Current Energy	510 Bering Drive, Suite 300 Houston, TX 77057	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415
Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-415_TL-23-415