

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCOPING MEETING

Issued: May 10, 2021

**In the Matter of the Application of Louise Solar Project, LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit for the 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Numbers:** IP7039/CN-20-646, IP7039/GS-20-647

**Date:** May 25, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 PM\*

**Location:** Remote-Access Meeting (telephone and/or internet)

\*The meeting will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

To find out if a meeting is canceled call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a remote-access public meeting on the applications of Louise Solar Project, LLC (Louise Solar) for their proposed solar facility in Mower County. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public about the review process to be used, and the project being proposed, to obtain public input on the proposed project, and to compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the permits. **Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the remote-access public meeting will replace the standard in-person meeting. Similar to an in-person meeting, the remote-access meeting will provide interested persons the opportunity to: (1) provide comments regarding the need for the proposed project; and (2) ask questions and provide comments on potential issues to be considered by the Commission in its decision-making process or included as a condition in the final site permit.**

### How to Attend the Meeting

To participate, follow the directions below to access the meeting over the telephone to listen and/or provide verbal comments (audio only). If you are also interested in accessing the video portion of the meeting, follow the directions below to view the presentation over the internet (video only – no audio). **You must, at a minimum, join the meeting by telephone if you are interested in listening to the meeting and/or in providing verbal comments on the proposed**

**project.** If you wish to watch the video stream with audio you must join by both phone and internet. Written comments may also be submitted during the comment period following the meeting using the methods described in this notice.

<p><b>To attend the 6:00 pm meeting:</b>  <b>Join the meeting by telephone</b>          Phone: 1-866-609-6127          Conference ID: 6899875          An operator will assist you.</p>	<p><b>Join the meeting by internet (video only – no audio)</b>          Navigate on your computer to:  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/bycpi2aw">https://tinyurl.com/bycpi2aw</a> or  <a href="https://minnesota.webex.com">https://minnesota.webex.com</a>          Event Number: 187 187 0898          Event Password, if needed: MNPUC</p>
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Please contact Michael Kaluzniak, Public Advisor if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the meeting at [Mike.Kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:Mike.Kaluzniak@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2257.

## Project Description

Louise Solar Project, LLC (Louise Solar), an affiliate of EDF Renewables, Inc. filed applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a certificate of need and a site permit for the 50 megawatt (MW) solar energy generating system.

The proposed project area is comprised of approximately 613 acres of agricultural land located in Lodi and Adams Townships in Mower County, of which the final project design is expected to occupy approximately 325 acres. The excess acreage allows for planned buffers and flexibility in overall design. The primary components of the facility would include photovoltaic panels affixed to a linear axis tracking rack system, inverters, step-up transformers, electrical cables and conduits, electrical cabinets, access roads, a 34.5/161- kilovolt (kV) step-up substation with metering and switching gear, security fencing, below-ground or above-ground electrical collection and communication lines, an operation and maintenance facility, parking lot, up to four weather stations, a 161-kV overhead transmission line (under 1,000 feet in length), a supervisory control and data acquisition system, and temporary laydown areas. The project would interconnect at the existing ITC Midwest 161 kV Adams Substation in the project area.

Louise Solar Project, LLC has not secured a Power Purchase Agreement for the project. However, it has secured a Generator Interconnection Agreement with Midcontinent Independent System Operator on February 22, 2019. The Agreement will allow interconnection of the project to the transmission system. Louise Solar indicated that the power produced by this Project is needed to meet the growing Commercial and Industrial demand for additional renewable energy resources, to accommodate the Solar Energy Standard for public utilities set forth in Minnesota Statutes, and to meet other clean energy goals and requirements in Minnesota and neighboring states.

## Submit Comments

### Topics Open for Public Comment:

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be

- considered in the environmental assessment (EA), and/or the draft site permit?
- What are possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
  - Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
  - Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, for example, a different size project or a different type of facility? If so, what alternatives to the project should be studied in the EA?
  - Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in any of the applications or issues that need further development?

**Comment Period:** Comments accepted through **June 9, 2021 at 4:30 PM**

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

**Comments may be submitted by any of the following means:**

**Online:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

**Email:** [Jamie.Macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:Jamie.Macalister@state.mn.us)

**US Mail:** Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Fax:** 651-539-0109

**Important:** Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

### **Process Information**

The Commission must approve a certificate of need (CN) and a site permit before the project can be constructed. The certificate of need and site permit applications are being processed jointly and will be reviewed using the informal review process (Minn. R. 7829.1200) and alternative review process (Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900), respectively. This meeting satisfies the public meeting requirement for both the certificate of need application (Minn. R. 7849.1400) and site permit application (Minn. R. 7850.3500). Relevant Minnesota statute and rules may be viewed at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>.

The Department is tasked with preparing an environmental assessment for the solar site application filed under the alternative permitting process on behalf of the Commission. The required Environmental Report (ER) will be incorporated into the EA for the Project site permit review. The EA will evaluate the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project,

identify measures that could reasonably be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts identified, and will include the analysis of alternatives required under the review processes.

When the EA is complete, a public hearing will be held. The hearing will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak, provide written comments, and ask questions of the applicant and staff. Upon completion of the public hearing process, the Commission will make a final decision on whether to issue a certificate of need and site permit.

## How to Learn More

### Department of Commerce Project Websites:

Louise Solar Project - <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/14235/>

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2246 with the docket numbers (20-646 or 20-647), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter at [eFiling.com](http://eFiling.com), or go to [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Comment*, and follow the prompts. \*Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eDockets*, enter the year 20 and docket number 646 (CN), or 647 (site permit), select *Search*.

**Community Locations:** Copies of the Louise Solar Project CN and permit applications are available at these locations:

- Grand Meadow Public Library, 125 Grand Ave East, Grand Meadow, MN 55936
- Austin Public Library, 323 4th Ave., N.E., Austin, MN 55912

Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic your local library may be closed or have limited hours.

## Project Contacts

### Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Michael Kaluzniak – [Mike.Kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:Mike.Kaluzniak@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2257

### Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Cezar Panait – [Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us](mailto:Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2207

### Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

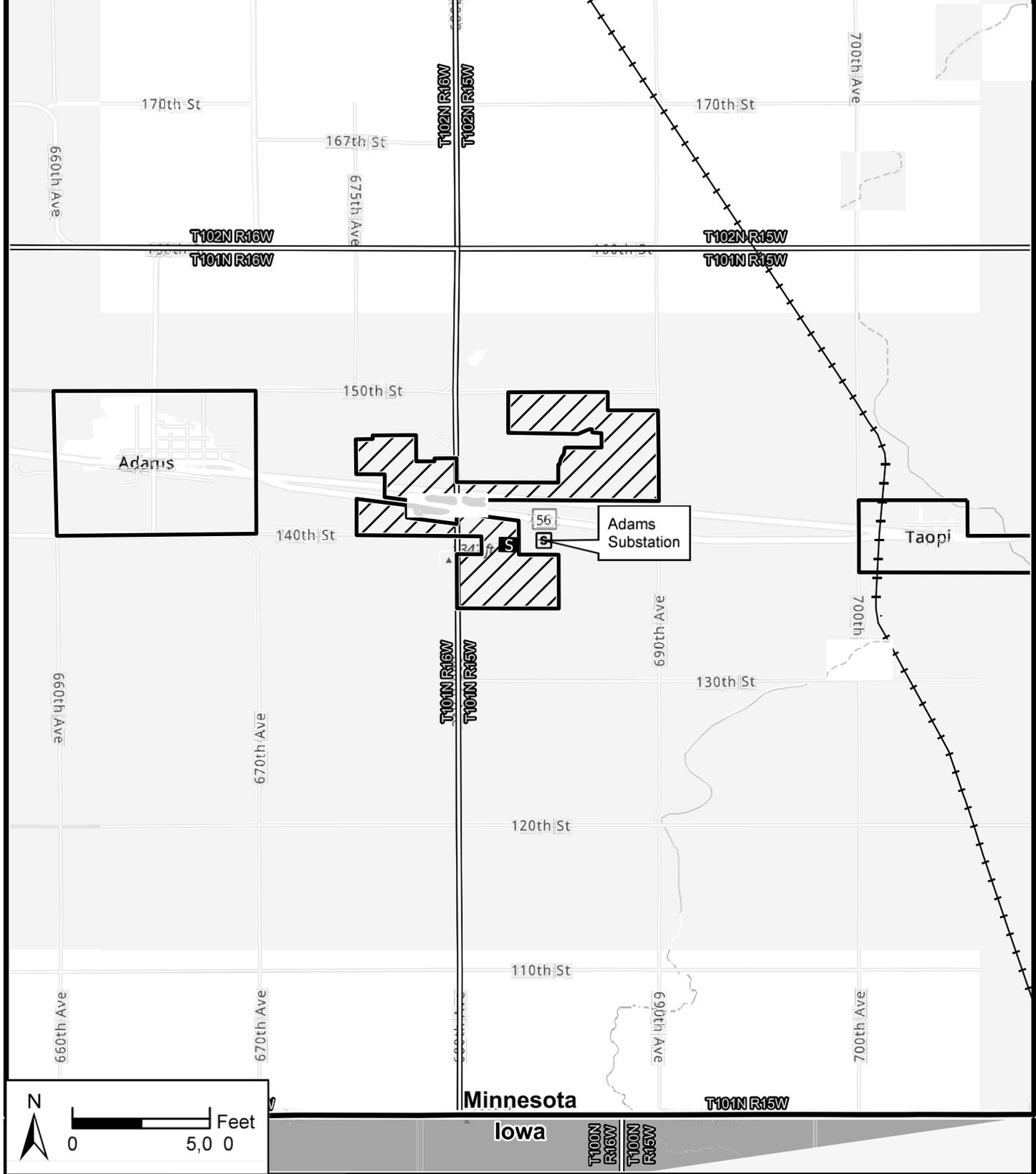
Jamie MacAlister – [Jamie.Macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:Jamie.Macalister@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1775

**Louise Solar Project, LLC Contact**

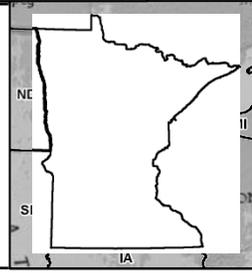
Scott Wentzell – [scott.wentzell@edf-re.com](mailto:scott.wentzell@edf-re.com) or 617-637-0376

If any reasonable accommodation is needed so that you may fully participate in these meetings, for example sign language or large print materials, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-567-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us).



Data Source(s): Westwood (2021); MNDNR (Various Dates); US Census Bureau (2019); NED (2016); Esri USGS Topo Basemap (Accessed 2021).



**Legend**

- Project Area Boundary
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Existing Substation
- Project Substation
- Railroad
- Municipal Boundary
- PLS Township Boundary

**Louise Solar Project**  
Mower County, Minnesota

**Project Location**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Chrishna Beard, 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**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCOPING MEETING

Docket Number **IP-7039/CN-20-246, IP-7039/GS-20-647**

Dated this 10th day of May, 2021

/s/ Chrishna Beard

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000  Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
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_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	200 South Sixth Street Suite 4000 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Kate	Fairman	kate.frantz@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 551554032	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us		Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
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_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Lucas	Franco	lfranco@liunagroc.com	LIUNA	81 Little Canada Rd E  Little Canada, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Kari	Howe	kari.howe@state.mn.us	DEED	332 Minnesota St, #E200 1ST National Bank Bldg St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd  Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
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_20-646_Official Service List 20-646

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Jacob	Salisbury	Jacob.Salisbury@edf-re.com	EDF Renewables	10 NE 2nd St Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55413	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
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_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@edf-re.com	EDF Renewable Energy	10 Second Street NE Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55410	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
David	Weetman	david.weetman@westwoodps.com	Westwood Professional Services	12701 Whitewater Dr Ste 300 Minnetonka, MN 55343	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646
Scott	Wentzell	scott.wentzell@edf-re.com	EDF Renewables	10 NE 2nd St Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55413	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_Official Service List 20-646

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Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000  Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-647_Official Service List 20-647
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_20-647_Official Service List 20-647
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_20-647_Official Service List 20-647
Lucas	Franco	lfranco@liunagroc.com	LIUNA	81 Little Canada Rd E  Little Canada, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-647_Official Service List 20-647
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	200 South Sixth St Ste 400  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-647_Official Service List 20-647
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_20-647_Official Service List 20-647
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_20-647_Official Service List 20-647

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**Jake Goodale**

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**Jim Kiefer**

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Taopi, MN 55977-5005

**Trish Harren**

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**Angie Lipelt, Environmental Services  
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