

To: Persons Interested in the Proposed Construction of an up to 80 megawatt battery energy storage system, and other associated facilities, known as the North Star Storage Project, to be located in Chisago County, Minnesota; the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities General List; Local Officials; Tribes; and Property Owners

RE: Notice of North Star Energy Storage, LLC's filing of a Site Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

MPUC Docket Nos. IP-7155/ESS-25-123

North Star Energy Storage, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (North Star Storage), an affiliate of DESRI Renewables, L.L.C. a Delaware limited liability company (DESRI), is proposing to construct and operate an up to 80 megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS), and other associated facilities located in Chisago County, Minnesota (the North Star Storage Project, or Project).

This notice provides formal notice that North Star Storage filed an Application for a BESS Site Permit (Application) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission or MPUC) for the Project (MPUC Docket Nos. IP-7155/ESS-25-123) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. This notice also provides information on the Project and the permitting process, as well as information on how to register your name with the Commission on the Project contact list to ensure that you receive future notices.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is located within the municipal boundary of the City of North Branch, adjacent to the existing North Star Solar Facility (the Solar Facility) in Chisago County, Minnesota, which is owned and operated by North Star Solar PV LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (North Star PV) an affiliate of North Star Storage. The Solar Facility received a Site Permit from the MPUC in February 2016 under MPUC Docket Number IP-6943/GS-15-331, and has been in operation since December 2016. The location of the proposed Project falls entirely within the portion of Section 36 that was reviewed as part of the site permit proceedings for the Solar Facility. As such, all land required for construction and operation of the Project was previously reviewed for compliance with the environmental information and siting factors in Minn. R. Ch. 7850.1900, Subd. 3 and Minn. R. Ch. 7850.4100, respectively.

North Star Storage anticipates that the Project will be sited directly adjacent to the existing Solar Facility's collector substation and the existing infrastructure that connects the Solar Facility to the Chisago County Substation. The Chisago County Substation is the Point of Interconnection (POI) for the Solar Facility and will be the POI for the Project as well. North Star Storage anticipates that the Project will connect to the Solar Facility's collector substation via buried 34.5 kilovolt medium voltage collection lines and, as a result, no new high voltage transmission line or generation tie line (gen-tie line) are required.

The Project will include: battery storage enclosures, inverters, transformers, Emergency Management System, Battery Management System, underground electrical collection and

communication lines, interconnection to the existing Chisago County Substation, and associated equipment; and any ancillary equipment or buildings as necessary and typical of a solar farm.

The accompanying map outlines the location of the Project.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

North Star PV owns the easternmost parcel in the Land Control Area and has negotiated a lease agreement with North Star Storage for the western parcel of the Land Control Area for development of the Project. The western parcel, will be leased by North Star Storage. North Star Storage is contemplating two options for the permanent access road to the BESS

SITE PERMIT PROCESS

A Site Permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216E) and Minn. R. parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a Site Permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process. The Site Permit application will be considered by the Commission under the alternative permitting process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Commission has up to six months from the time the application is accepted as complete to process and make a decision on the Site Permit according to Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 7, and Minn. R. 7850.3900, subp. 1. The Commission may extend this time limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.

Within 60 days after the Commission accepts the Application as complete, the Commission and the Department of Commerce, Energy, Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) unit will hold a public information and scoping meeting to provide information and seek comments from the public. At this meeting, members of the public may comment on the scope of the environmental assessment and/or propose additional issues for consideration in the environmental assessment that the EERA will prepare. Once the public meeting is scheduled, notice of the meeting will be provided to persons whose names are on the project contact list and will be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the Project Area.

After the environmental assessment has been completed, EERA will make the document available for public review and a public hearing will be held on the Application. Any person may speak at the public hearing, present documentary evidence, ask questions of North Star Storage's representatives and EERA staff, and submit comments.

Further details regarding upcoming meetings and comment periods on the Application will be provided by North Star Storage, EERA, and/or the Commission in the future.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

A Certificate of Need is not required from the Commission for the Project. The Project is exempt from Certificate of Need requirements pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 8(9).

HOW TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on mailing lists, contact:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst
Scott Ek at scott.ek@state.mn.us or 651-539-1070.
www.mn.gov/puc

Minnesota Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager
Sam Weaver at Sam.Weaver@state.mn.us or 651-539-1531.
www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

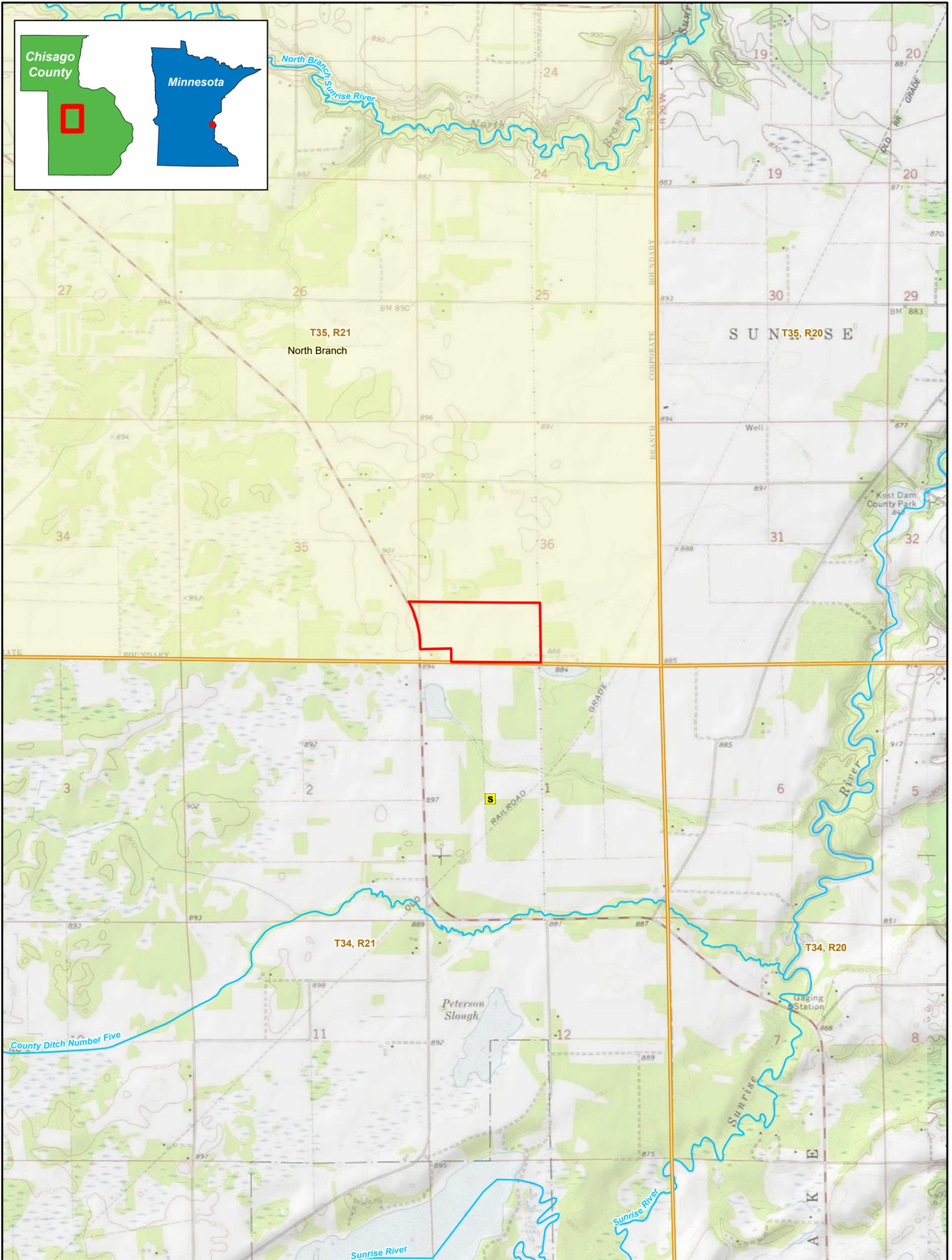
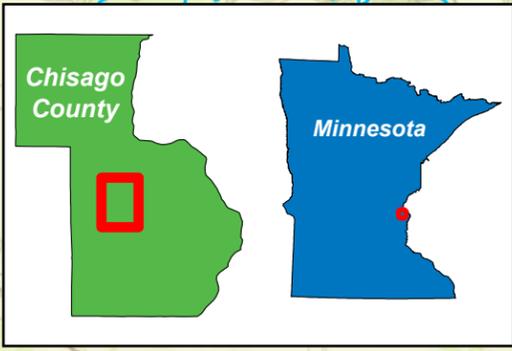
There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

1. Sign up for the Project Mailing List. To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call (651) 201-2246 with the docket numbers (IP-7155/ESS-25-123), your name, mailing address, and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. mail.
2. Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the dockets, visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select “Subscribe to eDockets,” and follow the prompts.

Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

A copy of the Application is also available for review at North Branch Area Library, 6355 379th St., North Branch, MN 55056.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Joel Puritz at (910) 616-6346 or by email at Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com.



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Map 1
Project Overview
North Star BESS Project
Chisago County, MN

-  Land Control Area
-  Existing Substation
-  NHD Named Stream
-  City/Town
-  Township