

November 1, 2024

Executive Secretary Will Seuffert
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East
Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Snowshoe Energy Storage Project
 Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: IP-7138/ESS-24-279

Dear Secretary Seuffert:

On behalf of Commissioner Petersen, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Snowshoe Energy Storage Project, proposed by Spearmint Energy, LLC, in Olmsted County Minnesota.

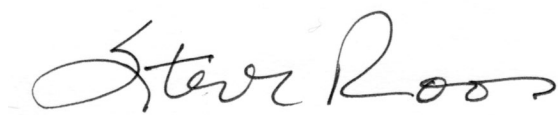
MDA's role in reviewing energy projects under the regulatory authority of the Minnesota Public Utility Commission (PUC) is outlined in Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 216E.10, subdivision 3(b), which charges MDA with the responsibility of working with project applicants to prepare an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) for projects proposed to be sited on agricultural land.

On October 29, 2024, Spearmint Energy, LLC, and MDA met to have initial discussions around the production of an AIMP for the Snowshoe Energy Storage Project. The conversation was productive with both parties agreeing to work collaboratively on producing an appropriate plan for this new project type.

MDA believes that filing a final approved AIMP should not be a condition for acceptance of the site permit application for the Snowshoe Energy Storage Project as being substantially complete. MDA is confident that an appropriate AIMP will be developed, approved by MDA, and filed in the docket well in advance of the Commission's decision on whether to approve the Site Permit.

If you have any questions about MDA's comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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cc: Commissioner Thom Petersen, MDA
Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Ray Kirsch, Minnesota Department of Commerce
Suzanne Steinhauer, Minnesota Department of Commerce