

July 3, 2019

Mr. Garrett Knudsen  
Area M Consulting  
7302 Claredon Drive  
Edina, MN 55439

RE: Geronimo Energy - Elk Creek 1 Solar Project  
T103 R44 S27, 34, 35  
Vienna Twp., Rock County  
SHPO Number: 2019-1895

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

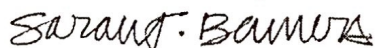
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

We have reviewed the cultural resources survey report that was prepared for this project. Based on the results of the survey, we conclude that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

Please contact our Environmental Review Program at (651) 201-3285 if you have any questions on our review of this project.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager

July 5, 2019

Mr. Garrett Knudsen  
Area M Consulting  
7302 Claredon Drive  
Edina, MN 55439

RE: Geronimo Energy - Elk Creek 2 Solar Project  
T102 R44 S3; T103 R44 S33-35  
Rock County  
SHPO Number: 2019-1896

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

We have reviewed the cultural resources survey report that was prepared for this project. Based on the results of the survey, we conclude that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

Please contact our Environmental Review Program at (651) 201-3285 if you have any questions on our review of this project.

Sincerely,

*Sarah J. Beimers*

Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager

# Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act

## Notice of Decision

Local Government Unit (LGU) <b>Rock County SWCD/Land Mgt</b>	Address <b>311 W Gabrielson, Luvene, MN 56156</b>
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### 1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Applicant Name <b>Elk Creek Solar LLC</b>	Project Name <b>Elk Creek Solar</b>	Date of Application <b>6/10/19</b>	Application Number <b>2019-26/27/35</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attach site locator map.			

Type of Decision:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland Boundary or Type	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Loss	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/> Sequencing
<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Banking Plan		

Technical Evaluation Panel Findings and Recommendation (if any):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve with conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Deny
Summary (or attach):		

### 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DECISION

Date of Decision: <b>7/9/19</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved with conditions (include below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied

LGU Findings and Conclusions (attach additional sheets as necessary):

<p>Findings: Elk Creek Solar LLC is proposing to develop a new solar energy production facility in Rock County, Minnesota. The 970 acre Project Area is located in Section 27, 26, and 35 of Township 103 Range 44 (Vienna) in Rock County, Minnesota. One wetland was identified and delineated within the Project area.</p> <p>Conclusion: The TEP panel has reviewed the delineation report completed by HDR and concurs with the findings. No comments were submitted during the public comment period.</p>
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For Replacement Plans using credits from the State Wetland Bank:

Bank Account #	Bank Service Area	County	Credits Approved for Withdrawal (sq. ft. or nearest .01 acre)
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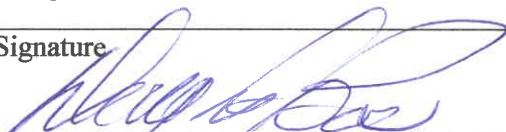
**Replacement Plan Approval Conditions.** In addition to any conditions specified by the LGU, the approval of a Wetland Replacement Plan is conditional upon the following:

- ☐ **Financial Assurance:** For project-specific replacement that is not in-advance, a financial assurance specified by the LGU must be submitted to the LGU in accordance with MN Rule 8420.0522, Subp. 9 (List amount and type in LGU Findings).
- ☐ **Deed Recording:** For project-specific replacement, evidence must be provided to the LGU that the BWSR "Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants" and "Consent to Replacement Wetland" forms have been filed with the county recorder's office in which the replacement wetland is located.
- ☐ **Credit Withdrawal:** For replacement consisting of wetland bank credits, confirmation that BWSR has withdrawn the credits from the state wetland bank as specified in the approved replacement plan.

**Wetlands may not be impacted until all applicable conditions have been met!**

LGU Authorized Signature:

Signing and mailing of this completed form to the appropriate recipients in accordance with 8420.0255, Subp. 5 provides notice that a decision was made by the LGU under the Wetland Conservation Act as specified above. If additional details on the decision exist, they have been provided to the landowner and are available from the LGU upon request.

Name <b>Douglas Bos</b>	Title <b>Asst Director</b>	
Signature 	Date <b>7/9/19</b>	Phone Number and E-mail <b>507-283-8862</b> <b>doug.bos@co.rock.mn.us</b>

**THIS DECISION ONLY APPLIES TO THE MINNESOTA WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT.** Additional approvals or permits from local, state, and federal agencies may be required. Check with all appropriate authorities before commencing work in or near wetlands.

Applicants proceed at their own risk if work authorized by this decision is started before the time period for appeal (30 days) has expired. If this decision is reversed or revised under appeal, the applicant may be responsible for restoring or replacing all wetland impacts.

This decision is valid for three years from the date of decision unless a longer period is advised by the TEP and specified in this notice of decision.

### 3. APPEAL OF THIS DECISION

Pursuant to MN Rule 8420.0905, any appeal of this decision can only be commenced by mailing a petition for appeal, including applicable fee, within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the mailing of this Notice to the following as indicated:

Check one:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal of an LGU staff decision. Send petition and \$_____ fee (if applicable) to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal of LGU governing body decision. Send petition and \$500 filing fee to: Executive Director Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155
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#### 4. LIST OF ADDRESSEES

- ☒ SWCD TEP member: **Mike Walgrave**
  - ☒ BWSR TEP member: **John Hansel**
  - ☐ LGU TEP member (if different than LGU Contact):
  - ☒ DNR TEP member: **Ryan Doornbos**
  - ☐ DNR Regional Office (if different than DNR TEP member)
  - ☐ WD or WMO (if applicable):
  - ☐ Applicant and Landowner (if different)
  - ☐ Members of the public who requested notice:
- 
- ☐ Corps of Engineers Project Manager
  - ☐ BWSR Wetland Bank Coordinator (wetland bank plan decisions only)

#### 5. MAILING INFORMATION

- For a list of BWSR TEP representatives: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/aboutbwsr/workareas/WCA\\_areas.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/aboutbwsr/workareas/WCA_areas.pdf)
- For a list of DNR TEP representatives: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wca/DNR\\_TEP\\_contacts.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wca/DNR_TEP_contacts.pdf)
- Department of Natural Resources Regional Offices:

<b>NW Region:</b> Reg. Env. Assess. Ecol. Div. Ecol. Resources 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE Bemidji, MN 56601	<b>NE Region:</b> Reg. Env. Assess. Ecol. Div. Ecol. Resources 1201 E. Hwy. 2 Grand Rapids, MN 55744	<b>Central Region:</b> Reg. Env. Assess. Ecol. Div. Ecol. Resources 1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106	<b>Southern Region:</b> Reg. Env. Assess. Ecol. Div. Ecol. Resources 261 Hwy. 15 South New Ulm, MN 56073
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For a map of DNR Administrative Regions, see: [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/about\\_dnr/dnr\\_regions.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/about_dnr/dnr_regions.pdf)

- For a list of Corps of Project Managers: [www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory/default.asp?pageid=687](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory/default.asp?pageid=687)  
or send to:

US Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District, ATTN: OP-R  
180 Fifth St. East, Suite 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

- For Wetland Bank Plan applications, also send a copy of the application to:  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Wetland Bank Coordinator  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

#### 6. ATTACHMENTS

In addition to the site locator map, list any other attachments:

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Rock County and Local Government Units**

April 14, 2023



Rock County  
Board of Commissioners  
PO Box 509  
Luverne, MN 56156

RE: Elk Creek Solar in Rock County, Minnesota

To whom it may concern:

Elk Creek Solar, LLC ("Elk Creek"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formally known as Geronimo Energy, received a Certificate of Need and Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") in December 2020 for up to 80 megawatts ("MW") solar energy generation facility ("Project") on 976 acres of land in Rock County, Minnesota. Due to significant delays to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO") interconnection queue review process for the project, Elk Creek was not able to meet its original target commercial operation date of December 31, 2021. MISO has completed its interconnection review process that will allow Elk Creek to interconnect up to 160 MW of power generation. Accordingly, Elk Creek is expanding the Project and will request the PUC allow an expansion of the Project from 80 MW to 160 MW. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the proposed Project and request your input regarding the proposed expansion of the Project.

Elk Creek is proposing to expand the PUC-approved solar array Project area, however the point of interconnection and its associated facilities necessary to interconnect the entire 160 MW to an existing 161-kilovolt substation adjacent to the Project will remain the same. Table 1 provides the sections of land within the original 80 MW Elk Creek Project boundary.

**Table 1: Sections within the Elk Creek original 80 MW Project Boundary**

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35

Table 2 provides the sections of land being added to the Project to construct an up to 160 MW Project. Elk Creek is adding approximately 500 acres of land to the Project.

**Table 2: Sections added to the Project and to construct an up to 160 MW Project**

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35
MN	Rock	Magnolia	102	44	03

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of Elk Creek's location, the PUC-approved Project Boundary and the additional land proposed to be added for the Project.

Elk Creek will seek PUC approval from the expansion in 2023 and anticipates construction beginning as early as Q2 2024 with intended completion by the end of 2025.

Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 937-554-4504 or at [mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com).

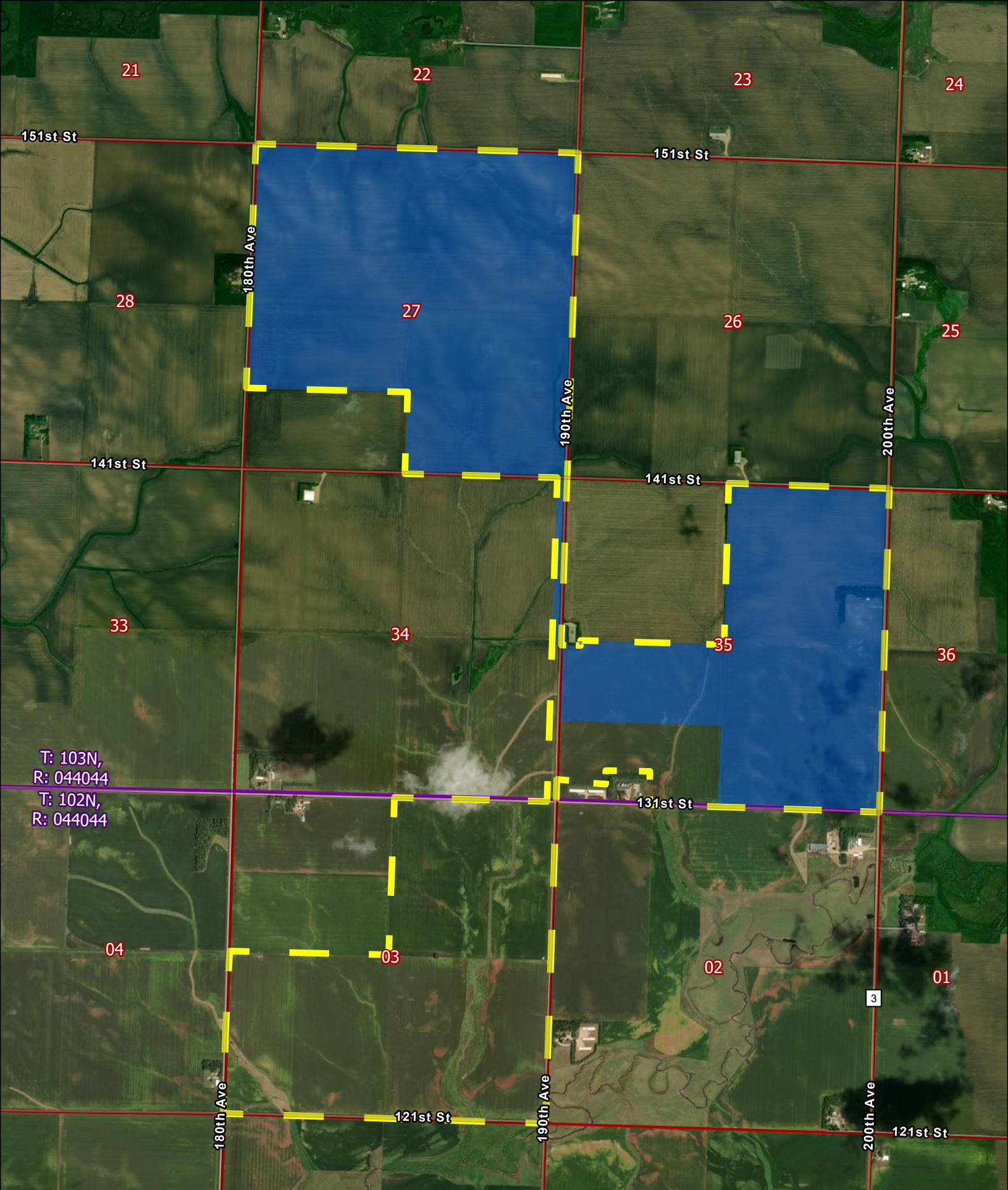
Sincerely,







Marc Morandi  
Senior Permitting Specialist  
National Grid Renewables  
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:  
Updated Elk Creek Location Map





# Elk Creek Solar

-  Sections
-  Townships
-  Original Permitted Boundary - 80MW
-  Revised Project Boundary - 160MW



# **ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Gary Overgaard, District 1  
Stan Williamson, District 2  
Greg Burger, District 3  
Sherri Thompson, District 4  
Jody Reisch, District 5



21 March 2023

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Pl E #350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Letter of Support for the Elk Creek Solar Projects in Rock County

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Rock County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our support for the 160 megawatt (MW) Elk Creek Solar Project, which is currently being developed by National Grid Renewables in Rock County, Minnesota. We believe the Elk Creek Solar Project represents cost effective renewable energy generation, and we look forward to the project adding economic development to our region.

We believe this project will bring significant economic development and will have a long-term financial benefit to the area. Once constructed, the Elk Creek Solar will provide a boost in the local economy through production tax payments to Rock County and the local Township, also to the local school districts through the proposed Education Fund. We also anticipate there will be full-time local jobs created to support the development.

Overall, we are excited about the economic benefits of the Elk Creek Solar Project, as well as the beneficial community impact the project will have while providing clean renewable energy.

Respectfully,

Sherri Thompson, Chair  
Rock County Board of Commissioners

# ROCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PO Box 509  
Luverne, MN 56156  
507-283-5065

March 20, 2023

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Pl E #350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Letter of Support for the Elk Creek Solar Projects in Rock County

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Rock County Economic Development Authority, I am writing to express our support for the 160 megawatt (MW) Elk Creek Solar Project, which is currently being developed by National Grid Renewables in Rock County, Minnesota. We believe the Elk Creek Solar Project represents cost effective renewable energy generation, and we look forward to the project adding economic development to our region.

We believe this project will bring significant economic development and will have a long-term financial benefit to the area. Once constructed, the Elk Creek Solar will provide a boost in the local economy through production tax payments to Rock County and the local Township, also to the local school districts through the proposed Education Fund. We also anticipate there will be full-time local jobs created to support the development.

Overall, we are excited about the economic benefits of the Elk Creek Solar Project, as well as the beneficial community impact the project will have while providing clean renewable energy.

Respectfully,



Kyle Oldre,

Rock County Economic Development Authority

**From:** [Marc Morandi](#)  
**To:** [Kyle Oldre](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Elk Creek Solar  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:57:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[NG Renewables Logo Primary RGB\\_small\\_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)  
[LinkedInIcon\\_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)  
[TwitterIcon\\_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)  
[WebIcon\\_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

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Hi Kyle,

Sorry for the delayed response. The current number that I have for total investment on this project would be around \$275 million. I will also note that I'll be sending an updated notification letter sometime around 5/5 with a slightly different project boundary (about 3 additional acres near the substation) than was shown in the letter that I sent last Friday due to some design constraints. I'll be out of the office next week and through 5/2, but please let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks,  
Marc



952.988.9000



**Marc Morandi**  
Sr Permitting Specialist

**P**

**M** 937.554.4504

---

**From:** Kyle Oldre <Kyle.oldre@co.rock.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 5:31 PM  
**To:** Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: Elk Creek Solar

Thanks for the update, could you give me a ball park on what the total investment in this project will be?  
Thanks, Kyle Oldre Rock County Administrator

---

**From:** Marc Morandi [<mailto:mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:08 PM  
**To:** Kyle Oldre  
**Subject:** Elk Creek Solar

**ROCK COUNTY SECURITY NOTICE:**

This email originated from an external sender. Exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments and consider whether you know the sender. For more information please contact support.

Hi Kyle,

I am writing to provide you with an update on our Elk Creek Solar facility. As explained in the attached

letter, we will be moving forward with permitting the project at 160 MW through the MN PUC. You likely previously worked with Melissa Schmit on the executed Elk Creek Development Agreement with Rock County; I will be the Elk Creek point of contact going forward and will plan to coordinate with you on updating the Development Plan as we get closer to construction. Looking forward to working with you, and if you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,  
Marc



952.988.9000



**Marc Morandi**

Sr Permitting Specialist

**P**

**M** 937.554.4504

**E** [mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com)

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

April 14, 2023



Rock County  
Land Management Office  
Attn: Planning & Zoning  
311 West Gabrielson Road  
Luverne, MN 56156

RE: Elk Creek Solar in Rock County, Minnesota

To whom it may concern:

Elk Creek Solar, LLC ("Elk Creek"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formally known as Geronimo Energy, received a Certificate of Need and Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") in December 2020 for up to 80 megawatts ("MW") solar energy generation facility ("Project") on 976 acres of land in Rock County, Minnesota. Due to significant delays to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO") interconnection queue review process for the project, Elk Creek was not able to meet its original target commercial operation date of December 31, 2021. MISO has completed its interconnection review process that will allow Elk Creek to interconnect up to 160 MW of power generation. Accordingly, Elk Creek is expanding the Project and will request the PUC allow an expansion of the Project from 80 MW to 160 MW. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the proposed Project and request your input regarding the proposed expansion of the Project.

Elk Creek is proposing to expand the PUC-approved solar array Project area, however the point of interconnection and its associated facilities necessary to interconnect the entire 160 MW to an existing 161-kilovolt substation adjacent to the Project will remain the same. Table 1 provides the sections of land within the original 80 MW Elk Creek Project boundary.

**Table 1: Sections within the Elk Creek original 80 MW Project Boundary**

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35

Table 2 provides the sections of land being added to the Project to construct an up to 160 MW Project. Elk Creek is adding approximately 500 acres of land to the Project.



Table 2: Sections added to the Project and to construct an up to 160 MW Project

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35
MN	Rock	Magnolia	102	44	03

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of Elk Creek's location, the PUC-approved Project Boundary and the additional land proposed to be added for the Project.

Elk Creek will seek PUC approval from the expansion in 2023 and anticipates construction beginning as early as Q2 2024 with intended completion by the end of 2025.

Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

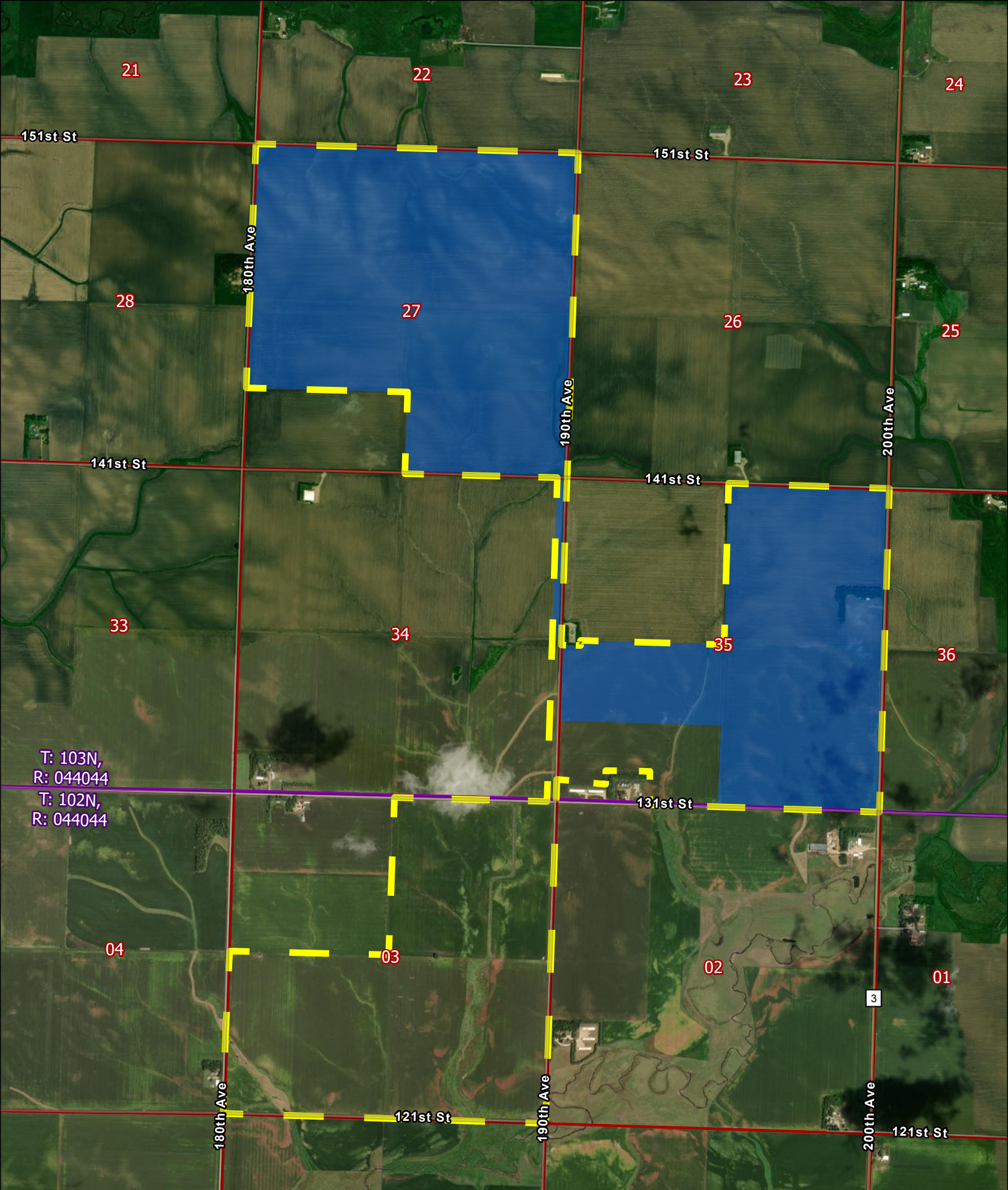
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 937-554-4504 or at [mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com).

Sincerely,



Marc Morandi  
Senior Permitting Specialist  
National Grid Renewables  
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:  
Updated Elk Creek Location Map



# Elk Creek Solar

Sections

Townships

Original Permitted Boundary - 80MW

Revised Project Boundary - 160MW



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305 East Luverne Street, PO Box 659 • Luverne, MN 56156 • P 507.449.2388 • F 507.449.5034 • [www.CityOfLuverne.org](http://www.CityOfLuverne.org)

April 18, 2023

Elk Creek Solar  
Geronimo Wind Energy  
7650 Edinborough Way, Ste 7825  
Edina, MN 55435

To Whom it may Concern:

The City of Luverne would like to express our support for the Elk Creek Solar Project that is proposed to be developed in Rock County, MN. Developing renewable energy and boosting local economies are important factors that contribute to the overall economic well-being in our region.

Creating jobs and improving the tax base in the county are critical components of economic development, and we are pleased to learn about the opportunities that Geronimo Energy is bringing to Rock County.

We look forward to this project moving forward and are excited about its many possibilities. If we may be of any other assistance, please contact us at 507-449-2388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Baustian".

Patrick T. Baustian  
Mayor  
City of Luverne

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Wolf".

Jill Wolf  
City Administrator  
City of Luverne



**From:** [Eric Hartman](#)  
**To:** [Monika Davis](#)  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: RE: Request for Zoning Information and Renewable Energy Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:42:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Renewable Energy Ordinance As Amended 06.29.2020.docx](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Monika:

I have attached a copy of the Ordinance on Renewable Energy.

Sections 1-16, 21-28, and 33-36 of Vienna Township are predominantly zoned as A-2, General Agriculture, with overlay districts of Floodplain and Shoreland. Section 17-20 and 29-32 are A-1, Limited Agriculture. The west half of Section 1 and the east half of section 2 contains the City of Kenneth with their own zoning controls.

As far as Magnolia Township is concerned, A-2, General Agriculture is the predominant zoning, again with overlay districts of Floodplain and Shoreland. The I-90 corridor is A-1, Limited Ag, and contains those areas ¼ mile on either side of the centerline of I-90. The City of Magnolia is in a small portion of the SW ¼ of Section 12, but encompasses the entire SE ¼ of Section 11, NW ¼ of Section 13, and the NE ¼ of Section 14. West of Magnolia, on the south side of County Highway 4, includes a couple tracts of General Industry under the County Zoning controls.

If you have some specific tracts in mind, I can provide some maps of those tracts with the applicable zoning. I will also check with my GIS technician and see if he does have the entire county zoning map in an electronic format.

If there is anything else I can provide, please ask.

Eric Hartman  
Rock County

---

**From:** Monika Davis [mailto:[monika.davis@merjent.com](mailto:monika.davis@merjent.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:** Eric Hartman  
**Subject:** Request for Zoning Information and Renewable Energy Ordinance

**ROCK COUNTY SECURITY NOTICE :**

**This email originated from an external sender. Exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments and consider whether you know the sender. For more information please contact support.**

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Hi, Eric.

Thanks again for taking my call earlier today. As I explained on the phone, I'm looking for a current copy of Rock County's Renewable Energy Ordinance and for zoning information in the following areas:

- Township 103 North, Range 44 West, in Vienna Township
- Township 102 North, Range 44 West, in Magnolia Township

Thanks so much for your help. Have a pleasant afternoon!

Monika

**Monika H. Davis**

612.924.3988 direct

612.600.8010 mobile

monika.davis@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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May 10, 2023



Tom Skattum  
Chairman  
Magnolia Township  
1686 101st St  
Luverne, MN 56156

RE: Elk Creek Solar in Rock County, Minnesota

To whom it may concern:

Elk Creek Solar, LLC ("Elk Creek"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formally known as Geronimo Energy, received a Certificate of Need and Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") in December 2020 for up to 80 megawatts ("MW") solar energy generation facility ("Project") on 976 acres of land in Rock County, Minnesota. Due to significant delays to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO") interconnection queue review process for the project, Elk Creek was not able to meet its original target commercial operation date of December 31, 2021. MISO has completed its interconnection review process that will allow Elk Creek to interconnect up to 160 MW of power generation. Accordingly, Elk Creek is expanding the Project and will request the PUC allow an expansion of the Project from 80 MW to 160 MW. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the proposed Project and request your input regarding the proposed expansion of the Project.

Elk Creek is proposing to expand the PUC-approved solar array Project area, however the point of interconnection and its associated facilities necessary to interconnect the entire 160 MW to an existing 161-kilovolt substation adjacent to the Project will remain the same. Table 1 provides the sections of land within the original 80 MW Elk Creek Project boundary.

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State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35

Table 2 provides the sections of land being added to the Project to construct an up to 160 MW Project. Elk Creek is adding approximately 500 acres of land to the Project.



**Table 2: Sections added to the Project and to construct an up to 160 MW Project**

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35
MN	Rock	Magnolia	102	44	03

In 2020, Magnolia and Vienna Townships executed Resolutions that approved the Rock County Engineer to act on its behalf and negotiate/execute a final Development Agreement with Elk Creek Solar, and to make the final determination that the provisions of the agreement have been met. Elk Creek executed a Development Agreement with Rock County in September 2021 for the 80 MW project. As we work with Rock County to update the agreement to reflect the 160 MW project, we will seek an updated Resolution as well.

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of Elk Creek's location, the PUC-approved Project Boundary and the additional land proposed to be added for the Project.

Elk Creek will seek PUC approval from the expansion in 2023 and anticipates construction beginning as early as Q2 2024 with intended completion by the end of 2025.

Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

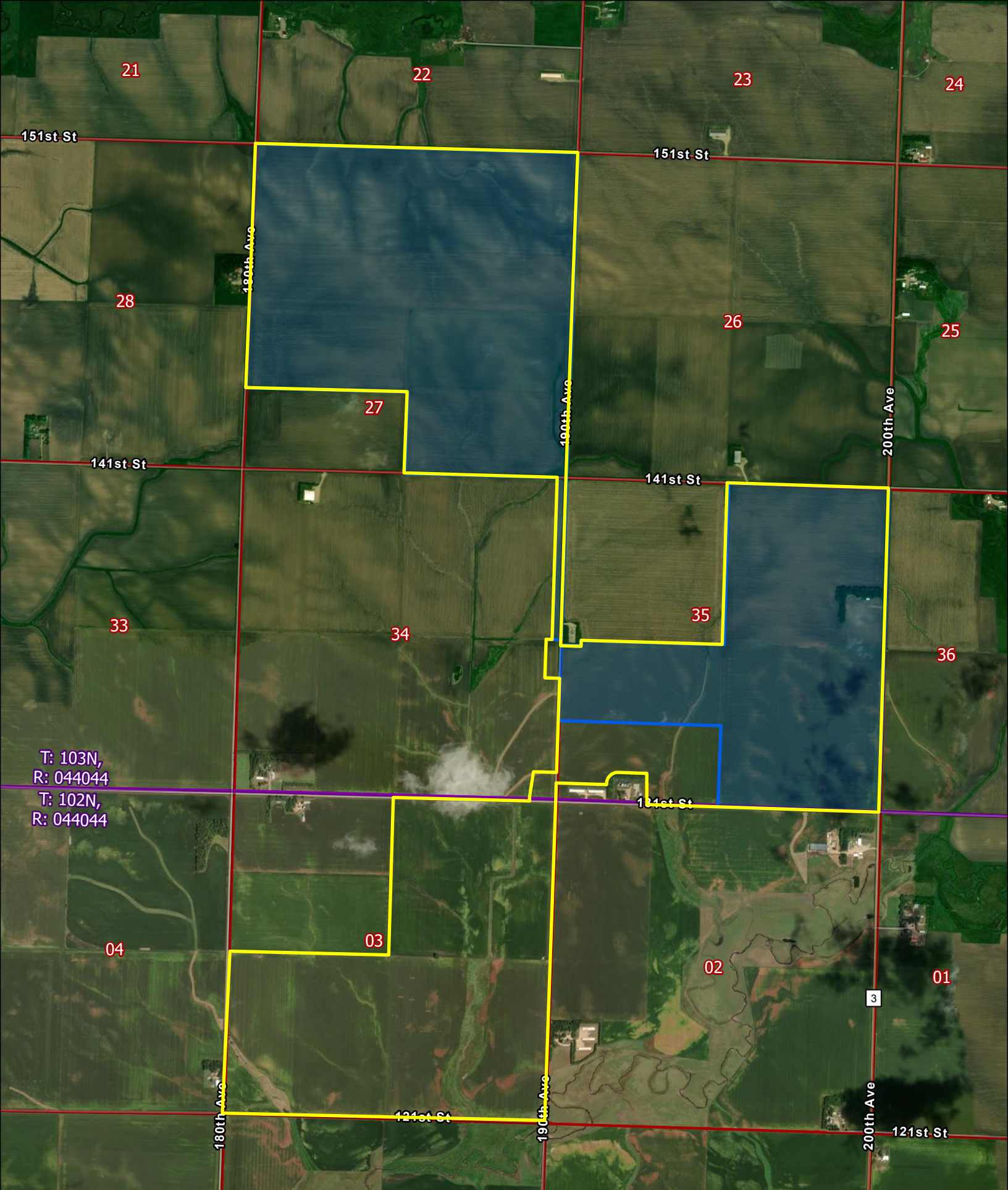
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 937-554-4504 or at [mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com).

Sincerely,



Marc Morandi  
Senior Permitting Specialist  
National Grid Renewables  
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:  
Updated Elk Creek Location Map



# Elk Creek Solar

- Sections
- Townships
- Revised Project Boundary - 160 MW
- Original Permitting Boundary - 80MW

May 10, 2023



Kraig Rust  
Chairman  
Vienna Township  
2005 151st St  
Kenneth, MN 56147

RE: Elk Creek Solar in Rock County, Minnesota

To whom it may concern:

Elk Creek Solar, LLC ("Elk Creek"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formally known as Geronimo Energy, received a Certificate of Need and Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") in December 2020 for up to 80 megawatts ("MW") solar energy generation facility ("Project") on 976 acres of land in Rock County, Minnesota. Due to significant delays to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO") interconnection review process for the project, Elk Creek was not able to meet its original target commercial operation date of December 31, 2021. MISO has completed its interconnection review process that will allow Elk Creek to interconnect up to 160 MW of power generation. Accordingly, Elk Creek is expanding the Project and will request the PUC allow an expansion of the Project from 80 MW to 160 MW. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the proposed Project and request your input regarding the proposed expansion of the Project.

Elk Creek is proposing to expand the PUC-approved solar array Project area, however the point of interconnection and its associated facilities necessary to interconnect the entire 160 MW to an existing 161-kilovolt substation adjacent to the Project will remain the same. Table 1 provides the sections of land within the original 80 MW Elk Creek Project boundary.

**Table 1: Sections within the Elk Creek original 80 MW Project Boundary**

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35

Table 2 provides the sections of land being added to the Project to construct an up to 160 MW Project. Elk Creek is adding approximately 500 acres of land to the Project.



**Table 2: Sections added to the Project and to construct an up to 160 MW Project**

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Rock	Vienna	103	44	27, 34, 35
MN	Rock	Magnolia	102	44	03

In 2020, Magnolia and Vienna Townships executed Resolutions that approved the Rock County Engineer to act on its behalf and negotiate/execute a final Development Agreement with Elk Creek Solar, and to make the final determination that the provisions of the agreement have been met. Elk Creek executed a Development Agreement with Rock County in September 2021 for the 80 MW project. As we work with Rock County to update the agreement to reflect the 160 MW project, we will seek an updated Resolution from the Townships as well.

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of Elk Creek's location, the PUC-approved Project Boundary and the additional land proposed to be added for the Project.

Elk Creek will seek PUC approval from the expansion in 2023 and anticipates construction beginning as early as Q2 2024 with intended completion by the end of 2025.

Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

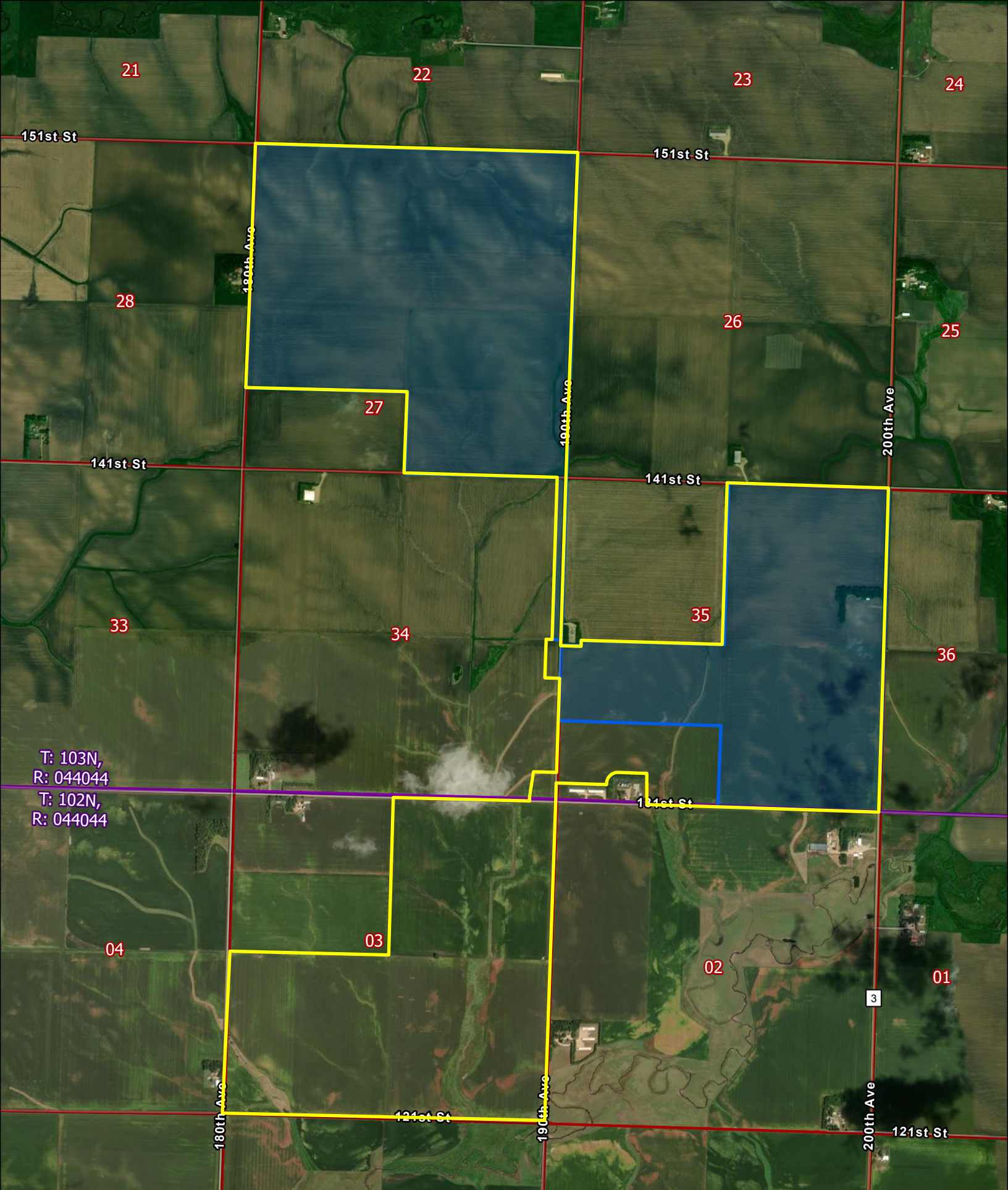
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Sincerely,



Marc Morandi  
Senior Permitting Specialist  
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8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:  
Updated Elk Creek Location Map



# Elk Creek Solar

- Sections
- Townships
- Revised Project Boundary - 160 MW
- Original Permitting Boundary - 80MW

## **Appendix C**

### **Site Plan**



# Elk Creek Solar

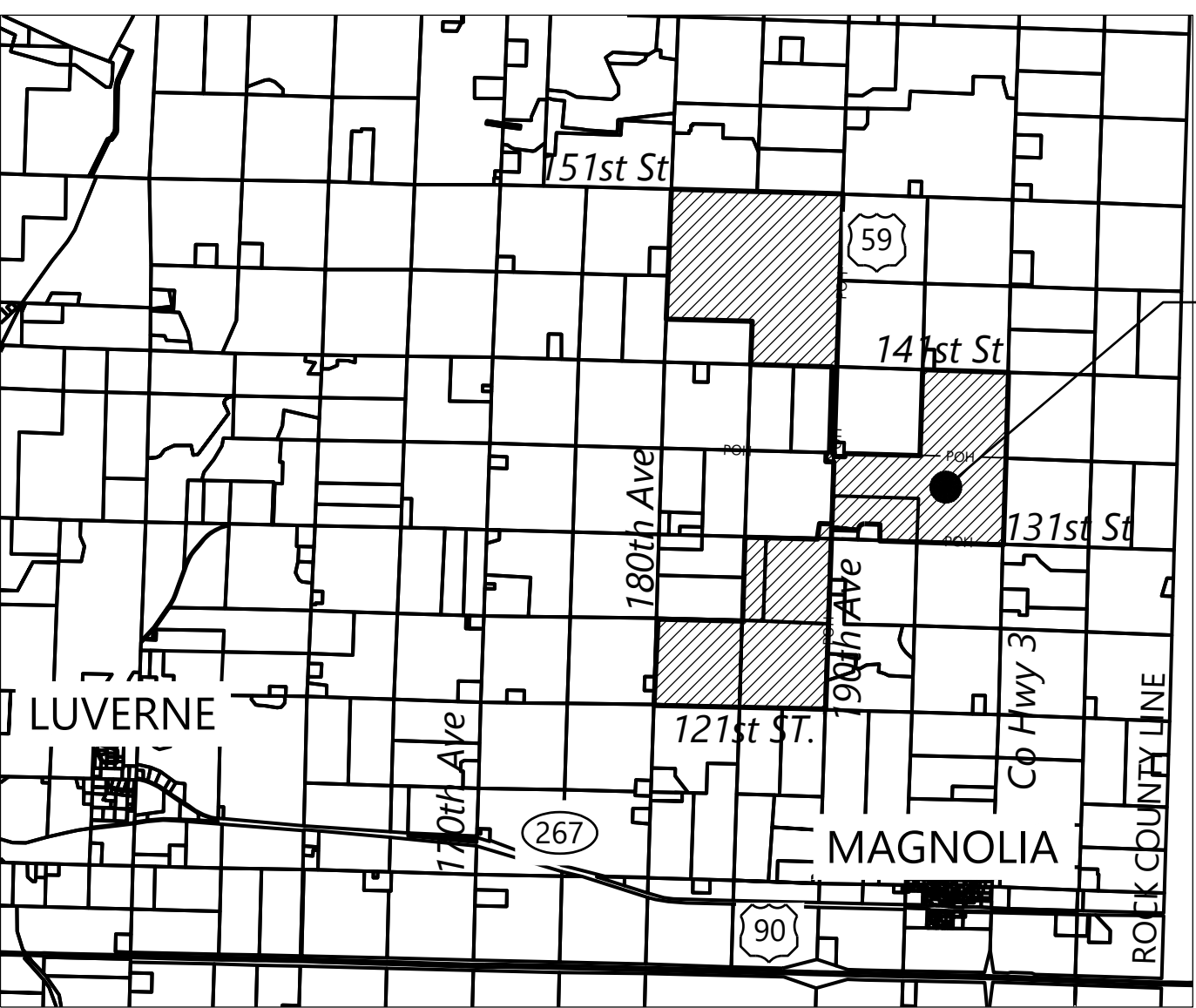
## Rock County, MN

# Permit Plans

REGIONAL MAP



VICINITY MAP



SITE

Sheet List Table	
Sheet Number	Sheet Title
C.100	Cover Sheet
C.200	Overall Site Plan
C.300	Existing Conditions - 1
C.301	Existing Conditions - 2
C.302	Existing Conditions - 3
C.303	Existing Conditions - 4
C.400	Overall Parcel Map
C.401	Site Plan - 1
C.402	Site Plan - 2
C.403	Site Plan - 3
C.404	Site Plan - 4
C.405	Site Plan - 5
C.406	Site Plan - 6
C.407	Site Plan - 7
C.408	Site Plan - 8
C.409	Site Plan - 9
C.410	Site Plan - 10
C.411	Site Plan - 11
C.412	Site Plan - 12
C.413	Site Plan - 13
C.414	Site Plan - 14
C.415	Site Plan - 15
C.416	Site Plan - 16
C.417	Site Plan - 17
C.418	Site Plan - 18
C.419	Site Plan - 19
C.420	Site Plan - 20
C.421	Site Plan - 21
C.422	Site Plan - 22
C.423	Site Plan - 23
C.424	Site Plan - 24
C.425	Site Plan - 25
C.426	Site Plan - 26
C.500	Grading and Drainage Plan - 1
C.501	Grading and Drainage Plan - 2
C.502	Grading and Drainage Plan - 3
C.503	Grading and Drainage Plan - 4
C.504	Grading and Drainage Plan - 5
C.505	Grading and Drainage Plan - 6
C.506	Grading and Drainage Plan - 7
C.507	Grading and Drainage Plan - 8
C.508	Grading and Drainage Plan - 9
C.509	Grading and Drainage Plan - 10
C.510	Grading and Drainage Plan - 11
C.511	Grading and Drainage Plan - 12
C.512	Grading and Drainage Plan - 13
C.513	Grading and Drainage Plan - 14
C.514	Grading and Drainage Plan - 15
C.515	Grading and Drainage Plan - 16
C.516	Grading and Drainage Plan - 17
C.517	Grading and Drainage Plan - 18
C.518	Grading and Drainage Plan - 19
C.519	Grading and Drainage Plan - 20
C.520	Grading and Drainage Plan - 21
C.521	Grading and Drainage Plan - 22
C.522	Grading and Drainage Plan - 23
C.523	Grading and Drainage Plan - 24
C.524	Grading and Drainage Plan - 25
C.525	Grading and Drainage Plan - 26
C.600	Road and Fence construction Details
C.601	Grading and Drainage Construction Details
C.602	Erosion & Sediment Control Details

CONTACT INFORMATION			
TITLE	COMPANY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
OWNER	NATIONAL GRID RENEWABLES	JOHN STROM	(952) 300-9483
CIVIL ENGINEER	WESTWOOD	BRETT VANDERWIEL	(952) 906-7431
CIVIL ENGINEERING MANAGER	WESTWOOD	AUGUST CHRISTENSEN	(952) 906-7430
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	WESTWOOD	DOUG MUTCHER	(952) 697-5709
ELECTRICAL PROJECT MANAGER	WESTWOOD	BRIAN CARROLL	(952) 937-5150

DATA SET INFORMATION			
Coordinate System	NAD83 (2011) Minnesota State Plane Coordinate System, South Zone (US Feet)		
BASE FILE	FILE NAME / NOTES	PROVIDER	DATE
AERIAL IMAGE	0015992.00V-AERIAL	Westwood	12/7/2020
LAND CONTROL	2023-04-04 Elk Creek - Layout.kmz	Westwood	4/20/2023
ALTA SURVEY - NORTH	015992.00V-SURV.dwg	Westwood	3/30/2021
ALTA SURVEY - SOUTH		Westwood	TBD
TOPOGRAPHY	015992.00V-DTM.dwg	Westwood	12/7/2020
ARRAY LAYOUT	015992.00E-EQUIP.dwg	Westwood	4/20/2023
ELECTRICAL COLLECTION DESIGN	015992.00E-WIRE.dwg	Westwood	4/20/2023
GEN-TIE	*	*	*
FEMA INFO	*	*	*
STREAMS/WETLANDS - NORTH	Elk_Creek_Phase_1_Delineated_Wetlands_20190510.shp	National Grid	5/10/2019
STREAMS/WETLANDS - SOUTH			TBD
CULTURAL RESOURCES	*	*	*
BIOLOGICAL	*	*	*
HYDROLOGY REPORT	2019-03-29 Elk Creek Preliminary Hydrology Study Report	Westwood	3/29/2019
GEOTECHNICAL REPORT	Elk Creek Solar-Terracon Project No. MP215082 (FINAL).pdf	Terracon	8/25/2021

**Westwood**

Phone (952) 937-5150 12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite #300  
Fax (952) 937-5822 Minnetonka, MN 55343  
TollFree (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com  
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.

PREPARED FOR:



8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200  
Bloomington, MN 55347

REVISIONS:				
#	DATE	COMMENT	BY	CHK
A	05/01/2023	Permit Plans	MB	BV

## Elk Creek Solar Project

Rock County, MN

Cover Sheet

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DATE: 05/01/2023

SHEET: C.100

REV:

A