

Oral Public Meeting Comments Received on the
Scope of the Environmental Assessment for the
Plummer Solar Project
Docket No. GS-22-451

Public Meetings

1. May 29, 2024 –Plummer, Minn., 6:00 p.m.
2. May 30, 2024 – Virtual, On-Line Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Solar
(Plummer), LLC for a Site Permit for the up to
130 MW Plummer Solar Project in Red Lake County, MN

PUC Docket Number: IP7103/GS-22-451

Sam Lobby, MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Jessica Livingston, MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Heather Riome, ENBRIDGE SOLAR, LLC

Date: May 29, 2024
Time: 6:00 o'clock p.m.
Place: City Hall
Plummer, Minnesota

REPORTER: Lorna D. Jacobson
Court Reporter
on Behalf of Shaddix & Associates

1 SAM LOBBY: Good evening, everybody.
2 Hello. Good evening, folks. We're at 6:02, so
3 we'll go ahead and we will get the meeting started.

4 Thank you very much for everyone coming
5 out tonight. We appreciate you being here.

6 I explained to a few folks at the door,
7 we really appreciate you coming and letting us know
8 your comments.

9 The folks on the ground, the local folks
10 know the area better than anybody else. So, your
11 comments and your input really makes a big
12 difference in terms of the Commission's
13 decisionmaking.

14 So, just a little -- before I get into
15 the slides, a little bit of history on these
16 meetings in the Public Utilities commission.

17 Many years ago -- decades ago, there
18 wasn't an opportunity for the public to make
19 comments on projects like this. So, this is put in
20 place to make sure that members of the public in the
21 area where the project is going to happen have an
22 opportunity to ask questions, to make comments to
23 help us guide how we're going to do the project or
24 how the project is permitted, and that sort of
25 thing. So, we really appreciate you coming tonight.

1 Thank you very much for taking your time.

2 So, here tonight, I'm going to be talking
3 about this is a public information and environmental
4 assessment scoping meeting. So, what that means is
5 some of it is going to be information about the
6 project, and then some of it is going to be about
7 the environmental assessment scoping piece.

8 And I won't dig too much into that. If
9 you're not familiar with what that means, Jessica,
10 with the Department of Commerce, will go over all of
11 that and make sure you understand everything and
12 that that's clear.

13 So, we're here tonight to talk about the
14 Plummer Solar Project. If you look on anything
15 online through the Public Utilities Commission
16 website, there's information about how to get there
17 in the notice that's on the table over there. And
18 some of you have may have gotten it in the mail.

19 So, if you go on the PUC website, the
20 main number you're going to be referring to is
21 22-451. So that's the number that represents the
22 project.

23 All right. So, the agenda for tonight,
24 we're just going to do introductions here. So,
25 we're going to have myself, with the Public

1 Utilities Commission. I'm going to talk about the
2 permit application review process.

3 My name is Sam Lobby. If you see in the
4 meeting notice you can see my name in there and my
5 contact information. I also have cards, if anybody
6 needs those.

7 And then the description of the actual
8 project, itself, is going to be coming from Enbridge
9 Solar, from Heather over here.

10 And then lastly, the environmental review
11 requirements is going to be coming from the
12 Department of Commerce, with Jessica right here.
13 And once we have gone through our slides here -- it
14 shouldn't take too long -- then there will be an
15 opportunity for the public to make comments or ask
16 questions.

17 So, I won't get too detailed on what the
18 project is, because Heather is going to be covering
19 that. But, the proposed project is going to be a
20 130-megawatt solar energy generating system.

21 The project would be located on
22 approximately 855 acres in Emardville Township, in
23 Red Lake County, Minnesota. And the project would
24 connect to the electrical grid at the existing
25 115-kilovolt transmission line immediately adjacent

1 to the project site.

2 The project is defined by law as a large
3 electric power generating plant. That means there
4 are certain statutes and rules that apply to these
5 types of projects.

6 So, one of the requirements is that
7 before the project can be constructed, the Public
8 Utilities Commission, which is who I represent, they
9 must issue a site permit, because the solar facility
10 is greater than 50 megawatts.

11 The associated transmission line is less
12 than 1500 feet in length. So, a route permit
13 associated with the transmission line is not
14 required. So, the only permit will be the site
15 permit.

16 Sometimes there will be a long
17 transmission line that has to go miles and miles to
18 connect somewhere. That's not a factor in this
19 situation. Solar projects of this size are exempt
20 from Certificate of Need requirements, due to recent
21 legislation.

22 In the past, there was a permit called
23 the "Certificate of Need." And the legislature has
24 removed those requirements. So, the site permit is
25 the main focus.

1 Some of the permit considerations in
2 making a decision if a site permit will be granted
3 or not, the Commission generally considers the
4 following: The potential of human and environmental
5 impacts of the project. For example, noise,
6 aesthetics, public health and safety, land use
7 conflicts, cultural and historic resources, air and
8 water quality and plants and wildlife. There might
9 be other examples of other things, too. So, if
10 there are other things that you're concerned about,
11 those are the kinds of things that we want to hear
12 about tonight.

13 Another thing that will be considered by
14 the Commission is whether there are suitable ways to
15 minimize, mitigate or avoid identified impacts.

16 So, Jessica is going to talk about some
17 of that and how you can participate in that part of
18 the process.

19 So, this is just to give you an idea of
20 the process of how long it's going to take. It's
21 going through what's called the "Alternative Review
22 Process."

23 So, at the beginning of April, the
24 applicant, Enbridge Solar, submitted their
25 application. So, that was April 2nd. There was an

1 opportunity for commenting on application
2 completeness; just pretty basic: Does the
3 application contain what it needs to move forward to
4 the next step.

5 So, since it was deemed complete, we are
6 now here at the public information and scoping
7 meetings and comment period. So, that's tonight.
8 We have this meeting here, obviously. And there
9 will be a second meeting tomorrow online, via WebEx.
10 So, you're more than welcome to come again; it will
11 be the same information presented. But if you think
12 of something tonight and you want to talk about it,
13 you're more than welcome to come tomorrow.

14 I also think I talked with a few of you
15 folks up front. But, just to make sure that
16 everyone knows, there are plenty of opportunities to
17 comment, whether it's tonight or tomorrow. There's
18 the written comment forms you can turn in. This
19 comment period for this part of the process goes
20 until June 13th. But there will be a bunch of other
21 comment periods. And you're always welcome to reach
22 out to myself or Jessica.

23 So, right now we're at the public
24 information and scoping meetings. The Commission
25 will consider if there's any alternatives, if

1 there's a different type of project that some can
2 potentially give different ideas of how the project
3 could done. Also, in quarter three of 2024, the
4 next three months or so, the scope of the
5 environmental assessment will be determined. And
6 so, Jessica will explain more of that. But just so
7 you're clear on what that means today, this meeting
8 is to help us to direct where -- what we're going
9 to study in the environmental assessment. And then
10 based on your public comments, the Commission will
11 determine the scope of it and what we'll actually be
12 studying. So, we really appreciate you coming to
13 help us with that piece.

14 The EA will be issued in the fourth
15 quarter of this year. Also, in the fourth quarter
16 will be a public hearing. So, another one of these.
17 We'll come right back here and meet with folks and
18 talk with you about what we actually found in the
19 environmental assessment.

20 There will, at that public hearing, there
21 will be an administrative law judge from the Office
22 of Administrative Hearings. So, the judge will come
23 and they will run the meeting and they will have a
24 report where they look at all legal factors and
25 whether or not it works, or if there's things that

1 need to be changed. And that will be issued in
2 quarter one of 2025.

3 Once that report comes out, the applicant
4 and the Department of Commerce, and anyone else have
5 opportunities to provide what are called "exceptions
6 to that report." So, if there are things in that
7 report that you disagree with or that you think
8 could be stated in a different way, or even just
9 technical corrections, things like that, you'll have
10 that opportunity. And then in quarter one or two of
11 2025 is when the final decision will be made.

12 So, there's still quite a long ways in
13 this process, and there's lots of opportunity for
14 you to comment. And as I mentioned, Jessica and
15 myself, even if it's outside of the comment period,
16 if you ever have questions or anything, you're
17 always more than welcome to call us.

18 So, all these slides are in the
19 presentation slide deck that was up front that I
20 handed out to folks, if you want it. This just
21 gives you a little bit more information explicitly
22 on how to comment, who to comment to, when the
23 comment period is over, what to focus your comments
24 on, things like that.

25 So, this is in the printed version over

1 there. So, if you have questions about that, you
2 can find it in there.

3 And with that, I will bring Heather up to
4 talk about the project. She is with the company.

5 HEATHER RIOME: All right. First off,
6 I'd thought I'd just reintroduce myself. I'm
7 Heather Riome. I'm with Enbridge, and I'm the
8 project manager for the promotion of the project.
9 In other words, I lead a great team of people in
10 advancing the development of the project. And our
11 Enbridge staff is kind of along this side over here.
12 So, when it comes time for Q and A, you'll be happy
13 to reach out to any of the folks from Enbridge.

14 But first off, I thought I'd give you an
15 overview of the Enbridge involvement in renewable
16 energy.

17 Since our first involvement in a wind
18 farm -- or investments in a wind farm in 2002, we've
19 invested over seven billion dollars in renewable
20 energy projects that has the capacity to generate
21 more than 5200 megawatts of zero emission
22 electricity. This includes 23 wind projects,
23 14 solar projects and a geothermal project. And
24 that includes both projects that are operating and
25 under construction.

1 At Enbridge, we're bridging to a cleaner
2 energy future. And every part of our business is
3 engaged in our emissions reductions targets. This
4 is a goal of net zero of greenhouse gas emissions
5 by 2050; and we have an interim goal to reduce our
6 emissions intensity by 35% by 2030.

7 Taking a look specifically at our
8 involvement in the solar sector, Enbridge is
9 developing a utilities project near Plummer of
10 130 megawatts. Meanwhile, we're also developing two
11 utilities scale projects in Texas, with a combined
12 capacity of 530 megawatts.

13 We recently also partnered with EDF for
14 electricity on the Fox Squirrel Solar project in
15 Texas -- or in Ohio, which is 150 megawatts; and
16 it's under construction. And we've put six solar
17 sub-powered projects in operation across various
18 liquid pipelines, pump stations and gas compressor
19 stations.

20 Our first solar project was an investment
21 in the Sarnia Solar Project in Ontario, Canada, in
22 2008.

23 Moving on to an overview of the project,
24 itself. Like I said, the Plummer Solar Project will
25 have the capacity of up to 130 megawatts. It's

1 sited on a combination of owned and leased land
2 totalling over 800 acres.

3 The land is currently used for
4 agricultural purposes. And the site is directly
5 adjacent to an existing 115 kilovolt transmission
6 line.

7 You can see it on the map there, in the
8 bright green running north-south. And that
9 transmission line does have sufficient capacity to
10 accommodate the project, based on our initial
11 assessment. Of course, we'll move through the
12 interconnection studies with the grid operator to
13 make the final determination on that. But that's
14 the initial assessment.

15 Therefore, because the transmission line
16 is immediately adjacent to the site, no additional
17 right-of-way is needed for interconnecting to the
18 transmission line.

19 And we did submit that interconnection
20 application to the electrical grid operator, which
21 is the Mid-Continent Independent System Operator,
22 which is known as MISO, for short; M-I-S-O. We
23 submitted that application in September of 2022.
24 And the project is currently in Phase I of that MISO
25 study process.

1 Construction is still years away, but our
2 intention is to use union labor to construct the
3 project.

4 To orient you to the project site, it is
5 southeast of the City of Plummer. So, the City of
6 Plummer is just sort of to the northwest, relative
7 to the image on the screen. And it's east of the
8 existing Enbridge pump station. You can kind of see
9 the Enbridge pump station area in gray on the
10 left-hand side of the image. And you can see in the
11 image, as well, where we set back the solar rays
12 from the pipeline right-of-way that passes through
13 from the northwest to the southeast. You can sort
14 of see a swath where we are emitting the solar rays.

15 In terms of relation to local roadways,
16 the County State Aid Highway 1 runs along the
17 northern portion of the project, and 230th Ave.
18 Southeast runs through the eastern portion of the
19 project. And then the southern boundary is
20 partially bordered by 190th Street Southeast.

21 The map on this slide gives a little bit
22 better overview in terms of where the project sits
23 relative to the City of Plummer. So, you can see
24 the project site outlined in yellow, and the City of
25 Plummer outlined just to the northwest there.

1 Moving on to our target schedule for the
2 project, the timeline to develop and construct a
3 utilities scale project are lengthy. The MISO
4 interconnection application, like I said, was
5 submitted in September of 2022 and the latest target
6 schedule, at least by the MISO, suggest an
7 interconnection agreement could be signed as early
8 as July of 2025. But the MISO controls that
9 timeline, and there have been some delays in their
10 schedule already; and we anticipate there may be
11 more. So, there's certainly a potential for the
12 schedule to shift outwards somewhat.

13 Meanwhile, we're going through the
14 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission permit
15 application. Like Sam said, we submitted on
16 April 2nd of this year, and we expect that that
17 process -- he outlined it -- sort of on the order of
18 twelve to eighteen months.

19 So, at Enbridge, we'll begin the
20 procurement process in 2025, once we have line of
21 sight to those two things, to the conclusion of both
22 the MISO process and the MPUC sight permit
23 application process. And construction would begin
24 in 2026. Again, if both of those activities were
25 successful.

1 And so, therefore, the project might be
2 in service in 2027, if all goes well. Again,
3 subject to MISO timelines and we've met their
4 conditions.

5 And finally, I have a slide here on our
6 stakeholder outreach. We ran an outreach program to
7 support the project, including contacting eleven
8 federally recognized tribes in Minnesota, as well as
9 ones that are out of state that have an interest in
10 the area; reached out to local landowners and
11 residents, neighbors, environmental and regulatory
12 agencies, local and state officials, local
13 utilities; and we did hold a stakeholder outreach
14 public information session in August of 2022.

15 And the final slide here just includes
16 the contact information for myself, as well as
17 Jason Risdall, on our regulatory team.

18 Thanks, Sam.

19 SAM LOBBY: Thank you.

20 JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Okay. Good evening,
21 everybody. Thank you for coming today.

22 My name is Jessica Livingston, and I'm
23 here on behalf of the Minnesota State, the
24 Department of Commerce, the EERA, Energy and
25 Environmental Assessment Team.

1 So, today I want to talk to you a little
2 bit more about the process of permitting with the
3 State. So, I'll start with talking about my team,
4 EERA, and describe what we do and how it fits into
5 this whole solar project. And then I will talk
6 about the environmental review process, itself,
7 including the timeline and how impacts and
8 mitigations are taken into account for this project;
9 and then I'll go into commenting, some of the
10 different ways that you can comment and the
11 different topics that we are looking for comments on
12 tonight.

13 And then finally, just a reminder about
14 rules of etiquette for questions and commenting
15 tonight.

16 So, just an introduction of my team; like
17 I said, I'm on the Energy Environmental Review and
18 Analysis team within the Department of Commerce at
19 the State. So, we basically act as technical
20 advisors to the Public Utilities Commission to help
21 inform their decisionmaking when it comes to
22 permitting an energy project. So, we are not
23 advocating on behalf of anyone in particular; we are
24 neutral third-party analysis team, and we look at
25 any human or environmental impacts that could take

1 place because of construction, operation or the
2 commissioning of this project.

3 So, the goal, like I said, is informed
4 decisionmaking by the Commission. And that is what
5 we are looking for comments on tonight.

6 So, for this project, we will be
7 preparing an environmental assessment as to
8 technical documents that's provided to you through
9 the Commission. So, that would include an objective
10 analysis of the project, looking at any potential
11 human or environmental impacts. That can be
12 anything from air pollution, I also heard from a
13 gentleman this evening about hunting, things like
14 recreation. Anything that you know that happens
15 within the community that you think could be
16 impacted by this project, we would like to hear
17 about it tonight, because I would like to study it
18 in the environmental review that will be given to
19 the Public Utilities Commission.

20 Like I said, we're a neutral third-party.
21 So, we're focusing on just on the facts; just
22 scientific research and literature. Anything that
23 you all provide is really useful for this process,
24 as well, to create informed decisionmaking.

25 So, for the EA, we are looking for input

1 from you on the most relevant information needed to
2 make an informed decision on the permitting of this
3 project.

4 In the back, I have an example table of
5 contents on what I plan to cover right now for the
6 EA. Anything could be added or modified on this.
7 So, if there's something on here that you think
8 should really be looked at in detail, that's
9 something that we would like to hear comments on.
10 If you think there's anything that you think should
11 be added, that's also something I would like to hear
12 comment on. Also, any strategies to mitigate or
13 avoid any of these impacts that you know of would be
14 great to hear about, as well. And then
15 specifically, unique characteristics in the project
16 area; because you are the local community, you know
17 this area better than anyone else. So, hearing
18 about what the project will actually do to this
19 area, coming from you all is very helpful for this.

20 So, like I said, this is in the back, if
21 you don't have a copy of one of these already.

22 Now I can talk about the different ways
23 to comment. So, here we are today at the meeting;
24 you can submit a comment verbally. At the end of
25 this presentation, we'll have a time where you can

1 come up to the microphone. We have a court reporter
2 here, so everything will be put on the record and
3 the transcript will be given to the Commission as
4 they review public comments.

5 You could also submit a written public
6 comment sheet. We have copies of these in the back,
7 as well. You can just fill out your comment right
8 on here and then my mailing address is on the back.
9 So, just a stamp on it, put it right in the mail and
10 it will come to my desk. You can also submit a
11 comment online; we have the link there. And then
12 also, on eDockets, you can access it that way. Like
13 I said, you can also mail a comment or e-mail me or
14 call. All my information is on the presentation
15 I've provided today, as well.

16 And then like Sam said, the commenting
17 period for the specific EA scoping document will end
18 on June 13th.

19 So, one last reminder about commenting
20 etiquette. Please, one speaker at a time, and state
21 and spell your full name for the court reporter
22 before you make your comment. Please also limit
23 comments to only a few minutes, just so everybody
24 who would like to make a comment has a chance to
25 tonight. And like I said, direct your comments to

1 the scope of the environmental assessment. So,
2 anything that's on this sheet, anything that you
3 think is related to environmental impacts of
4 project, that is what we are looking for commenting
5 on tonight.

6 So, just a reminder of what that could
7 be, human and environmental impacts related to the
8 project, any method to minimize, mitigate or avoid
9 those potential impacts, and then any unique
10 characteristics of the area that should be
11 considered.

12 And that is all we have for you today.
13 So, I don't think anybody signed up to do a comment,
14 so I'm just going to open it up one at a time. If
15 people are interested in making a comment, you can
16 come around here and then just come up to the
17 microphone.

18 Yes, you can come up.

19 SAM LOBBY: We just need you to come to
20 the microphone so the court reporter can get it on
21 the record.

22 Appreciate it.

23 KURT CASAVAN: Hello. I recognize a few
24 people here.

25 My name is Kurt Casavan. I'm the

1 environmental officer for Red Lake County.

2 SAM LOBBY: Can you spell your name for
3 the court reporter, please?

4 KURT CASAVAN: Kurt is K-u-r-t, and
5 Casavan is C-a-s-a-v-a-n.

6 As you all know, there's a few
7 individuals I've talked to here. And we've been
8 concerned with some of the setbacks.

9 I see some staff or some individuals from
10 the Emardville Township Board. And I know there was
11 a discussion after our board meeting with our
12 interim zoning ordinance. I talked to -- I can't
13 remember your name --

14 ADAM FELDMAN: Adam Feldman.

15 KURT CASAVAN: Sorry, Adam. I just --
16 Adam and then Jason Risdall here. And we did some
17 discussion on this, and it sounded like you guys are
18 willing to work with us on township road setbacks;
19 because I was concerned with -- you know, in this
20 part of the country we get some pretty deep snow
21 some years. And we want to be able to -- you know,
22 we've had to bring groomers in before; and you need
23 more than 50, 60 feet to shove snow back. You need
24 that hundred and some feet in order to make room,
25 you know. When the wind blows in this country it

1 fills in the road systems pretty easily.

2 And you guys sounded like you were
3 willing to work with us on that. Correct? I mean,
4 you said there were some options, as far as possibly
5 access roads and maybe moving fences back.

6 Is this something we're not supposed to
7 discuss today?

8 SAM LOBBY: If one of you can answer
9 that, just come up to the front so the court
10 reporter can take it down.

11 KURT CASAVAN: They don't have to answer
12 it. This is discussion. I'm just bringing this up
13 so it's in the minutes, you know.

14 And we had a good discussion; they were
15 good to work with. That's not the issue, but I do
16 want it recorded that there's concerns with
17 setbacks. We had County State Aid 1, our tower
18 road; and I think the setback on that was from
19 center line, 150 feet. And I talked to our county
20 engineer; he was okay with that. It's just a
21 concern with the setback with the township roads.
22 And then we come to the two properties in question;
23 one is a residence, the Carlene Christenson
24 (phonetic) residence. And I think the setback that
25 was sent to me was -- Jason, I think it was 64 feet

1 setback for Triple D Construction & Leasing property
2 along the north border, and then the Carlene
3 Christenson (phonetic) property was also 64 feet.
4 And there was some concern there with setbacks. And
5 we just wanted to make sure that those were
6 addressed.

7 And Enbridge has been good to work with.
8 I'm not trying to cause problems here, but I want it
9 made note of, you know. So, we want to continue
10 working with Enbridge; so far so good. But we do
11 want to address those issues. And I would like to
12 talk with -- I don't know if it's Heather, or who is
13 actually the person that would address those
14 concerns directly.

15 That's all I have to say. Is there
16 questions for me?

17 SAM LOBBY: Does anyone from the company
18 want to respond to that?

19 HEATHER RIOME: I guess I'll step to the
20 mic.

21 Can everybody hear me okay?

22 In terms of setbacks in the application,
23 what we made consideration for was two documents
24 that we had references that we had available at the
25 time. So, the two documents we had available at the

1 time, one was the Minnesota Commercial Solar Siting
2 Guidance. And the main thing that they addressed is
3 avoidance of certain features. So, we took that
4 into consideration as we developed our project
5 layout and site. And it also discusses road
6 setbacks, in terms of consideration for wildlife
7 travel around the project, based on, also, traffic
8 volume and speed. So, we considered that document.
9 And then we also had a look at the Red Lake County
10 Shoreland Ordinance, which requires a hundred-foot
11 setback from the county ditch. So, we included
12 those considerations in our application.

13 We do have additional information on the
14 setbacks within our application. It's in Table 5,
15 in Section 4.2.1.

16 I think you're right, Kurt, that the
17 setbacks from property lines, like the Christenson
18 (phonetic) property, as well as the Triple D Leasing
19 Construction property. It's a 66-foot setback from
20 those property lines, if my memory serves me
21 correctly.

22 In terms of the Christenson (phonetic)
23 property, though, the distance from the residence to
24 the project is more like over 300 feet; just to give
25 that context, as well.

1 But that was the information we had
2 available at the time. I guess the additional point
3 I would maybe make there, we were doing our best to
4 put together a site layout that is most efficient,
5 makes the best use of that land, and isn't spreading
6 out unnecessarily. So...

7 KURT CASAVAN: I had a question.

8 Kurt Casavan again, for Red Lake County,
9 for her.

10 You say that it is 300 feet in the design
11 from Carlene Christenson's (phonetic) residence from
12 the property line, out?

13 HEATHER RIOME: From the residence to the
14 closest solar.

15 KURT CASAVAN: Okay. I guess I didn't
16 see that on the plan, but we can review that.

17 That's helpful. Thank you.

18 HEATHER RIOME: We've put together some
19 detailed documents that shows the various locations
20 around the project site, knowing that you're
21 interested in that, Kurt. So, we can have some more
22 detailed discussions and look at the specific
23 distances, and all those instances.

24 KURT CASAVAN: And as I talked with a
25 gentleman after our board meeting for a bit, we

1 chatted and it was a good conversation. And I just
2 don't want this installed and then somebody having
3 regrets that, "Oh, I didn't get to speak. No one
4 cared about me."

5 I want to take care of this and nip it in
6 the bud and make sure that we get ahead of it and
7 resolve issues.

8 So, thank you for coming up. That's all
9 I have to say.

10 Does anyone else have questions?

11 JASON RISDALL: I'm Jason Risdall. And I
12 just want to mention that we do have land agents
13 that do talk to the landowners, too. So, landowners
14 that are directly affected, or even adjacent
15 landowners that would like to talk to a land agent
16 are certainly welcome to reach out to that land
17 agent. And Wyatt is here, and he's been talking to
18 our local landowners about the setbacks,
19 specifically.

20 KURT CASAVAN: You did mention to me that
21 there were various visits. But in talking to
22 Carlene and Triple D, who are here -- Gary is here.
23 And it just sounded like there was nothing settled
24 on; no specifics. And they thought they were going
25 to get visited with some more details. But we are

1 here at the public meeting; and that's what this
2 forum is for.

3 I just want to make sure it's addressed.
4 So, I appreciate you coming up, also.

5 Thank you.

6 SAM LOBBY: Do we have any other folks
7 that wanted to ask a question or make a comment?

8 Yes, sir. Come on up to microphone.
9 Thank you for coming.

10 JIM DUCHAMP: I'm Mayor Jim Duchamp.
11 Jim, J-i-m, D-u-c-h-a-m-p.

12 Concerns for the City of Plummer is what
13 kind of tax incentive is this going to be to the
14 Emardville Township and the school district and to
15 the County?

16 HEATHER RIOME: So, based on our
17 preliminary review of the capital investment in the
18 project, we're anticipating that the property and
19 production taxes will amount to on the order of
20 about \$430,000 to Red Lake County, \$210,000 to the
21 township and about \$140,000 to the State of
22 Minnesota.

23 JIM DUCHAMP: Yearly?

24 HEATHER RIOME: Yes.

25 JIM DUCHAMP: Thank you.

1 SAM LOBBY: Thanks for coming up.

2 Do we have any other questions or
3 comments from folks? And if you don't want to come
4 up or you don't have questions or comments right
5 now, there's still plenty of time until June 13th.

6 Yes, sir?

7 (Inaudible discussion)

8 SAM LOBBY: We need people to come up so
9 the court reporter can hear what you're saying. But
10 if anybody does have questions, I can meet you
11 halfway. And if you don't feel comfortable
12 speaking, you can make a written comment later.

13 RICHARD FROILAND: My name is
14 Richard Froiland. R-i-c-h-a-r-d, F-r-o-i-l-a-n-d,
15 Supervisor, Emardville Town Board.

16 One of the things that's been brought up
17 is, there's neighbors, landowners that have hunting
18 land.

19 With this hunting land right next door to
20 this, what happens if a stray bullet comes and hits
21 one of these solar panels? Does it cause a leak?
22 Or does it cause severe breakage? And if it causes
23 severe breakage, is there anything that will fall
24 out or run out into the soil and get to the
25 Clearwater River, which is about two miles away?

1 The next thing is -- we'll go back to the
2 hunting part of it. There's several of the
3 landowners that have hunting land. And they have
4 spent quite a bit of time and money in keeping their
5 hunting land in their family through the years.

6 Would there be any chance that a buffer
7 would be placed around this area, no firearms could
8 be discharged within a quarter mile, half-mile, two
9 miles of this area?

10 It would be interesting to know, because
11 if this would go, like, two miles away, then we'd
12 also include a fellow that's got a deer farm. And
13 that would be limiting him to bow and arrow, instead
14 of rifle shooting.

15 So, there's quite a few limitations that
16 could be placed if this was to happen. We don't
17 know. But if that did take place, somebody would
18 say, "Didn't even the town board even look at the
19 situation?"

20 That's why I'm here. Thank you.

21 HEATHER RIOME: I mean, we have existing
22 LP pump stations in the area. I'm not aware of any
23 sort of limitation on hunting. But I'll also pass
24 it over to Rich, from our land team, to see if he
25 has anything he wants to add about hunting. But I'm

1 not aware of any limitations that would be placed,
2 you know, outside of our property issue.

3 RICHARD KERN: Richard Kern, K-e-r-n.

4 No. We would have no ability to impose
5 restrictions outside of the property that we own, or
6 encumber it in any way, as far as hunting goes.

7 So, if something like that happened, it
8 would be external to what Enbridge is doing and
9 working on.

10 Certainly, we have just as sensitive of
11 facilities that are pumping oil and above-ground
12 services. We certainly have hunting nearby and next
13 door and throughout the State of Minnesota and
14 Wisconsin, and most of the midwest.

15 So, I understand the concern. I don't
16 see where -- at least, Enbridge would have no
17 ability to impose anything like that, or have any
18 intention to. So, at least on the hunting side.

19 The first part of the question, I don't
20 know the answer to.

21 HEATHER RIOME: To address the concern
22 about could something leak from the panels. The
23 panels are constructed of tempered glass. And the
24 materials between the glass are a solid-state
25 material, so there's no potential for leakage,

1 per se. If something was to somehow escape, it's
2 essentially polycrystalline panels. And so, the
3 material is largely similar to the dirt that's
4 beneath our feet. There's nothing toxic or of undue
5 concern within the panels.

6 I think the other thing that I would note
7 is that you mentioned stray bullets. And the panels
8 are constructed to withstand golf ball size hail.
9 So, they can take a pretty good impact without
10 ending up with damage. So, it would have to be a
11 very notable impact.

12 SAM LOBBY: Thank you very much.

13 Do we have any other folks with
14 questions?

15 Come on up. Thank you very much for
16 coming. Appreciate you being here.

17 DEBBIE DUCHAMP: Debbie, D-e-b-b-i-e,
18 D-u-c-h-a-m-p. And, yep, we're related.

19 I have questions on the solar panels.

20 And when they have lived their life
21 cycle, where does disposal happen? Does it happen
22 here? And also, a concern about, you know, this is
23 our backyard. And the aesthetic value, I admit I
24 really enjoy green space. So, the aesthetic value
25 of what we're going to be looking at in our farmland

1 out here.

2 So, if you want to just briefly tell us
3 about that.

4 HEATHER RIOME: The first part of the
5 question was around disposal at end of life.

6 As part of our MPC state permit
7 application, we did submit a decommissioning plan as
8 one of the exhibits. And that details our plans for
9 end of life. The disposal of the panels would be
10 based on available options at the time.

11 You know, we are talking about a project
12 that has at least a 30-year life. So, this is often
13 into the 2060s; and a lot would change between now
14 and then. But certainly, the plan and the
15 commitment is to review available options at the
16 time and make sure that they are properly disposed
17 of.

18 DEBBIE DUCHAMP: Would that be done
19 locally?

20 HEATHER RIOME: I mean, it would be done
21 locally, to the extent that that's available. But
22 again, there will have to be an assessment of what
23 options are available; and, you know, depending on
24 which facilities would be best suited to receive
25 those panels at that time.

1 And the second part of your question was
2 around the aesthetics of the project.

3 I mean, certainly, we are talking about a
4 large field now for the solar panels. It is going
5 to change the view of the landscape. But it's an
6 emissions-free project, low profile, no noise. So,
7 generally, you know, a clean, quiet neighbor.

8 To the extent that there were concerns,
9 you know, specific concerns about view from certain
10 areas, we can talk about, you know, screening within
11 the fence and other options.

12 SAM LOBBY: I'm Sam Lobby.

13 With regard to emissions, I'll just add
14 one thing to that; that these types of projects also
15 come with it, in the permitting, a vegetation
16 management plan.

17 So, part of what that is, is since it
18 is -- you know, we don't just want it to be bare
19 dirt just sitting there for 30 years. So, the idea
20 with the vegetation management plan is to develop
21 seed mixtures that are native plants; native
22 plantings that will support wildlife, that will
23 support its bug and insect populations, things like
24 that, that help with, you know, water drainage,
25 things of that nature.

1 So, that's separate. That's kind of the
2 PUC side of things that we require for these. But,
3 just so that you have some knowledge that that's
4 part of it.

5 Do you have anything?

6 JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Yeah. Thanks for
7 that, Sam.

8 I also helped review those VMPs as a part
9 of my job. So, that is -- the impact on aesthetics
10 and vegetation is important and it's something that
11 we want to hear about. So, thank you for bringing
12 that up.

13 That will be studied in the EA document.
14 Also, I wanted to address the groundwater and the
15 leaching of panels into groundwater. That's
16 something that we've been hearing a lot more about.

17 So, we are interested to see what the
18 impact of that will be. But, the research on that
19 is still coming out. So, we have resources that we
20 are able to use right now that study that. But like
21 Heather said, the panels are composed to be
22 withstanding a lot of damage.

23 So, we can look at the impact of
24 potential damage from anything on the environment,
25 including hunting, including the stray bullet or

1 hail or any sort of thing.

2 But that's something that's coming up
3 more. So, thank you.

4 SAM LOBBY: All right. Any other
5 questions you folks have? You're more than welcome
6 to come up if you want to. And again, if you would
7 prefer to submit a written comment, or even if you
8 have come and spoken and you want to say something
9 at a later time, there's plenty of opportunities for
10 that.

11 I will just put this up again real quick.
12 So, this slide has all the information on how to
13 comment. There's plenty of different places where
14 we have information to comment. It's also in the
15 notices that are on the table over there. If you
16 received a notice in the mail, all that information
17 is there.

18 Do we have any other folks that are
19 interested in asking any questions or making
20 comments?

21 And then again, we will be doing this
22 tomorrow night, also. So, that's another
23 opportunity if you prefer to speak. That will be
24 held virtually. There's instructions in the meeting
25 notice, as well, about how to do that. You can

1 access it by phone by calling in, or if you have a
2 smart phone you can go to the website and you can
3 use your camera and it will allow you to
4 participate, or you can use your computer.

5 All right. It's looking like we maybe
6 don't have any more comments. Going once; going
7 twice.

8 All right. If there aren't any more
9 comments, that would conclude the formal part of the
10 meeting.

11 We do have plenty of folks from Enbridge
12 here, and then myself, Jessica and Ray in the back
13 there with Commerce, if you have any questions for
14 us. And like I said, plenty of other opportunities
15 to comment.

16 If you ever want to ask a question or
17 anything, I'm always available. I may have to
18 direct you to someone else if I don't know the
19 answer or if it's a more technical question about
20 the project. But especially if it's a concern or
21 any trouble that you are having at all, please feel
22 free to reach out to me at any time.

23 The Commission really appreciates your
24 participation and they want to hear from you folks
25 on the ground before they make the final decision.

1 So, thank very much for being a part of
2 this and doing your civic duty.

3 (Applause.)

4 SAM LOBBY: I wasn't expecting a round of
5 applause.

6 *****

7
8 (Whereupon this proceeding concluded at 6:50 p.m.)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF BELTRAMI)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Lorna D. Jacobson, a Registered Professional
Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of
Beltrami and State of Minnesota, do hereby certify
that I reported the public scoping meeting held in
Plummer, Minnesota, at the time and place
hereinbefore stated;

THAT the meeting was thereafter under my direction
transcribed into computer-assisted transcription and
is a true, complete and accurate record, to the best
of my ability;

WITNESS my hand and seal this 7th day of June, 2024.

/s/Lorna D. Jacobson
Lorna D. Jacobson, Court Reporter

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1 SCOPING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 22-451

2 Webex - May 30, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

5
6 In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Solar
7 (Plummer), LLC, for a Site Permit for the up to 130 MW
8 Plummer Solar Project in Red Lake County, MN
9

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13 MPUC DOCKET NO. IP-7103/GS-22-451
14
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16

17 Meeting held remotely via:

18 Webex and Telephone
19
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21 May 30, 2024
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23
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25 COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RPR, RMR

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1 MR. SAM LOBBY: All right. So we'll go
2 ahead and get the meeting started. It is 6:00 p.m.
3 So today we are here to discuss, as we did yesterday
4 in Plummer, the public information and environmental
5 assessment scoping meeting for the Plummer Solar
6 Project.

7 You can see here the number beneath
8 Plummer Solar Projeet, IP-7103/GS-22-451. If you
9 want to look at everything that is in the record for
10 this project, all the different documents submitted,
11 the application, public comments, and just the way
12 that the record progresses, you can go to
13 eDockets.com. Or type in "Minnesota Public
14 Utilities Commission" on Google, and you'll be able
15 to find that. And then if you look into eDockets,
16 the number you'll be using to reference this project
17 is the 22-451.

18 Next slide. There we go.

19 Okay. So just to give you a quick
20 meeting agenda, what we're going to be going over
21 today is, first, we'll discuss, you know, an
22 introduction and what the project is and the permit
23 application review process. And I will be
24 representing the Public Utilities Commission on
25 that.

1 Then, we will have a description of the
2 proposed project coming from Heather with Enbridge
3 Solar, or Plummer Solar, LLC. The next will be the
4 environmental review requirements, and that will be
5 coming from Jessica with the Department of Commerce,
6 Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Unit. And
7 then after that, we will open the floor for public
8 comments and questions.

9 So the proposed project is the Plummer
10 Solar Project, and it is proposed to be a
11 130-megawatt solar energy generating system. The
12 project would be located on approximately 855 acres
13 in Emardville Township in Red Lake County,
14 Minnesota, and the project would connect to the
15 electrical grid at the existing 115-kV transmission
16 line immediately adjacent to the project site. I
17 won't talk too much about the project itself because
18 Heather will go ahead and do that.

19 So the -- in order to -- for this project
20 to happen, the project hasn't -- you know, there
21 isn't a "for sure" if it's going to get permitted or
22 not. It has to go through this process, and the
23 Public Utilities Commission is in charge of weighing
24 all the different factors and granting permits and
25 how the permits are granted.

1 So in order for this project to be
2 permitted, this is -- this project is defined as a
3 large electric power generating plant. So before
4 the project can be constructed, the Public Utilities
5 Commission must issue a site permit because the
6 solar facility is greater than 50 megawatts.

7 So that term "large electric power
8 generating plant" is a legal term, and so that
9 references these certain types of projects. And the
10 site permit itself is what the company will need to
11 get because it is a larger project, so that's
12 where the -- the 50 megawatts is the legal cutoff
13 for that.

14 The associated transmission line is less
15 than 1,500-feet in length, meaning that a route
16 permit associated with the transmission line is not
17 required. So for a lot of these projects, there
18 will be a site permit where the solar farm is, and
19 then there would have to be a transmission line that
20 stretches to wherever it connects. In which case,
21 you would have the site permit for the solar farm
22 and the route permit for the transmission line.

23 In this case, there is no associated
24 transmission line. It's just the site permit.
25 There's also not a certificate of need requirement

1 for this, as there have been in the past, due to
2 recent legislation.

3 So a quick summary of the permit
4 consideration. In making a decision to grant a site
5 permit, the Commission generally considers the
6 following: The potential human and environmental
7 impacts of the project. For example, noise,
8 aesthetics, public health and safety, land-use
9 conflicts, cultural and historic resources, air and
10 water quality, plants and wildlife. And there may
11 be others as well if there are things that folks
12 think of. Last night there were some questions
13 about recreation and hunting. You know, what
14 happens if a stray bullet hit a solar panel, would
15 that cause any environmental issues?

16 So there's a lot of different things that
17 you might have questions about or things that the
18 Commissioners would like to hear from the public.
19 So if you do have any concerns, the Commissioners
20 really put a lot of weight on public comments,
21 because you folks live in the area and you know it
22 better than any of us.

23 So if there are considerations or
24 concerns that you have, those comments either today
25 or in the written comments section or portion of

1 this, the written comment period is open until
2 June 13th. You can find that information in the
3 meeting notice, and there will also be information
4 that I present here, too, that you can take note of.

5 Another permit consideration is whether
6 there are suitable ways to minimize, mitigate, or
7 avoid identified impacts. So, again, that's one
8 where folks on the ground, you folks that live in
9 the area, can be really useful for helping us
10 identify things that we might not know about. And
11 Jessica will talk a little bit more about that in
12 her portion of the presentation.

13 So just a quick, kind of, timeline here
14 of what to expect. Enbridge officially submitted
15 their application for the Plummer project on
16 April 2nd of 2024. Then, there was a comment period
17 for application completeness, and that ended on
18 April 30th.

19 And once the application was deemed
20 complete, then we were able to schedule these public
21 information and scoping meetings. And so that's
22 where we are right here is that red box for 5/29 and
23 5/30. So today is one of several opportunities that
24 the public will have to formally comment on this
25 project.

1 So this is an important time, if you do
2 have questions or concerns, for the public to let us
3 know what you think or let us know, you know, if
4 there are any issues. So once -- then, this comment
5 period, again, that ends on June 13th. And so you
6 can submit written comments, you can e-mail them,
7 you can submit them online. If you have questions,
8 you can reach out to Jessica or myself as well.

9 So once that -- this part is up. Then,
10 the next part will be the Public Utilities
11 Commission will consider any alternatives, if
12 there's anything -- any other parts -- you know,
13 similar projects that might be -- you know, fulfill
14 the same need but maybe looks a little different.

15 The scope of the environmental assessment
16 will be determined in Quarter 3 of 2024. So your
17 comments today are what is going to help shape what
18 is studied in the environmental assessment. I won't
19 go too far into that because Jessica will talk more
20 about it.

21 Then, in Quarter 4 of 2024, the EA will
22 be issued. At which point, that will then trigger
23 the next public hearing. So we'll do another visit
24 to Plummer, and then we'll have another Webex
25 meeting just like this. And that will be -- you

1 know, the first one we're doing right now is so
2 folks can help us shape the way for what we study
3 for the environmental piece.

4 And then in that Quarter 4 of 2024, the
5 public hearing once the EA is issued, then we get to
6 hear -- we will tell you what we did study and what
7 the results were. And then you can -- you, members
8 of the public, can comment on that and let us know
9 what you think, or if there are any other issues or
10 other things that we should consider.

11 Then, after the public hearing -- well,
12 excuse me. At that public hearing, it will be run
13 by an Administrative Law Judge. So the judge will
14 be the arbiter of everything going on for that. And
15 they will develop a report that they then submit to
16 the Commission, and the Commissioners will use that,
17 partially, to make their decision. And that report
18 also will detail all of the public input and all of
19 those considerations.

20 After, there will be -- in Quarter 1 of
21 2025, there will be the exceptions to the
22 Administrative Law Judge's report. And that's
23 basically, just, the judge has submitted their
24 report, and then other parties can weigh in and say,
25 you know, there was a technical error in the report,

1 or we disagree with this finding or that kind of
2 thing. So then it's all open to the public and in
3 the record so that everybody can see what all the
4 different viewpoints are.

5 And then the Commission will weigh those
6 decisions, and then in Quarter 1 or 2 of 2025, there
7 should be a final decision that is made. So there's
8 plenty of opportunities for the public to comment
9 throughout. And, also, just whether or not there is
10 a comment period and a formal comment period,
11 myself -- Sam Lobby -- and Jessica Livingston with
12 the Department of Commerce, we are both happy to
13 take calls if you just have any questions or want to
14 chat about something.

15 So this is -- if you have a phone or a
16 camera or something that you might want to take a
17 picture of a slide, this is a good one because it
18 just gives you all the information about how to
19 comment. So, again, that written comment period is
20 going to go through June 13th, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

21 You can go online to
22 [MN.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment](https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment). That's
23 one way to comment. You can e-mail Jessica
24 Livingston at Jessica.Livingston@state.mn.us, or in
25 the mail: Jessica Livingston, Minnesota Department

1 of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, and
2 that's St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

3 If you can focus your comments on the
4 following: What potential human and environmental
5 impacts of the proposed project should be considered
6 in the environmental assessment? Are there any
7 methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential
8 impacts of this project? Are there any unique
9 characteristics of the proposed project site that
10 should be considered? So those are what your
11 comments should be focused on.

12 There is some additional information on
13 the Department of Commerce website that you can see
14 there. I mentioned before the full case record can
15 be seen in eDockets. If you use the number 22-451,
16 you can find everything on it there. You can also
17 subscribe to -- excuse me -- e-mail notifications
18 for the docket, and that website is shown there.

19 And the state agency contacts are going
20 to be Jessica Livingston -- who will be speaking
21 here in a moment -- and myself, Sam Lobby with the
22 Public Utilities Commission, and then we do have
23 another public advisor with the Public Utilities
24 Commission.

25 So with that, I will hand it over to

1 Heather with the company.

2 MS. HEATHER RIOME: Thank you, Sam.

3 And thanks to all the participants that
4 are joining today. My name is Heather Riome, and I
5 am the Enbridge Plummer Solar Project manager, and I
6 have the great privilege of leading a fantastic team
7 of Enbridge team members in advancing the
8 development of this project.

9 Since our investment in a wind farm in
10 2002, we've invested over \$7 billion in renewable
11 energy projects that have the capacity to generate
12 more than 5,200 megawatts of zero-emission
13 electricity. This includes 23 wind projects, 14
14 solar projects, and a geothermal project, and
15 includes projects that are either operating or under
16 construction.

17 At Enbridge, we're bridging to a cleaner
18 energy future and every part of our business is
19 engaged in our emissions-reduction target. We've
20 set a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by
21 2050, and an interim goal to reduce emissions
22 intensity by 35 percent by 2030.

23 Sam, it looks like -- yeah, there we go.
24 It looks like we've got the slides. We can jump on
25 to the next one.

1 MR. SAM LOBBY: Sorry about that. It's
2 kind of going slow on me, but there we go. Thanks.

3 MS. HEATHER RIOME: No worries.

4 All right. Taking a look specifically at
5 our involvement in the solar sector, Enbridge is
6 developing a utility-scale project near Plummer,
7 Minnesota, of 130 megawatts. Meanwhile, we're also
8 developing two utility-scale projects in Texas, so
9 with a combined capacity of 530 megawatts. And we
10 recently partnered with EDF, or Électricité de
11 France, on the Fox Squirrel 150-megawatt solar
12 project which is under construction in Ohio.

13 We've put six solar self-power projects
14 in operation across various liquid pipeline pump
15 stations and gas compressor stations in our system,
16 and our first solar project investment was in the
17 Sarnia Solar Project in Ontario, Canada, in 2008.

18 Moving on to an overview of the project.

19 Thanks, Sam.

20 The Plummer Solar Project will have a
21 capacity up to 130 megawatts. That's -- the reason
22 why I say "up to" is because that's the request in
23 the interconnection application. It's sited on
24 owned and leased land totaling about 800 acres. The
25 land is currently used for agricultural purposes,

1 and it's directly adjacent to an existing 115-kV
2 transmission line.

3 It's shown on the map at the right in
4 bright green running north/south next to the project
5 site, and that transmission line has sufficient
6 capacity to accommodate the 130 megawatts from the
7 project. Therefore, no additional right-of-way is
8 needed for interconnecting to the transmission line.

9 We submitted the application to the
10 electrical grid operator -- which is called the
11 Midcontinent Independent System Operator, which is
12 also known as the MISO, the acronym is M-I-S-O -- in
13 2022, and the project is currently in phase one of
14 that MISO or grid interconnection study process.

15 Construction is still years away, but our
16 intention is to engage union labor to construct the
17 project. And so to orient people to the project
18 site, it is southeast of the city of Plummer and
19 east of the existing Enbridge pump station.

20 Sam, if you could just hop back to the
21 previous slide? There we go.

22 The existing Enbridge pump station is in
23 the northwest of the image there in gray, and you
24 can see where we've set back from the existing
25 pipeline right-of-way with the solar array. So the

1 solar arrays, they're depicted in blue, and then you
2 can see that pipeline right-of-way passing through
3 the site from the northwest to the southeast.

4 In terms of orientation to the roadways
5 in the area, County State-Aid Highway 1 runs along
6 the northern portion of the project, and 230th
7 Avenue Southeast runs through the eastern portion of
8 the project. And then the southern boundary of the
9 project is partially bordered by 190th Street
10 Southeast.

11 And then moving on to the next slide.

12 This slide gives a better image, more
13 zoomed out, to orient you to where the project site
14 is, which is outlined in yellow relative to the city
15 of Plummer boundary, which is outlined there in
16 black.

17 So moving on to our target schedule for
18 the project. The timelines to develop and construct
19 a utility-scale project are lengthy. The MISO
20 interconnection application, as I said, was
21 submitted in September of 2022. The latest target
22 schedule from the MISO suggests an interconnection
23 agreement could be signed as early as July 2025, but
24 the MISO controls that timeline. And, to date,
25 there have been numerous delays in their schedule

1 already, and we anticipate that there could
2 certainly be more.

3 And then in terms of the Minnesota Public
4 Utilities Commission, Sam went through the timeline
5 on that process, what we submitted April 2nd, 2024,
6 and we're expecting that the process will take on
7 the order of roughly 12 to 18 months.

8 And so once we have those two critical
9 pieces of the schedule in place, we would look to
10 begin the procurement process in 2025 for all of
11 those major pieces of equipment. So we would look
12 to do that once we've concluded on those two
13 processes, and then construction would start in
14 2026. Again, if we receive the required permits,
15 including the site permit from the Commission, and
16 if we were successful in getting to a signed
17 interconnection agreement.

18 So what all of that wraps up to is that
19 the project may be in service in 2027 if all goes
20 well, but, again, timing is subject to change,
21 depending on the MISO timelines and market
22 conditions.

23 Moving on to the next slide on
24 stakeholder outreach, the Enbridge team has run an
25 outreach program in support of the Plummer Solar

1 Project, including contacting 11 federally
2 recognized tribes in -- tribes of Minnesota, local
3 landowners and residents, union and laborers,
4 environmental and regulatory agencies, local and
5 state officials, local utilities. And the
6 stakeholder outreach did include hosting a public
7 information session on August 29th, 2022, in
8 Plummer.

9 And our final slide here just includes
10 the contact information for myself, as well as Jason
11 Risdall, who is our manager for regulatory affairs.

12 Thanks, Sam.

13 MR. SAM LOBBY: Thank you, Heather.

14 And next up here, we will have Jessica
15 with the Department of Commerce.

16 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Thank you, Sam.

17 Thank you everyone for coming to the
18 meeting this evening. I am going to talk to you on
19 behalf of the Minnesota Commerce Department, EERA,
20 Energy Environmental Review and Analysis team. I am
21 the environmental review manager for this project,
22 and I am going to walk you through our role in the
23 process and how you can participate as well.

24 So like I said, my agenda for today is to
25 first introduce you to my team. So we'll talk about

1 who is EERA, what do we do, how do we participate in
2 the solar process? Then, I'll go into describing
3 environmental review, which includes the process,
4 timeline, and how impacts and mitigations are taken
5 into account for this solar project.

6 And, then, I will talk about the
7 different ways that you can participate, how you can
8 comment, and the different topics we are looking for
9 comments on for this project.

10 And, then, finally just a reminder of
11 rules and etiquette for questions and comments
12 today.

13 So, first, an introduction to my team.
14 Like I said, I work on the EERA, Energy
15 Environmental Review and Analysis team at Commerce.
16 Our team acts as technical advisors to the
17 Commission. So we provide neutral third-party
18 analysis of any human or environmental impacts that
19 could take place because of this project.

20 So that could be something like air
21 pollution or water health or soil integrity. Or it
22 can also be like Sam said, recreation and hunting.
23 Anything that's in a human or environmental
24 population within the area that could be impacted by
25 this project is something that we like to look at.

1 We do not advocate on anything in
2 particular. We're not in support or trying to
3 accomplish anything, rather than just focus on
4 informed decision-making by providing scientific
5 literature and fact that shows what the actual
6 impacts on the human and environmental groups around
7 this site will be.

8 So for this project, I will be preparing
9 an environmental assessment as the technical piece
10 going to the Commission. So this EA, environmental
11 assessment, will provide an objective analysis of
12 the project, which includes evaluating any potential
13 human and environmental impacts associated with the
14 project. It will also identify any strategies to
15 avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts.

16 Like I said: A neutral third-party.
17 We're not advocating on behalf of anything, just
18 looking at scientific information and facts that can
19 provide a full picture to the Commission and allow
20 them to create informed decision-making for this
21 project.

22 So today we are looking for input from
23 you, the public, on what the EA should focus on to
24 make the most relevant and informed decision. Like
25 Sam said, you all live in the area and you

1 understand what unique characteristics are within
2 the land that the project is supposed to be built
3 on. So your input, specifically, on what the EA
4 could cover is very helpful in deciding the
5 permitting of this project.

6 So any comments on what should be
7 included for human/environmental impacts, also
8 comments on ways that we could mitigate or
9 potentially avoid impacts, and then, specifically,
10 unique characteristics in the project area that you,
11 as local people, know better than us.

12 And we also have a draft scoping document
13 that could be uploaded to eDockets that just covers
14 what issues we plan to cover for the EA as of now,
15 and that can also be modified based on what comments
16 we receive tonight.

17 So now the different ways that you can
18 comment: So we can do verbal comments at today's
19 virtual meeting. We have a court reporter present,
20 and all of your comments will be put on the record
21 that way. You can also fill out just a regular
22 sheet, comment sheet, and put it in the mail and
23 send it to me. My address is listed right there,
24 and Sam read it earlier, and that will come right to
25 my desk.

1 You can also comment online. We have a
2 link on this slideshow. We also have a link on the
3 EERA website and through eDockets, and then you can
4 also e-mail a comment to me or give me a phone call
5 if you want to talk about something. A phone call
6 wouldn't be on the record as a comment, but we can
7 always discuss if you would like to talk to me about
8 something in detail. My phone number is on there as
9 well. For this project we're going to be receiving
10 comments about the scoping of the EA until June 13th
11 at the end of the business day.

12 So before we start commenting, just a
13 reminder about etiquette. We're going to be doing
14 one speaker at a time, and please state and spell
15 your name for the court reporter before you start
16 making your comments. Also, please limit your
17 comments to only a few minutes and maintain respect
18 for others, and please direct your comments and
19 questions to the scope of the environmental
20 assessment.

21 And just a reminder of what the scope of
22 the environmental assessment means. Like I said,
23 focusing on human/environmental impacts of the
24 proposed project that should be considered by the
25 Commission; any methods to minimize, mitigate, or

1 avoid potential impacts, and then unique
2 characteristics of the project area that should be
3 considered.

4 And then just a reminder, if you would
5 like to make a comment, please send a chat to the
6 host so they can unmute you, and then you can speak,
7 state your full name, and make your comment that
8 way. And then if you are on the phone, you can
9 press *3 and your line will be unmuted when it's
10 your turn to speak.

11 MR. SAM LOBBY: Great. Thank you very
12 much, Jessica.

13 And just for folks online, you can either
14 type into the chat box that you're interested in
15 speaking, or there's a hand-raise function as well.
16 Here, I will just go back to topics for comments so
17 that you can see.

18 So, yeah, with that, that is our
19 presentation. So now we just want to open the floor
20 up for members of the public to speak. So, again,
21 if you're on the phone, you can press *3, or if you
22 are online, you can raise your hand or make a
23 comment in the chat box.

24 Hold on here. Oh, okay. It looks like
25 everybody is from Enbridge, potentially, here, is

1 what Christy is telling me.

2 Is there anybody -- there's one that
3 isn't identified. It's just a space there. If you
4 are a member of the public and you would like to
5 speak, you can go ahead and raise your hand.

6 Since it sounds like this probably is
7 just folks from here, just in case there is a member
8 of the public, though, this is, once again,
9 Jessica's contact information for -- to mail
10 anything to her specifically for the environmental
11 assessment piece.

12 You can also reach out to me. Here, I'm
13 going to put that up, too, because it has both of
14 our information. My information is right down here,
15 Sam.Lobby@state.mn.us, or you can call this number,
16 or this is Jessica's information.

17 So we don't have any members of the
18 public, or we don't have anybody interested in
19 speaking. Going once, going twice, going three
20 times.

21 All right. With that, I think we will
22 conclude the meeting, unless if any folks on the
23 line have anything they want to mention.

24 Are you good to go, Heather?

25 MS. HEATHER RIOME: (Indicating.)

1 MR. SAM LOBBY: All right. Sounds good.
2 Jessica, are you good to go on
3 everything?

4 MS. JESSICA LIVINGSTON: Yeah.

5 MR. SAM LOBBY: All right. With that, I
6 think we will conclude the meeting.

7 (Public comment concluded.)
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