

REVISED DECISION OPTION
Proposed by Commissioner Tuma
December 18, 2025

DOCKET NUMBER IP7115/GS-23-423, ESS-24-283, TL-23-425

ANALYST Cezar Panait

DATE/TIME SUBMITTED 12/16/25 9:15 AM

TITLE Tuma Revised 15

ATTACHMENT No

SUBJECT “In the Matter of the Application of Benton Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the 100 MW Solar Energy Generating System for the Benton Solar Project in Benton County, Minnesota

In the Matter of the Application of Benton Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the 100 MW Battery Energy Storage System for the Benton Solar Project in Benton County, Minnesota

In the Matter of the Application of Benton Solar, LLC for a Route Permit for a 0.5-mile 115 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Associated with the Benton Solar Project in Benton County, Minnesota”

Tuma Revised 15: Modify permit condition 5.1 in both site permits to read:

5.1 Visual Screening Plan. The Permittee shall develop a site-specific Visual Screening Plan. The Visual Screening Plan shall be designed and managed to mitigate visual impacts to adjacent residences. The Visual Screening Plan shall at a minimum include: (a) objectives for screening of nearby residences; and (b) a description of the types of landscaping, trees and shrub species to be used, the location of the landscaping, plantings, and plans for installation, establishment, and maintenance. The location of the landscaping, trees and shrubs included in the Visual Screening Plan that are located within the Permittee’s site control shall be included in the Site Plan filed under Section 8.3. For visual screening landscaping or planting located outside the Permittee’s site control the Permittee is required to include in the plan the general location and description of the visual screening work and documentation of landowner consent. The Permittee is required, at a minimum, to maintain and ensure the successful growth, health, and maintenance of the vegetation for 3 years.

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file:

- (a) the Visual Screening Plan;
- (b) documentation of coordination with landowners adjacent to the project site; and
- (c) an affidavit of its distribution of the Visual Screening Plan to landowners adjacent to the project site.