

Appendix B
Agency Correspondence

Representative Project Notification Letter

North Star BESS Project
Site Permit Application
February 2025
MPUC Docket No. IP-7155/ESS-25-123



November 18, 2024

Name
Agency/Nation
Address 1
Address 2
Email

RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

North Star Energy Storage, LLC (“North Star”), a wholly owned subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, L.L.C., proposes to construct the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project (the “Project”) in Township 35N, Range 21W, Section 36 in Chisago County, Minnesota. The Project is located within the municipal boundary of North Branch, MN, adjacent to the existing North Star Solar Facility, which is owned and operated by North Star Solar PV LLC, an affiliate of North Star. The Project will be sited directly adjacent to the existing point of interconnection (the “POI”), utilizing infrastructure already constructed to interconnect the North Star Solar Facility to the POI. 34.5 kilovolt medium voltage collection lines will tie the Project to the POI, and, as a result, no high new high voltage transmission line or gen-tie line are required. An overview map that identifies the Project site boundary is enclosed. The Project site boundary is approximately 78 acres. Development of the Project is only expected to temporarily impact 27 acres, of which less than ten acres will be needed for operation of the facility.

The Project will be able to store a maximum of 320 megawatt hours of electricity at a given time, with a maximum injection capacity of 80 megawatts into the electric transmission grid via the POI. The Project is being developed in response to Xcel Energy’s Request for Proposals in MPUC Docket No. E-002/CN-23-212 and will aid the region’s ongoing transition to renewables, ensure reliable electric service in the area, and provide significant economic benefits to local residents.

The Project requires a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”). North Star intends to file a Site Permit Application (the “Application”) with the Commission in the first quarter of 2025. Pending receipt of all required permits and approvals, construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2026, with commercial operation by the second quarter of 2027.

We welcome any comments you may have at this time and throughout the Commission’s Application review process. Any written comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the Commission’s review process. If you have questions and would like additional information about the proposed Project, or if you have any information we should consider in the evaluation of Project effects, please contact me at joel.puritz@deshaw.com or (910)-616-6346.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Puritz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "P".

Joel Puritz
Project Developer – North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project
D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, L.L.C.
575 Fifth Avenue, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Enclosure: Project Overview Map
Cc: Jeremy Duehr, Fredrikson & Byron
Monika H. Davis, Merjent, Inc.

Federal Agencies

From: [Angie Ronayne](#)
To: [Chambers, Andrew R CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#); Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com
Cc: Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com; William.L.Risse@deshaw.com; [Madaus, Erik A CIV MVP](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 1:25:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon –

Thank you for your prompt response and comments. Based on preliminary design, the proposed North Star Battery Energy Storage System project is not anticipated to result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States. When final engineering design of the facility is complete, North Star will confirm Waters of the United States are avoided. If avoidance is not possible, North Star will work with USACE to obtain coverage under either a Nationwide Permit or a Regional General Permit, as appropriate.

Thank you again for your comments.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)
612.746.3669 direct
763.234.8421 mobile
angie.ronayne@merjent.com

From: Chambers, Andrew R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Andrew.R.Chambers@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 7:42 AM
To: Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com
Cc: Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com; William.L.Risse@deshaw.com; Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>; Madaus, Erik A CIV MVP <Erik.A.Madaus@usace.army.mil>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good morning,

Thank you for coordinating this proposal with USACE. Below are a few items to consider:

If the proposal involves discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404). Waters of the United States include navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands (33 CFR § 328.3). CWA Section 301(a) prohibits discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army

permit under Section 404. Information about the Corps permitting process can be obtained online at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory>.

The Corps evaluation of a Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, including (1) evaluating the proposal's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR part 325), (2) determining whether the proposal is contrary to the public interest (33 CFR § 320.4), and (3) in the case of a Section 404 permit, determining whether the proposal complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR part 230).

If the proposal requires a Section 404 permit application, the Guidelines specifically require that “no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences” (40 CFR § 230.10(a)). Time and money spent on the proposal prior to applying for a Section 404 permit cannot be factored into the Corps' decision whether there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposal.

If an application for a Corps permit has not yet been submitted, the project proposer may request a pre-application consultation meeting with the Corps to obtain information regarding the data, studies or other information that will be necessary for the permit evaluation process. A pre-application consultation meeting is strongly recommended if the proposal has substantial impacts to waters of the United States, or if it is a large or controversial project.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or would like to set up a pre-application consultation meeting.

Thanks,
Andy

-- --

Andrew Chambers
Regulatory Lead Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Duluth Field Office
11 East Superior Street, Suite 260
Duluth, MN 55802
Office: (218) 788-6407
Cell: (218) 393-2837

Information on Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program can be found at:
<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory>

We are pleased to introduce our new paperless communication procedures in Minnesota. Requests for action (pre-application consultations, permit applications, requests for delineation concurrences,

requests for jurisdictional determinations, and mitigation bank proposals) should be sent directly to the following email: usace_requests_mn@usace.army.mil <mailto:usace_requests_mn@usace.army.mil> . Please include the county name in the subject line of the email (e.g. Washington County). These changes will improve efficiency, reduce costs and reduce the environmental footprint. Additional information can be found in our public notice located here: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

From: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 15:33

To: USACE_Requests_MN <USACE_Requests_MN@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

Good afternoon,

North Star Energy Storage, LLC (“North Star”), a wholly owned subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, L.L.C., proposes to construct the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project (the “Project”) in Township 35N, Range 21W, Section 36 in Chisago County, Minnesota. The Project is located within the municipal boundary of North Branch, MN, adjacent to the existing North Star Solar Facility, which is owned and operated by North Star Solar PV LLC, an affiliate of North Star. The Project requires a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”). North Star intends to file a Site Permit Application (the “Application”) with the Commission in the first quarter of 2025. Pending receipt of all required permits and approvals, construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2026, with commercial operation by the second quarter of 2027.

The attached letter provides additional information about the Project, an overview map, and contact information for North Star. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the Commission’s Application review process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the Commission’s review process.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)
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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2025-0014617
Project Name: North Star BESS Project

01/06/2025 20:42:21 UTC

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect.” In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. [Electronic submission is preferred.](#)

Northern Long-Eared Bats

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected. For bat activity dates, please review Appendix L in the [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines.](#)

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC

species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat range-wide D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. Additional information about available tools can be found on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

Whooping Crane

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States](#)."

Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to survey the area for any migratory bird nests. If there is an eagle nest on-site while work is on-going, eagles may be disturbed. We recommend avoiding and minimizing disturbance to eagles whenever practicable. If you cannot avoid eagle disturbance, you may seek a [permit](#). A [nest take permit](#) is always required for removal, relocation, or obstruction of an eagle nest. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. **Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.**

Minnesota

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0014617
Project Name: North Star BESS Project
Project Type: Power Gen - Other
Project Description: Battery Storage
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@45.471782250000004,-92.91354553560686,14z>



Counties: Chisago County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> Population: MN There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Threatened

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Salamander Mussel <i>Simpsonaias ambigua</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6208	Proposed Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

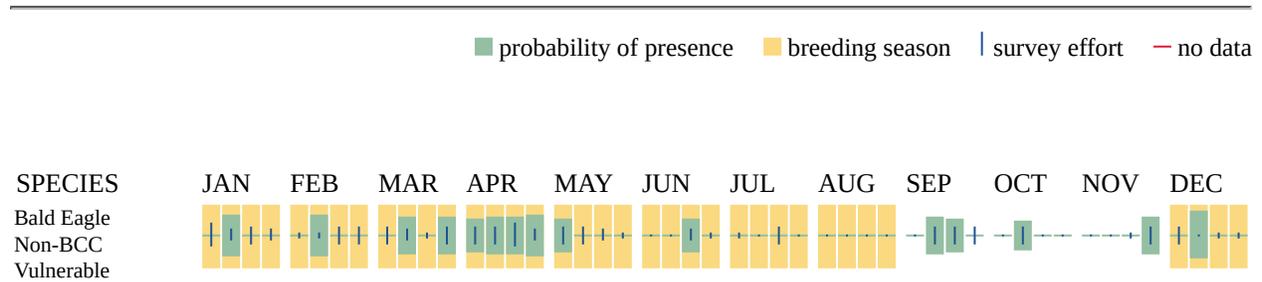
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

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1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</p>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
<p>Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger surinamensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093</p>	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
<p>Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643</p>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
<p>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<p>Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</p>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
<p>Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
<p>Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329</p>	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

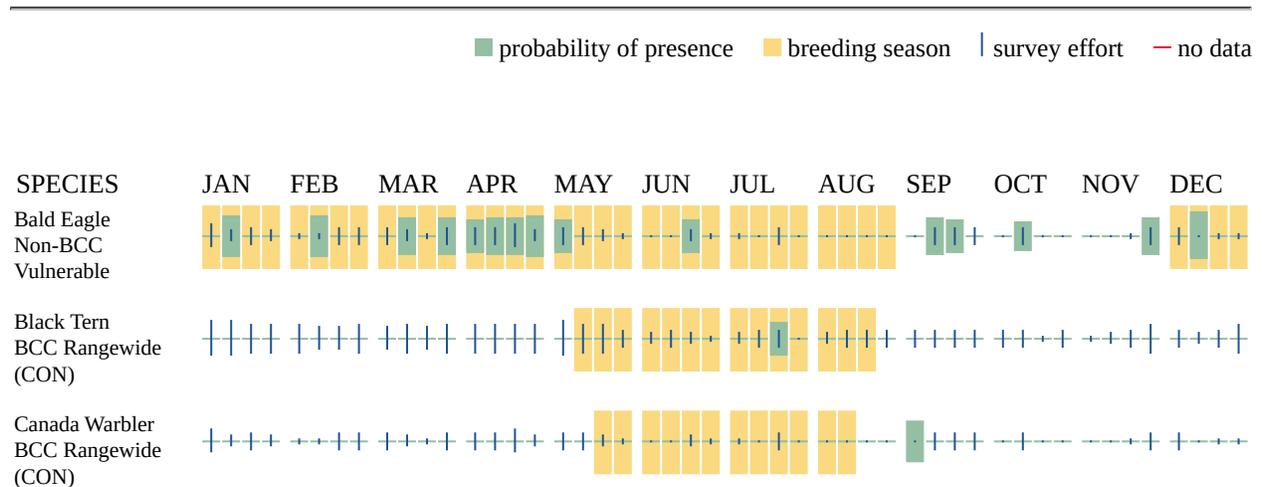
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

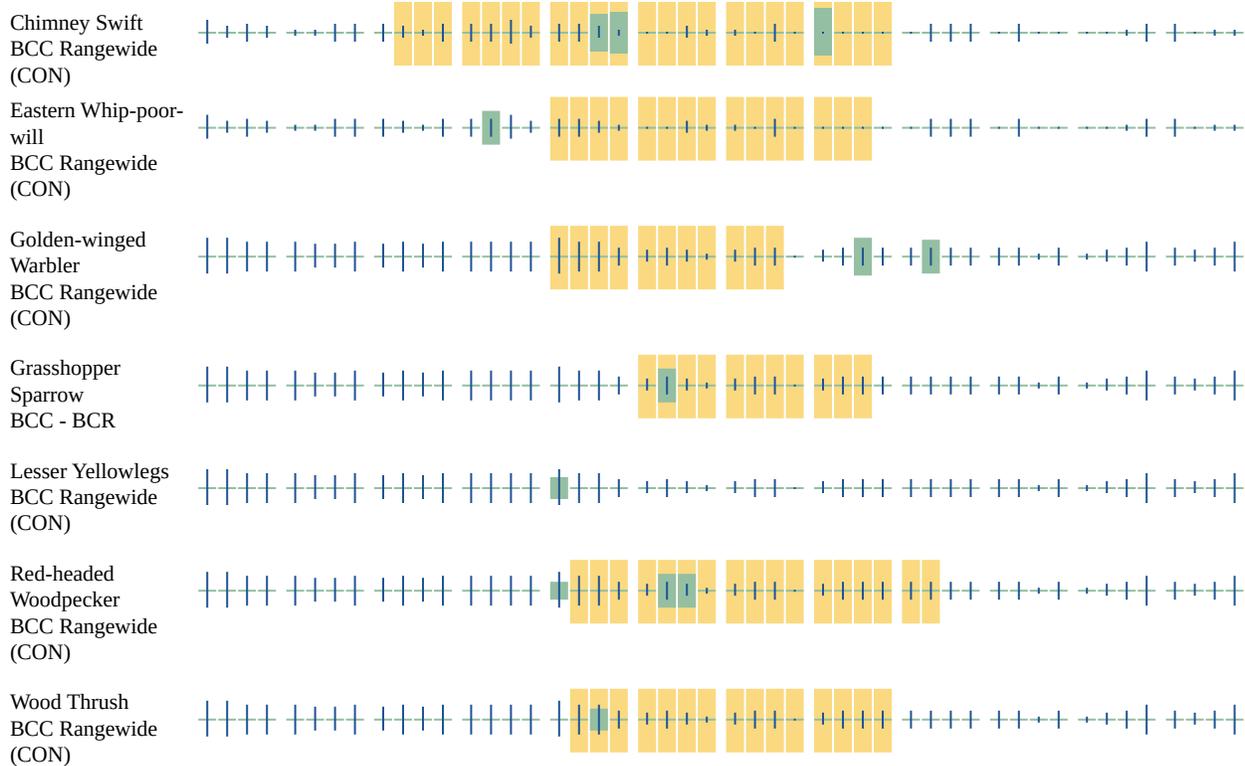
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1/EM1A
- PSS1/EM1A

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1C

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Merjent Inc.
Name: Mandy Bohnenblust
Address: 1 Main St SE, Suite 300
City: Minneapolis
State: MN
Zip: 55414
Email: mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com
Phone: 6127463677



Notice Criteria Tool

Notice Criteria Tool - Desk Reference Guide V_2018.2.0

The requirements for filing with the Federal Aviation Administration for proposed structures vary based on a number of factors: height, proximity to an airport, location, and frequencies emitted from the structure, etc. For more details, please reference [CFR Title 14 Part 77.9](#).

You must file with the FAA at least 45 days prior to construction if:

- your structure will exceed 200ft above ground level
- your structure will be in proximity to an airport and will exceed the slope ratio
- your structure involves construction of a traverseway (i.e. highway, railroad, waterway etc...) and once adjusted upward with the appropriate vertical distance would exceed a standard of 77.9(a) or (b)
- your structure will emit frequencies, and does not meet the conditions of the [FAA Co-location Policy](#)
- your structure will be in an instrument approach area and might exceed part 77 Subpart C
- your proposed structure will be in proximity to a navigation facility and may impact the assurance of navigation signal reception
- your structure will be on an airport or heliport
- filing has been requested by the FAA

If you require additional information regarding the filing requirements for your structure, please identify and contact the appropriate FAA representative using the [Air Traffic Areas of Responsibility map](#) for Off Airport construction, or contact the [FAA Airports Region / District Office](#) for On Airport construction.

The tool below will assist in applying Part 77 Notice Criteria.

* Structure Type:	SOLAR Solar Tower ▼			
	Please select structure type and complete location point information.			
Latitude:	45 <input type="text"/> Deg	28 <input type="text"/> M	16.36 <input type="text"/> S	N <input type="button" value="▼"/>
Longitude:	92 <input type="text"/> Deg	54 <input type="text"/> M	37.34 <input type="text"/> S	W <input type="button" value="▼"/>
Horizontal Datum:	NAD83 <input type="button" value="▼"/>			
Site Elevation (SE):	896 <input type="text"/> (nearest foot)			
Structure Height :	200 <input type="text"/> (nearest foot)			
Is structure on airport:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes			

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.

Tribal Nations



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Gina M Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Anita M Cloud, Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant

December 11, 2024

Via Internet

Merjent
Attn: Angie Ronayne, PE
1 Main Street SE – Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project.

The Proposed project will be able to store a maximum of 320 megawatt hours of electricity at a given time, with A maximum injection capacity of 80 megawatts into electric transmission grid via the point of interconnection.

Sec.36, T.35N, R.21W. Ext 4th P.M.

Latitude: 45° 28' 17.5" N

Longitude: 92° 54' 33.8" W

LL THPO No. 24-621-NCRI

Dear Angie Ronayne,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any recorded historic properties, within this area. ** This does not mean there are not any cultural resources present, at this time. **

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe along with other interested parties.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying you of an issue or us (LLBO) of concerns for this specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at (218) **335-2940** if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the **LL-THPO Number** as stated above in all correspondence with this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina M Lemon

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office - Established in 1996

190 Sailstar Drive NE * Cass Lake, MN 56633

Gina.lemon@llojibwe.net

From: [Cheyanne St. John](#)
To: [Puritz, Joel](#); [Trish Leith](#)
Cc: [Angie Ronayne](#); [Monika Davis](#); [Risse, William](#); [Aboudi, Joseph](#); [Kett, Jonathan](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 10:41:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

We would like to be identified as an interested tribal party, please keep us informed on opportunities to contribute to project and survey planning.

Thank you,

Cheyenne St. John | THPO/Director
507.697-8672 office
Lower Sioux Indian Comm. | 39527 Res Hwy I
Morton MN 56270 | Cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com

From: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 9:28 AM
To: Trish Leith <Trish.leith@lowersioux.com>; Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>; Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Kett, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kett@deshaw.com>
Subject: [External]RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

Trish,

Thank you so much for the prompt response, and it's a pleasure to (digitally) meet you! I'm adding a couple folks from our project team for their awareness.

Also, thank you for relaying your feedback. We will be conducting extensive archeological and cultural surveys of the project area throughout our development process. We will absolutely keep the Lower Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office informed on our progress/findings as we receive them. Hope you have a great rest of your week, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Best,
Joel

From: Trish Leith <Trish.leith@lowersioux.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 8:20 AM

To: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>

Subject: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

This message was sent by an external party.

Joel,

Thank you for contacting the Lower Sioux Indian Community THPO, with your proposed undertaking. We currently, do not have concerns or awareness regarding the archaeological and/or cultural resources that are associated with North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in North Branch, Chisago County, MN. Due to the high amount of previously reported archaeological sites within the project area and one-mile buffer, Lower Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office requests to remain an interested party throughout your project endeavors. Should any inadvertent discoveries concerning archaeological and/or cultural resources happen to occur, we encourage you to contact the appropriate parties and agencies to assure the matter is properly addressed.

Thank You

Trish Leith

Trish Leith | Preservation Coordinator

Trish.Leith@lowersioux.com

507-697-8705. Office

Lower Sioux Indian Comm. | 39527 Res Hwy 1

Morton, MN 56270

From: [Cheyanne St. John](#)
To: [Puritz, Joel](#); [Trish Leith](#)
Cc: [Angie Ronayne](#); [Monika Davis](#); [Risse, William](#); [Aboudi, Joseph](#); [Kett, Jonathan](#); [Trish Leith](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 3:16:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Thank you for notifying the Lower Sioux Indian Community regarding the North Star Battery Energy project. We will review the attached documents and cross reference with our internal databases to confirm the presence of cultural resources or cultural places, should any concerns arise we will reach out to you immediately.

Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Cheyenne St. John | THPO/Director
507.697-8672 office
Lower Sioux Indian Comm. | 39527 Res Hwy I
Morton MN 56270 | Cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com

From: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 10:18 AM
To: Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>; Trish Leith <trish.leith@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>; Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Kett, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kett@deshaw.com>
Subject: [External]RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

Hi Cheyanne,

Thank you again for your response and for your interest in the North Star Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project. I have additional information to share that may be of interest. A Phase I archaeological survey that included the BESS Project area was conducted in October 2014. The 2014 survey identified two historic farmsteads which are located adjacent to the current Project; neither site will be impacted by this Project and there were no cultural resources found within the current Project site (see attached site plan). North Star provided the survey results to the SHPO and on February 26, 2015, and the SHPO agreed with the survey report results and recommendations that no additional survey was required. North Star informally consulted with the SHPO regarding the BESS Project on November 25, 2024. On December 4, 2024, the SHPO agreed that the 2014 survey was adequate and that additional survey is not required for the BESS project (see attached correspondence). A copy of the Phase I archaeological survey is also attached for your review.

Please reach out with any questions or additional data needs. Thank you!

Best,
Joel

Joel Puritz | D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI) | 4949 S Syracuse St., Suite 570 | Denver, CO 80237 | p: 910-616-6346

From: Cheyenne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Trish Leith <trish.leith@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>; Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Kett, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kett@deshaw.com>
Subject: RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

This message was sent by an external party.

We would like to be identified as an interested tribal party, please keep us informed on opportunities to contribute to project and survey planning.

Thank you,

Cheyenne St. John | THPO/Director
507.697-8672 office
Lower Sioux Indian Comm. | 39527 Res Hwy I
Morton MN 56270 | Cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com

From: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 9:28 AM
To: Trish Leith <Trish.leith@lowersioux.com>; Cheyenne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>; Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Kett, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kett@deshaw.com>
Subject: [External]RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

Trish,

Thank you so much for the prompt response, and it's a pleasure to (digitally) meet you! I'm adding a couple folks from our project team for their awareness.

Also, thank you for relaying your feedback. We will be conducting extensive archeological and cultural surveys of the project area throughout our development process. We will absolutely keep the Lower Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office informed on our progress/findings as we receive them. Hope you have a great rest of your week, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Best,
Joel

Joel Puritz | D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI) | 4949 S Syracuse St., Suite 570 | Denver, CO 80237 | p: 910-616-6346

From: Trish Leith <Trish.leith@lowersioux.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 8:20 AM
To: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Subject: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

This message was sent by an external party.

Joel,

Thank you for contacting the Lower Sioux Indian Community THPO, with your proposed undertaking. We currently, do not have concerns or awareness regarding the archaeological and/or cultural resources that are associated with North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in North Branch, Chisago County, MN. Due to the high amount of previously reported archaeological sites within the project area and one-mile buffer, Lower Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office requests to remain an interested party throughout your project endeavors. Should any inadvertent discoveries concerning archaeological and/or cultural resources happen to occur, we encourage you to contact the appropriate parties and agencies to assure the matter is properly addressed.

Thank You

Trish Leith

Trish Leith | Preservation Coordinator

Trish.Leith@lowersioux.com

507-697-8705. Office

Lower Sioux Indian Comm.| 39527 Res Hwy 1
Morton, MN 56270

From: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
To: [Angie Ronayne](#)
Cc: [Risse, William](#); [Puritz, Joel](#); [Aboudi, Joseph](#); [Bill Rudnicki \(TO\)](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 4:29:23 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thank you , as long as no significant archaeological or cultural sites are involved I have no concerns, please continue to keep us informed, Thanks and Have a Great Day!!



LEONARD WABASHA

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer • Cultural Resources
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
d: 952.496.6120
shakopeedakota.org
Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

From: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Bill Rudnicki (TO) <bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

This message came from **outside the organization**. Do Not click on links, open attachments or respond unless you know the content is safe.

Good afternoon –

Thank you for your prompt response and for your interest in the North Star Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project. A Phase I archaeological survey that included the BESS Project area was conducted in October 2014. The 2014 survey identified two historic farmsteads which are located adjacent to the current Project; neither site will be impacted by this Project and there were no cultural resources found within the current Project site (see attached site plan). North Star provided the survey results to the SHPO and on February 26, 2015, the SHPO agreed with the survey report results and recommendations that no additional survey was required. The Phase I archaeological survey is attached for your review.

We look forward to your review and any feedback you may have. Thank you!

Best,

Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)

612.746.3669 direct

763.234.8421 mobile

angie.ronayne@merjent.com

From: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 4:47 PM

To: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>

Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Bill Rudnicki (TO) <bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org>

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Thank you for the opportunity to consult with you on this project. When the archaeological work is complete please share the information. I would be interested in the desktop review of prior archaeological work performed in the area proposed for development. Thank you and Have a Great Day!



LEONARD WABASHA

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer • Cultural Resources

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

d: 952.496.6120

shakopeedakota.org

Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

From: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 4:40 PM

To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>

Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>

Subject: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

You don't often get email from angie.ronayne@merjent.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message came from **outside the organization**. Do Not click on links, open attachments or respond unless you know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

North Star Energy Storage, LLC (“North Star”), a wholly owned subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, L.L.C., proposes to construct the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project (the “Project”) in Township 35N, Range 21W, Section 36 in Chisago County, Minnesota. The Project is located within the municipal boundary of North Branch, MN, adjacent to the existing North Star Solar Facility, which is owned and operated by North Star Solar PV LLC, an affiliate of North Star. The Project requires a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”). North Star intends to file a Site Permit Application (the “Application”) with the Commission in the first quarter of 2025. Pending receipt of all required permits and approvals, construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2026, with commercial operation by the second quarter of 2027.

The attached letter provides additional information about the Project, an overview map, and contact information for North Star. We welcome any comments you may have at this time and throughout the Commission’s Application review process. Any written comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the Commission’s review process.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)
612.746.3669 direct
763.234.8421 mobile
angie.ronayne@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660
www.merjent.com

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If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete the message from your system. Thank you!  
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confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages from Merjent, Inc. may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.

~~~~~

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If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete the message from your system. Thank you!

~~~~~

State Agencies

From: [Angie Ronayne](#)
To: [Donovan, Martin \(DNR\)](#); [Collins, Melissa \(DNR\)](#)
Cc: [Risse, William](#); [Puritz, Joel](#); [Aboudi, Joseph](#); [Monika Davis](#); [Duehr, Jeremy](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 1:20:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon -

Thank you for your prompt response. We sent a project introduction letter to Melissa as well but appreciate clarification on MDNR collaboration efforts. As suggested, we have completed a Natural Heritage review for the project and are interested in scheduling an early coordination meeting. The following days/times work for the North Star team (copied). Melissa, do any of these times work for you?

- Monday, 09 DEC: 10am-12pm CST
- Tuesday, 10 DEC: 2pm-3:30pm CST
- Thursday, 12 DEC: 10am-11amCST
- Friday, 13 DEC: 9am-11am *and* 12:30pm-1:30pm CST

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)
612.746.3669 direct
763.234.8421 mobile
angie.ronayne@merjent.com

From: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>
Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hello Angie,

Thank you for contacting the Minnesota DNR regarding comments on the North Star Storage project. Melissa Collins who is the Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist for the DNR's Region 3 will be your point of contact prior to submitting an application to the PUC. Melissa is CC'd on this email.

Once the application is submitted, I will become the primary DNR contact for the project.

The DNR highly recommends developers engage in early coordination with our agency and complete a [Natural Heritage review](#). Early coordination and the Natural Heritage review can help projects by identifying issues early. Please let us know if you are interested in an early coordination meeting.

Thank you,
Martin

From: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 4:06 PM

To: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>

Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>

Subject: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

You don't often get email from angie.ronayne@merjent.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Good afternoon,

North Star Energy Storage, LLC (“North Star”), a wholly owned subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, L.L.C., proposes to construct the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project (the “Project”) in Township 35N, Range 21W, Section 36 in Chisago County, Minnesota. The Project is located within the municipal boundary of North Branch, MN, adjacent to the existing North Star Solar Facility, which is owned and operated by North Star Solar PV LLC, an affiliate of North Star. The Project requires a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”). North Star intends to file a Site Permit Application (the “Application”) with the Commission in the first quarter of 2025. Pending receipt of all required permits and approvals, construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2026, with commercial operation by the second quarter of 2027.

The attached letter provides additional information about the Project, an overview map, and contact information for North Star. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the Commission’s Application review process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the Commission’s review process.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)

612.746.3669 direct

763.234.8421 mobile

angie.ronayne@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To:

11/04/2024 14:20:28 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0014617

Project Name: North Star BESS Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect.” In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

Northern Long-Eared Bats

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected. For bat activity dates, please review Appendix L in the [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC

species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat range-wide D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. Additional information about available tools can be found on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

Whooping Crane

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States](#)."

Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to survey the area for any migratory bird nests. If there is an eagle nest on-site while work is on-going, eagles may be disturbed. We recommend avoiding and minimizing disturbance to eagles whenever practicable. If you cannot avoid eagle disturbance, you may seek a [permit](#). A [nest take permit](#) is always required for removal, relocation, or obstruction of an eagle nest. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. **Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.**

Minnesota

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: DNRRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0014617
Project Name: North Star BESS Project
Project Type: Power Gen - Other
Project Description: Battery Storage
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@45.472237449999994,-92.91363160390597,14z>



Counties: Chisago County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> Population: MN There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Threatened

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Salamander Mussel <i>Simpsonaias ambigua</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6208	Proposed Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

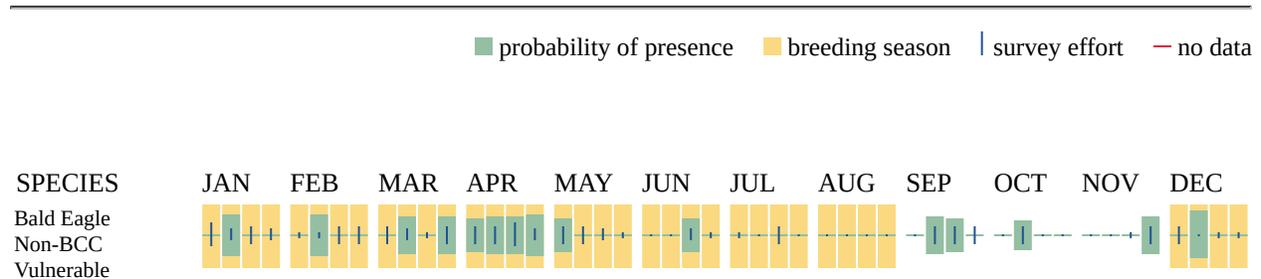
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</p>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
<p>Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger surinamensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093</p>	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
<p>Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643</p>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
<p>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<p>Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</p>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
<p>Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
<p>Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329</p>	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

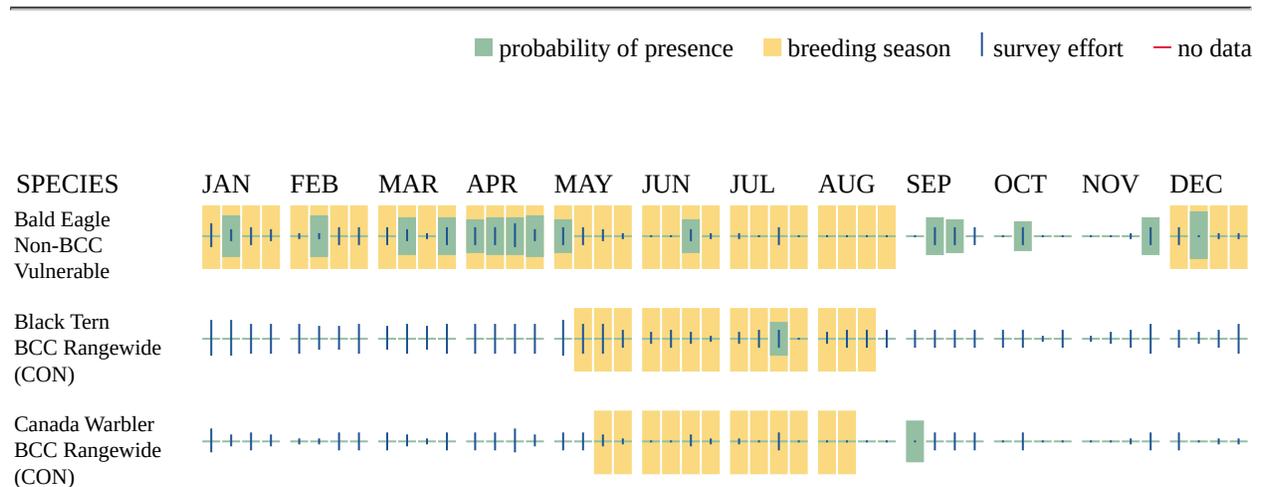
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

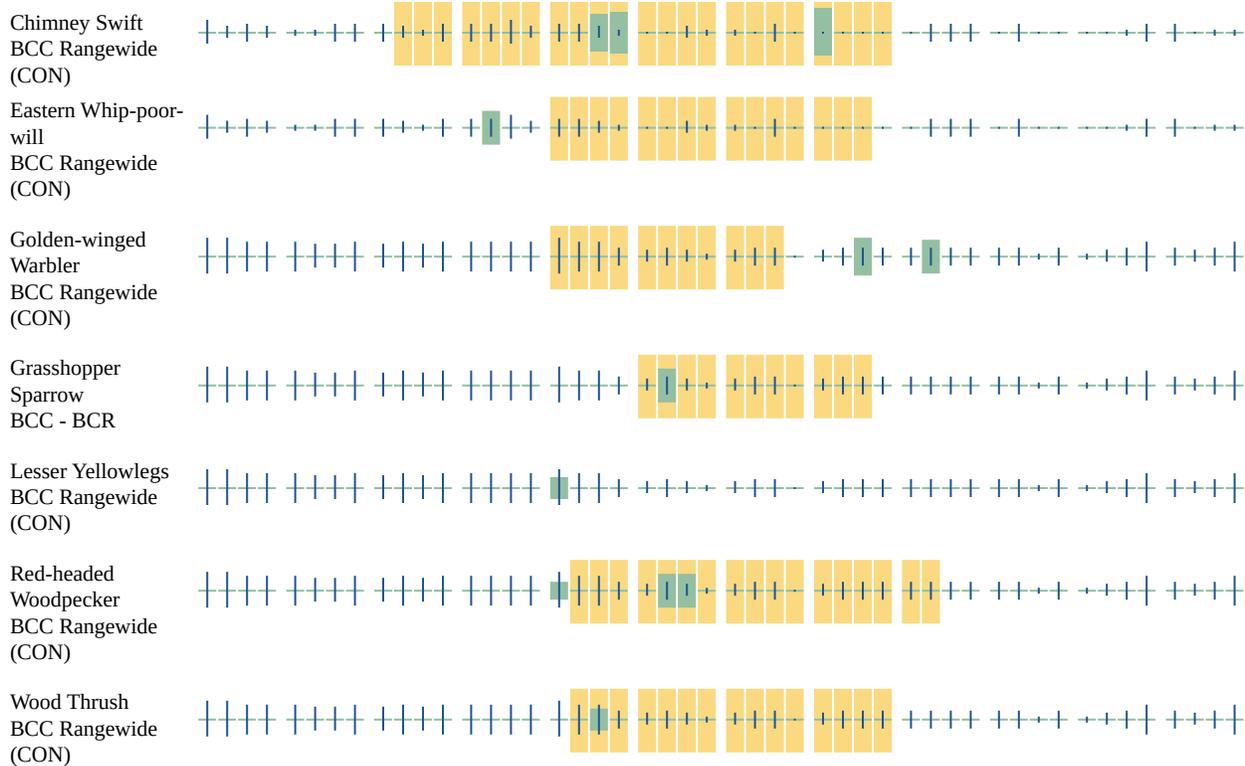
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1/EM1A
- PSS1/EM1A

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1C

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Merjent Inc.
Name: Mandy Bohnenblust
Address: 1 Main St SE, Suite 300
City: Minneapolis
State: MN
Zip: 55414
Email: mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com
Phone: 6127463677

From: [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#)
To: [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Natural Heritage Review: Automated Results Posted
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:04:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Project: North Star BESS Project: Clone Of 2024-00911

Project ID: [2024-00911-02](#)

Date Submitted: 12/11/2024 - 20:52

Organization:

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust,

Thank you for submitting the request for a Natural Heritage Review of North Star BESS Project: Clone Of 2024-00911. The automated results of the review can be found at <https://mce.dnr.state.mn.us/project/north-star-bess-project-clone-2024-00911-11458> by clicking on the most recent Project Report listed in the Automated Review Results table. You will need to log in to see the results.

If no further review is needed, the report will include a cover letter and map summarizing your project and a Natural Heritage Review letter.

If further review is needed, the report will include a cover letter and map summarizing your project and a notice that your project needs further review by the Natural Heritage Review Team. If your project needs further review, you will receive a separate notification email when the review process is complete and the Natural Heritage Review letter has been posted.

The Project Report can be printed for your files, and may be included in any public environmental review document and may be submitted to permitting, licensing, or other government authorities.

If you have questions about the contents of the report or need further assistance, please see the contact information contained within the report. Please send status inquiries to Review.NHIS@state.mn.us.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY to this email, as it has been generated automatically and you will not receive a response.

*Natural Heritage Review Team
Minnesota DNR*

*Minnesota Conservation Explorer
<https://mce.dnr.state.mn.us/>*



Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

Project Name: North Star BESS Project: Clone Of 2024-00911

Project Proposer: DESRI

Project Type: Power, Other

Project Type Activities: Other

TRS: T34 R21 S1, T35 R21 S35, T35 R21 S36

County(s): Chisago

DNR Admin Region(s): Central

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: The project is a proposed battery storage facility which will be sited in accordance with the DNR's Commercial Solar Siting Guidance with regards to fencing. ...

Existing Land Uses: agricultural

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: ag

Waterbodies Affected: none

Groundwater Resources Affected: none

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Ecologically Significant Area	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	Needs Further Review	State-protected Species in Vicinity
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Federally Listed Species	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review



December 11, 2024

Project Name: North Star BESS Project: Clone Of 2024-00911

Project Proposer: DESRI

Project Type: Power, Other

Project ID: MCE #2024-00911-02

AUTOMATED RESULTS: FURTHER REVIEW IS NEEDED

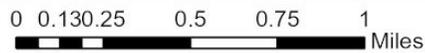
As requested, the above project has undergone an automated review for potential impacts to rare features. Based on this review, one or more rare features may be impacted by the proposed project and further review by the Natural Heritage Review Team is needed. You will receive a separate notification email when the review process is complete and the Natural Heritage Review letter has been posted.

Please refer to the table on the cover page of this report for a summary of potential impacts to rare features. For additional information or planning purposes, use the Explore Page in Minnesota Conservation Explorer to view the potentially impacted rare features or to create a Conservation Planning Report for the proposed project.

If you have additional information to help resolve the potential impacts listed in the summary results, please attach related project documentation in the Edit Details tab of the Project page. Relevant information includes, but is not limited to, additional project details, completed habitat assessments, or survey results. This additional information will be considered during the project review.

North Star BESS Project: Clone Of 2024-00911

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



 Project_Boundary

Project Type: Power, Other

Project Size (acres): 81.66

County(s): Chisago

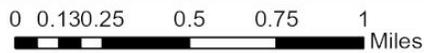
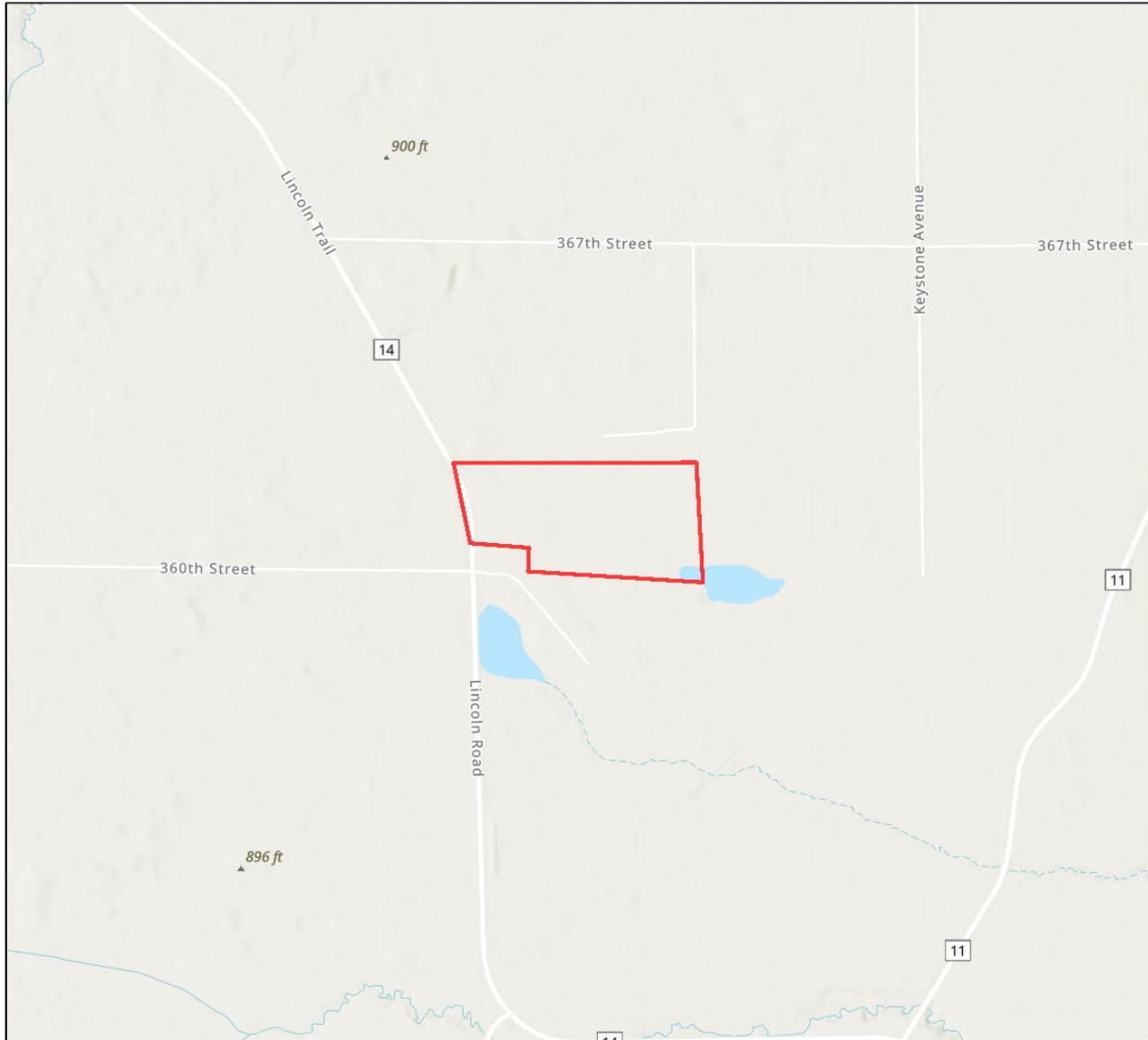
TRS: T34 R21 S1, T35 R21 S35, T35 R21 S36

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph,
GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,



North Star BESS Project: Clone Of 2024-00911

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



 Project_Boundary

Project Type: Power, Other

Project Size (acres): 81.66

County(s): Chisago

TRS: T34 R21 S1, T35 R21 S35, T35 R21 S36

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph,
GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,



From: [Mandy Bohnenblust](mailto:Mandy.Bohnenblust@merjent.com)
To: review.NHIS@state.mn.us
Cc: [Monika Davis](mailto:Monika.Davis@merjent.com); [Angie Ronayne](mailto:Angie.Ronayne@merjent.com); Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com
Subject: MCE-2024-00911
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 7:33:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning,

Thank you for the official MCE review of the North Star BESS Project (MCE-2024-00911). The response, dated December 31, 2024, included a number of requirements to avoid take of Blanding's turtle. This email serves as documentation that the project will implement the required avoidance measures. Those measures include the following:

- Avoid wetland and aquatic impacts during hibernation season, between September 15 and April 15, if the area is suitable for hibernation.
- Install and maintain a temporary turtle proof barrier, such as a silt fence, to keep turtles out of soil stockpiles, gravel pads, and other areas of exposed soil/sand/sediment during nesting season, May 15 to July 15. The turtle proof barrier must be buried a minimum of 10 inches and removed once project is complete.
- Limit erosion and sediment control to wildlife friendly erosion control.
- Avoid hydro-mulch products that contain any materials with synthetic (plastic) fiber additives, as the fibers can re-suspend and flow into waterbodies.
- Check bare ground within construction areas for turtles before the use of heavy equipment or any ground disturbance.
- The Blanding's turtle flyer must be given to all contractors working in the area.
- Report any sightings using the Quick Species Observation Form.
- If turtles are in imminent danger, move them by hand out of harm's way; otherwise, they are to be left undisturbed. Directions on how to move turtles safely can be found at [Helping Turtles Across the Road](#)
- Additional Blanding's turtle avoidance measures may include, but are not limited to, recommendations from List 1 and List 2 of the Blanding's turtle fact sheet.

We understand that if the Project has not occurred within a year of the DNR's response, a new MCE review will be required.

Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Mandy

Mandy Bohnenblust

612.746.3677 direct

612.816.2097mobile

mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com

*this computer doesn't consistently register the keyboard – please forgive typos.



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
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From: [Angie Ronayne](#)
To: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
Cc: [Risse, William](#); [Puritz, Joel](#); [Aboudi, Joseph](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 1:23:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Good afternoon -

Thank you for your prompt response and comments. We concur with your assessment that the project will not impact MnDOT trunk highways or areas of interest. We have noted the information for oversize and overweight permits as well as the current and future construction projects website.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)
612.746.3669 direct
763.234.8421 mobile
angie.ronayne@merjent.com

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>
Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good Afternoon, Angie,

MnDOT is in receipt of your Project Notification Letter, dated November 18th, 2024, for the North Star BESS Project in Chisago County.

The proposed project, as currently shown, does not look to directly impact MnDOT trunk highways or areas of interest. Therefore, our usual request for a project introduction meeting followed by a specific project review process is not required at this time. If I am mistaken in this observation, please advise.

With the possible exception of OSOW ([Minnesota Oversize/Overweight Permits - MnDOT](#)) permits that may be needed during project construction, MnDOT does not anticipate the need for coordination of any other utility accommodation, trunk highway access, or miscellaneous permits.

Please view the current MnDOT Metro District construction projects website at [ihub/metro/construction/index.html](#) for any future projects that may affect the timing and construction of your proposed BESS project. MnDOT's 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) may also be useful for project planning purposes: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/district-chip.html>

Thank you for your early coordination outreach.

Regards,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)



From: Angie Ronayne <angie.ronayne@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 4:08 PM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Cc: Risse, William <William.L.Risse@deshaw.com>; Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>; Aboudi, Joseph <Joseph.Aboudi@deshaw.com>

Subject: Project Introduction for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project in Chisago County, Minnesota

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Good afternoon,

North Star Energy Storage, LLC (“North Star”), a wholly owned subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, L.L.C., proposes to construct the North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project (the “Project”) in Township 35N, Range 21W, Section 36 in Chisago County, Minnesota. The Project is located within the municipal boundary of North Branch, MN,

adjacent to the existing North Star Solar Facility, which is owned and operated by North Star Solar PV LLC, an affiliate of North Star. The Project requires a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”). North Star intends to file a Site Permit Application (the “Application”) with the Commission in the first quarter of 2025. Pending receipt of all required permits and approvals, construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2026, with commercial operation by the second quarter of 2027.

The attached letter provides additional information about the Project, an overview map, and contact information for North Star. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the Commission’s Application review process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the Commission’s review process.

Best,
Angie

Angie Ronayne, PE (she/her)

612.746.3669 direct

763.234.8421 mobile

angie.ronayne@merjent.com



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From: [Harrington, Lucy \(She/Her/Hers\) \(ADM\)](#)
To: [Aaron Armstrong-Duarte](#)
Cc: [Monika Davis](#); joel.puritz@deshaw.com; william.l.risse@deshaw.com
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: North Star BESS and previous survey
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 9:18:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you Aaron. From your original email – “It is my professional opinion that the 2014 survey was adequate and that additional survey is not required. I am providing this for your information and request confirmation of my recommendation.” **I agree.**

If you need a SHPO letter for this project, please submit the project for review normally and in your cover letter reference the 2014 report using standard bibliographic citation, the SHPO number, and SHPO finding, and also include the SHPO letter in your submittal. It would be helpful to reiterate that the archaeological sites identified in the 2014 report will be avoided by the proposed project in that submittal and again show that on the map.

If you have any other questions about this or next steps for this project, please reach out to me.

Thank you,
Lucy

Lucy Harrington (she/her) | Environmental Review Archaeologist

State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Department of Administration
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 201-3283 | lucy.harrington@state.mn.us

Please reference this [SHPO Environmental Review Program Update](#) regarding current project review timelines and staffing changes for the Environmental Review Program.

From: Aaron Armstrong-Duarte <aaron.armstrong-duarte@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>
Cc: Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; joel.puritz@deshaw.com; william.l.risse@deshaw.com
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: North Star BESS and previous survey

Hi Lucy,

Attached is the report and concurrence letter. The project # was 2015-1169.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Cheers,

Aaron Armstrong-Duarte, PhD

612.924.3986 direct

612.245.7639 mobile

aaron.armstrong-duarte@merjent.com



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Minneapolis, MN 55414

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From: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:12 AM

To: Aaron Armstrong-Duarte <aaron.armstrong-duarte@merjent.com>

Cc: Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; joel.puritz@deshaw.com;
william.l.risse@deshaw.com

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: North Star BESS and previous survey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hi Aaron,

Please provide the SHPO Number for the project in 2015 and a report reference for the survey. If you have a SHPO Report Number, that would also be helpful, however if you don't have a SHPO report number, please send the report itself.

If you have the SHPO correspondence and the report, that would also be helpful because the files from this time period (2015) are paper-only and are in off-site storage from the SHPO office. They are not impossible to track down, just hard.

Thank you,

Lucy

Lucy Harrington (she/her) | Environmental Review Archaeologist

State Historic Preservation Office

Minnesota Department of Administration

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

(651) 201-3283 | lucy.harrington@state.mn.us

Please reference this [SHPO Environmental Review Program Update](#) regarding current project review timelines and staffing changes for the Environmental Review Program.

From: Aaron Armstrong-Duarte <aaron.armstrong-duarte@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 7:54 AM
To: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>
Cc: Monika Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; joel.puritz@deshaw.com;
william.l.risse@deshaw.com
Subject: North Star BESS and previous survey

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Hi Lucy,

Merjent is supporting North Star Energy Storage System, LLC (North Star) in the development of the North Star Battery Energy Storage Project (Project) in Chisago County. North Star is in the planning and development phase and has not yet fully designed the project footprint, but it will be located in the SW 1/4, Section 36 of Township 35N and Range 21W and consist of a battery storage facility and up to two primary access roads (see attached map). The Project will require a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) that will be filed with the MPUC in the first quarter of 2025. In support of the MPUC Site Permit application, North Star will also be sending a separate Project introduction to your office later this month.

A Phase I archaeological survey (SHPO No. 2015-1169) that included the Project area was conducted in October 2014. The 2014 survey identified two historic farmsteads which are located adjacent to the current Project; neither site will be impacted by this Project and there were no cultural resources found within the current Project site. North Star provided the survey results to the SHPO and on February 26, 2015, the SHPO agreed with the survey report results and recommendations that no additional survey was required. It is my professional opinion that the 2014 survey was adequate and that additional survey is not required. I am providing this for your information and request confirmation of my recommendation.

Please let me know if you have any questions, need any more information, or would like to further discuss.

All the best,

Aaron Armstrong-Duarte, PhD
612.924.3986 direct
612.245.7639 mobile
aaron.armstrong-duarte@merjent.com



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January 31, 2025

William Risse, Director/Developer
North Star Battery Energy Storage Project
D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, LLC
william.l.risse@deshaw.com

RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage Project
T35 R21 S36, Chisago County
SHPO Number: 2025-0530

Dear William Risse:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. We understand that this project will require a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission site permit. Therefore, the submitted information has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (138.665-666). If this project will be located on non-federal public land, the project will also be subject to review under the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (138.40).

Based on our review of the project information, we have determined that no significant archaeological sites will be affected by this project and that there are **no properties** listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, or within the Historic Sites Network, 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.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at (651) 201-3285 or kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Amy Spong
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

County and Local Agencies

From: [Puritz, Joel](#)
To: kurt.schneider@chisagocountymn.gov; nathans@ci.north-branch.mn.us
Cc: [Risse, William](#); [Angie Ronayne](#); [Monika Davis](#); [Duehr, Jeremy](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 5:02:51 PM

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Kurt,

Thank you for the prompt response, and it's a pleasure to (digitally) meet you and Nate. Apologies for the delay on my end in responding. I've also added a few of my colleagues from our project team for their awareness.

Nate- we'll be sure to include you in our contact list going forward. On a separate note, I received your email regarding relevant PUC dockets and will respond on that thread shortly.

We are looking forward to working with Chisago County and the City of North Branch in helping bring the North Star BESS Project online! We are hard at work preparing our Site Permit Application with the State of Minnesota and expect to submit in February, so we think it would be great to find time to schedule an in-person meeting with this group to introduce the Project in greater depth and answer any and all questions you may have before we submit our SPA.

Given timing/general schedule hecticness around the holiday season, we were hoping to carve out time in early/mid January of next year to head out to North Branch. When you have a moment, would you let us know what dates/times work for you?

Thank you so much for your time, and hope you both have a happy Thanksgiving!

Best,
Joel

Joel Puritz | D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI) | 4949 S Syracuse St., Suite 570 | Denver, CO 80237 | p: 910-616-6346

From: Kurt M. Schneider <Kurt.Schneider@chisagocountymn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>
Cc: Nathan Sondrol (nathans@ci.north-branch.mn.us) <nathans@ci.north-branch.mn.us>
Subject: North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project

This message was sent by an external party.

Joel,

Thank you for the attached introductory letter to your “North Star Battery Energy Storage System Project”. Please retain my direct contact information for any future correspondence accordingly. I also suggest including City of North Branch Community Development Director, Nate Sondrol, in your future correspondence if you have not already done so. I have cc’d Nate with this email.

Please share additional project details and process/progress as it becomes available. I look forward to learning more about the project.



Kurt Schneider | Environmental Services Director
Environmental Services
313 N Main St. Suite 240, Center City, MN 55012
Kurt.Schneider@chisagocountymn.gov
Phone: 651-213-8374

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From: [Puritz, Joel](#)
To: ["Nathan Sondrol"](#)
Cc: [Kim Lindquist](#)
Subject: RE: North Star Battery Energy Storage System
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 5:06:00 PM

Hi Nate,

Appreciate you reaching out! Let me know if the following answers your questions:

- **PUC docket information.** We have not filed our Site Permit Application (SPA) with the State (targeting February '25 to submit), so there is no PUC Docket available for the North Star Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project at this time. The existing solar facility that the BESS will be attached to, North Star Solar PV LLC, has an extensive archive of docket filings that can be found [here](#). Just to clarify- the BESS and the Solar facilities are separate project entities and will therefore have separate PUC docket filings going forward.
- **Comments/Responses.** At this stage of development, we are not pressed for a firm deadline to receive comments/responses from you yet, however we would like to meet with you in person in January to give a more detailed Project overview and answer any questions you may have. I suspect we will not need comments from your end until we are closer to our target submission date in February, but I will keep you posted if that changes.

Let me know if the above answers your questions. Looking forward to working with you as our development efforts progress on this project. Hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving in the meantime!

Best,
Joel

Joel Puritz | D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI) | 4949 S Syracuse St., Suite 570 | Denver, CO 80237 | p: 910-616-6346

From: Nathan Sondrol <nathans@ci.north-branch.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 11:07 AM
To: Puritz, Joel <Joel.Puritz@deshaw.com>
Cc: Kim Lindquist <klindquist@wsbeng.com>
Subject: North Star Battery Energy Storage System

This message was sent by an external party.

Joel

Can you please provide a link to the PUC docket for information on this?

Also, can you please provide when you need comments and responses by?

Thanks

Nate

Nate Sondrol

City of North Branch

Community Development Director

nathans@ci.north-branch.mn.us

651-277-5226 (o) 651-497-0155 (c)

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