



August 14, 2024

**To: Persons Interested in the Proposed Construction of an up to 150 megawatt alternating current photovoltaic solar energy generating system and associated 50 megawatt battery energy storage system, and other associated facilities known as the Northern Crescent Solar and Storage Project in Faribault County, Minnesota; the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities General List; Local Officials; Tribes; and Property Owners**

**Re: Notice of Northern Crescent Solar LLC's Filing of Joint Site Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

**Solar Facility MPUC Docket No. IP-7135/GS-22-57  
BESS Facility MPUC Docket No. IP-7135/GS-24-238**

Northern Crescent Solar LLC (Northern Crescent Solar), a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Primergy Solar Acquisitions, LLC (Primergy), is proposing to construct and operate an up to 150 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generating system (Solar Facility) and associated 50 MWac battery energy storage system (BESS) (BESS Facility), and other associated facilities located in Faribault County, Minnesota (the Northern Crescent Solar and Storage Project, or the Project).

This notice provides formal notice that Northern Crescent Solar filed a Joint Application for a Solar Energy Generating System Site Permit and BESS Site Permit (Application) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission or MPUC) for the Project (MPUC Docket No. IP-7135/GS-22-57 and IP-7135/GS-24-238) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. This notice also provides information on the Project and the permitting process, as well as information on how to register your name with the Commission on the Project contact list to ensure that you receive future notices.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The Project is located in Verona and Prescott Townships in Faribault County, Minnesota. The Project is situated on approximately 1,179 acres of privately owned land, of which 929 acres will be for the operation of the Project.

The Project will include: solar modules (also referred to as panels or arrays); inverters; step-up transformers; electrical wiring; tracking rack structures; collection lines; security fencing and gates; access roads; stormwater collection basins; operations & maintenance facility; supervisory control and data acquisition system; Project substation and power transformer; overhead 161 kV Project transmission line (~300ft within the Project boundary, connecting Xcel Switchyard to Project substation); Xcel switchyard/switchgear/line tap; metering equipment; BESS Facility and associated equipment; and any ancillary equipment or buildings as necessary and typical of a solar farm.

The accompanying map outlines the location of the Project.

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## PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Northern Crescent Solar has, through voluntary agreements, secured 100 percent of the private real estate rights necessary to construct the Project. Accordingly, Northern Crescent Solar's current and future plans do not include the use of eminent domain. If additional property rights are required for the Project, Northern Crescent Solar will seek to negotiate a voluntary easement agreement with each affected landowner.

## SITE PERMIT PROCESS

A Site Permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216E) and Minn. R. parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a Site Permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process. The Site Permit application will be considered by the Commission under the alternative permitting process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Commission has up to six months from the time the application is accepted as complete to process and make a decision on the Site Permit according to Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 7, and Minn. R. 7850.3900, subp. 1. The Commission may extend this time limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.

Within 60 days after the Commission accepts the Application as complete, the Commission and the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) unit will hold a public information and scoping meeting to provide information and seek comments from the public. At this meeting, members of the public may comment on the scope of the environmental assessment and/or propose additional issues for consideration in the environmental assessment that the EERA will prepare. Once the public meeting is scheduled, notice of the meeting will be provided to persons whose names are on the Project contact list and will be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the Project area.

After the environmental assessment has been completed, EERA will make the document available for public review and a public hearing will be held on the Application. Any person may speak at the public hearing, present documentary evidence, ask questions of Northern Crescent Solar's representatives and EERA staff and submit comments.

Further details regarding upcoming meetings and comment periods on the Application will be provided by Northern Crescent Solar, EERA, and/or the Commission in the future.

## CERTIFICATE OF NEED

A Certificate of Need is not required from the Commission for the Project. The Project is exempt from Certificate of Need requirements pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 8(a)(7).

## HOW TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on the Project mailing lists, contact:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst  
Sam Lobby at [sam.lobby@state.mn.us](mailto:sam.lobby@state.mn.us) or (651) 201-2205  
[www.mn.gov/puc](http://www.mn.gov/puc)

Minnesota Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager  
Richard Davis at [richard.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.davis@state.mn.us) or (651) 539-1838

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[www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities](http://www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities)

There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

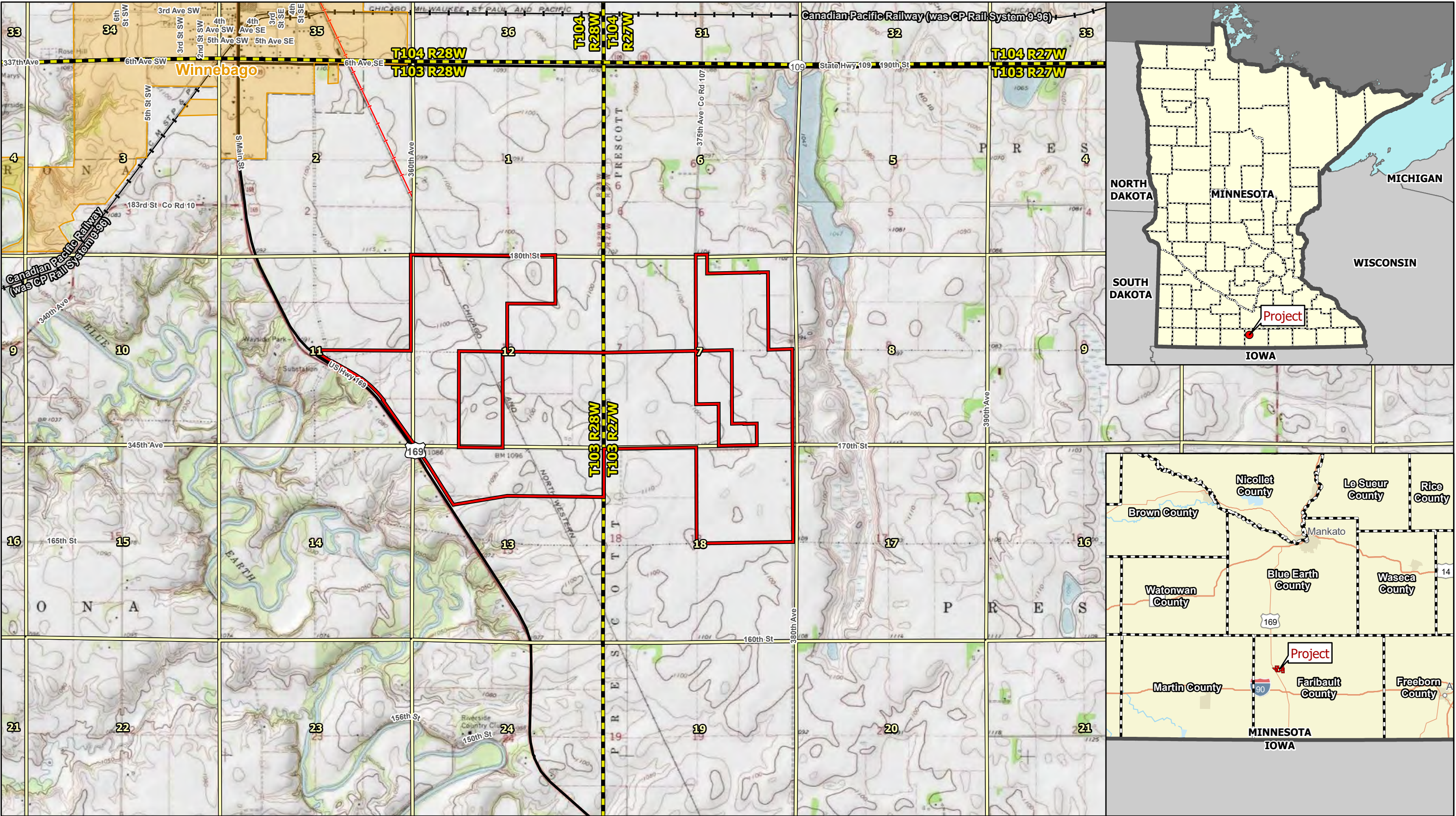
1. Sign up for the Project Mailing List. To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call (651) 201-2246 with the docket number (IP-7135/GS-22-57 [Solar Facility Site Permit] and IP-7135/GS-24-238 [BESS Facility Site Permit]), your name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
2. Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the dockets visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select Subscribe to eDockets and follow the prompts.

Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

A copy of the Application is also available for review at Muir Public Library, 36 Main St. N., Winnebago, MN 56098.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Evan Hughard at (919) 492-8955 or by email at [ehughard@primergysolar.com](mailto:ehughard@primergysolar.com).





Data Source(s): Westwood (2024); ESRI WMS  
USGS Topographic & World Streets Basemaps  
(Accessed 2023); U.S. Census Bureau (2021 &  
2022); PLSS (2022).

- Legend**
- Project Area

County Boundary

Township Boundary

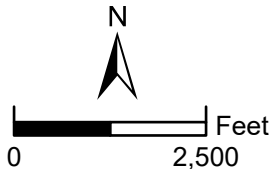
Section Boundary

Municipal Boundary

Major Road

Railroad

Abandoned Rail



**Northern Crescent Solar  
& Storage Project**  
Faribault County, Minnesota  
Project Location &  
USGS Topography  
FIGURE 1 (July, 2024)