



**LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota Comments on the Proposed
Louise Solar Project in Mower County
PUC Docket Numbers: IP7039/CN-20-646 and IP7039/GS-20-647**

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the up to 50 MW Louise Solar Project, LLC, in Mower County, Minnesota.

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota represents 12,000 unionized construction workers statewide including many workers in and around Mower County. We believe that this solar project has the potential to provide significant socio-economic benefits to the regional economy by creating and sustaining high-quality construction and maintenance jobs at a time when area construction workers are eager for work opportunities.

The creation of high-quality construction jobs is not the primary objective of energy policy in Minnesota, but it is an important factor to consider, especially in a rural area of Minnesota where the availability of family-supporting blue-collar jobs is very limited. In recent years, we have seen some renewable energy projects generate controversy by relying heavily on an out-of-state construction workforce or by creating low quality jobs, while others have delivered substantial economic benefits to local communities. Fortunately, Louise Solar parent company EDF Renewables has been a national leader in efforts to maximize the local socioeconomic benefits of clean energy development, so we are confident that this project will prioritize creation of family-supporting job opportunities for local workers.

We believe that the certificate of need application contains the information required under Minn. R. 7849.0220, subp. 1 and Minn. R. 7850.3100. Based on what we know about the project and our past experience with both informal and contested-case proceedings, we recommend that these applications be considered jointly through the informal review process. An informal proceeding will provide ample opportunity for stakeholders, and members of the public generally, to answer questions and raise any concerns about the project. We are not aware of any contested issues of fact that would necessitate use of a formal contested case proceeding.

Dated: March 8, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota

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