



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

February 20, 2024

Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: In the Matter of the Request for Amendment of Permit Conditions for the 160 MW Elk Creek Solar Project in Rock County, PUC Docket Number: IP-7009/GS-19-495

Dear Consumer Affairs Office:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Draft Site Permit for the Elk Creek Solar Project in Rock County. Our agency supports the inclusion of the draft site permit language regarding security fencing requirements. Additionally, the DNR values the inclusion of the draft site permit's special conditions:

- 5.1 State-listed Fish
- 5.2 Facility Lighting
- 5.3 Dust Control
- 5.4 Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control

The DNR appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Elk Creek Solar Project. Our agency advises that any DNR permits or licenses required for the project will not be granted until the PUC has issued an approved permit for this project. If you have questions about our agency's comments, I may be reached at 651-259-5078 or cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cynthia Warzecha
Energy Projects Planner

EC: Sam Lobby, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Erika Wilder, Minnesota Department of Comm
Haley Byron, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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