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To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 9:32:23 AM

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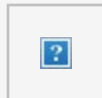
Phone Number (320) 523-3664

Email scott.refsland@renvillecountymn.gov

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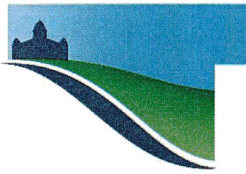
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**In the Matter of Application of Birch Coulee Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 125 MW
Solar Project in Renville County, MN**

Docket No. 23-477

March 13, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter. Renville County has reviewed the application submitted by Birch Coulee Solar, and respectfully submits the following comments for consideration.

1. Renville County continues discussions with Birch Coulee Solar LLC regarding the importance of having a bond to cover the full cost of decommissioning the project. Birch Coulee Solar has estimated the decommissioning cost at \$3,334,478.00 after resale and recycling of materials. However, Renville County believes this amount is insufficient. Based on current information, the estimated full cost to decommission the site is \$3.5 million. Since the county is not in the business of selling solar products, this figure represents the total cost required for proper decommission at current prices. Renville County seeks assurance that the cost of decommissioning will not fall on taxpayers.
2. In Section 4.3.21, Noxious Weeds, section of the draft permit, the existing language states, "**The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction.**" We respectfully request that the language be revised to: "**The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds throughout the life of the Project, including during construction.**" This change will ensure long-term management of noxious weeds beyond the construction phase.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Scott Refsland
Environmental Services Director