

Appendix B

Agency Coordination & Correspondence

Louise Solar Project
Mower County, Minnesota

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EDF Renewables North America
15445 Innovation Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
www.edf-re.com

August 4, 2020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ATTN: Sarah Quamme
Minnesota Wisconsin Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

Re: Louise Solar Project, Mower County, Minnesota
File 0014192.01

Dear Sarah Quamme,

Louise Solar Project, LLC (“Louise Solar”), a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, Inc., is developing the Louise Solar Project (“Project”). The Project is proposed to be a 50 megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity utility-scale solar facility situated on approximately 350 acres in Mower County, Minnesota. A map of the project location and associated boundary is enclosed. The Project will include single-axis PV arrays installed on driven piles, inverters, security fencing, trenched electrical cables, a project substation, temporary laydown areas and gravel access roads. An approximately 200-foot, 161 kV transmission line will also be needed to interconnect the project to the adjacent Adams substation.

The table below provides the sections of land included in the Project boundary.

County	Township	Range	Section
Mower	101N	15	7, 18
Mower	101N	16	12

The proposed Project area consists of solely agricultural land that is routinely disturbed by traditional farming techniques. The Project has been sited in an agricultural area in an effort to reduce the need for land clearing and minimize typical construction processes such as surface grading and soil compaction. Tree clearing is planned to be avoided to the maximum extent possible.

August 4, 2020

Page 2

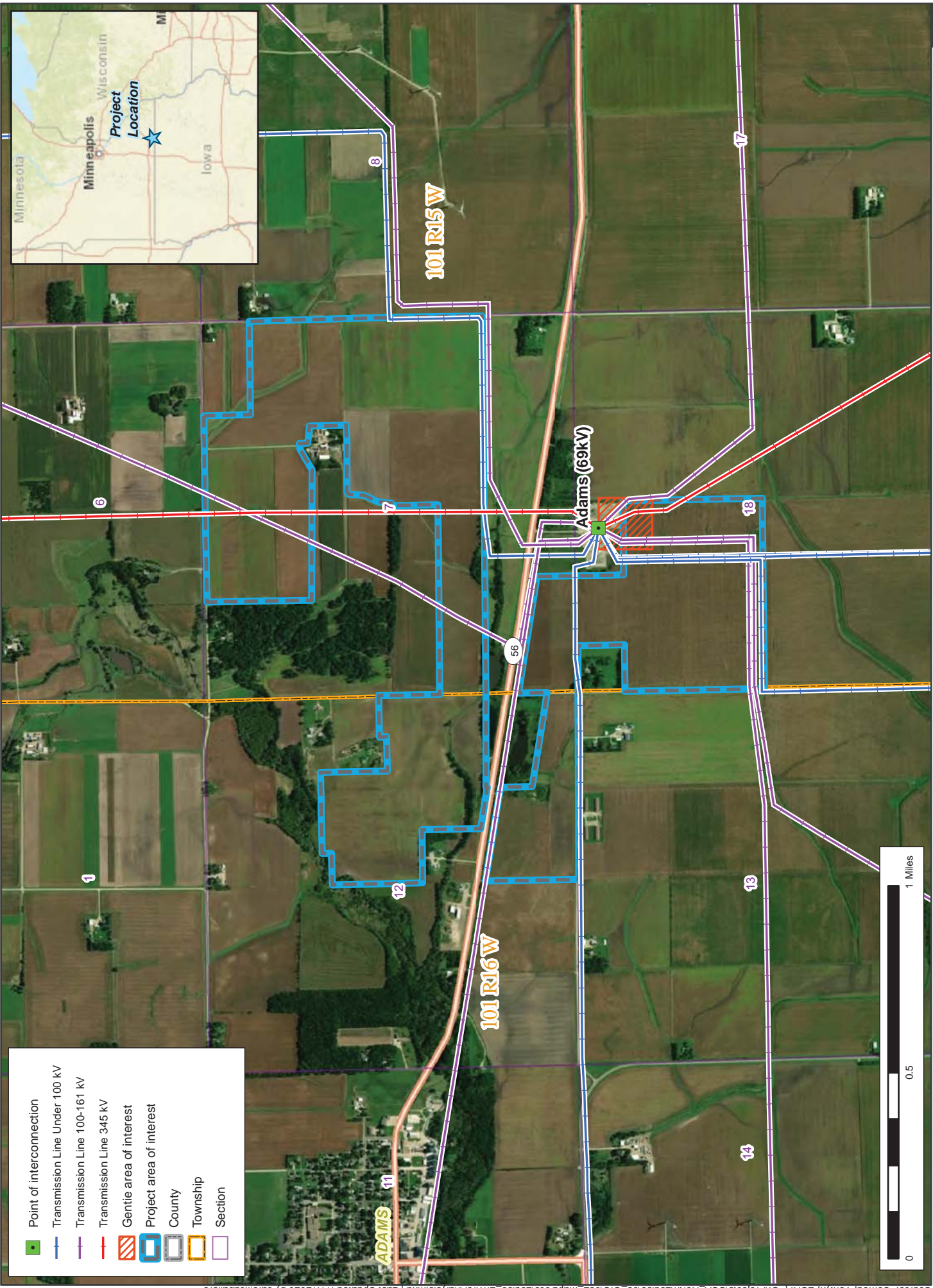
Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 216E.01 and 216E.03, the Project will require a site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”), and a certificate of need (“CN”) in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216B.243. The transmission line will not require a route permit from the MPUC because, while it is greater than 100 kV, it is less than 1,500 feet in length. Additionally, no aspect of the project is anticipated to trigger Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

EDF Renewables plans to apply for a CN and site permit from the MPUC in the Fall of 2020 to meet planned construction and a Commercial Operation Date (COD) anticipated in 2022 or 2023. Written comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the MPUC’s review process. If you have questions or require further information regarding the project, I can be reached at (612) 486-4523 or via email Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com.

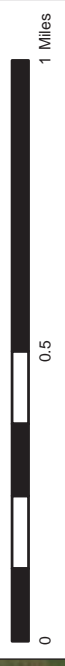
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Wentzell', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Scott Wentzell
Project Developer



- Point of interconnection
- Transmission Line Under 100 kV
- Transmission Line 100-161 kV
- Transmission Line 345 kV
- Gentle area of interest
- Project area of interest
- County
- Township
- Section



Source: Comed, Ventyx, ESRI | G:\Projects\USA_NorthLouise\05_GIS\052_MapDocs\Louise_Envr\Analysis\mxd | Last Updated 7/17/2020 by carell.caballero

LOUISE SOLAR PROJECT
Mower County, MN





EDF Renewables North America
15445 Innovation Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
www.edf-re.com

August 4, 2020

White Earth Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office
ATTN: Jaime Arsenault
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591

Re: Louise Solar Project, Mower County, Minnesota
File 0014192.01

Dear Jaime Arsenault,

Louise Solar Project, LLC (“Louise Solar”), a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, Inc., is developing the Louise Solar Project (“Project”). The Project is proposed to be a 50 megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity utility-scale solar facility situated on approximately 350 acres in Mower County, Minnesota. A map of the project location and associated boundary is enclosed. The Project will include single-axis PV arrays installed on driven piles, inverters, security fencing, trenched electrical cables, a project substation, temporary laydown areas and gravel access roads. An approximately 200-foot, 161 kV transmission line will also be needed to interconnect the project to the adjacent Adams substation.

The table below provides the sections of land included in the Project boundary.

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Mower	101N	16	12

The proposed Project area consists of solely agricultural land that is routinely disturbed by traditional farming techniques. The Project has been sited in an agricultural area in an effort to reduce the need for land clearing and minimize typical construction processes such as surface grading and soil compaction. Tree clearing is planned to be avoided to the maximum extent possible.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 216E.01 and 216E.03, the Project will require a site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”), and a certificate of need (“CN”) in

August 4, 2020

Page 2

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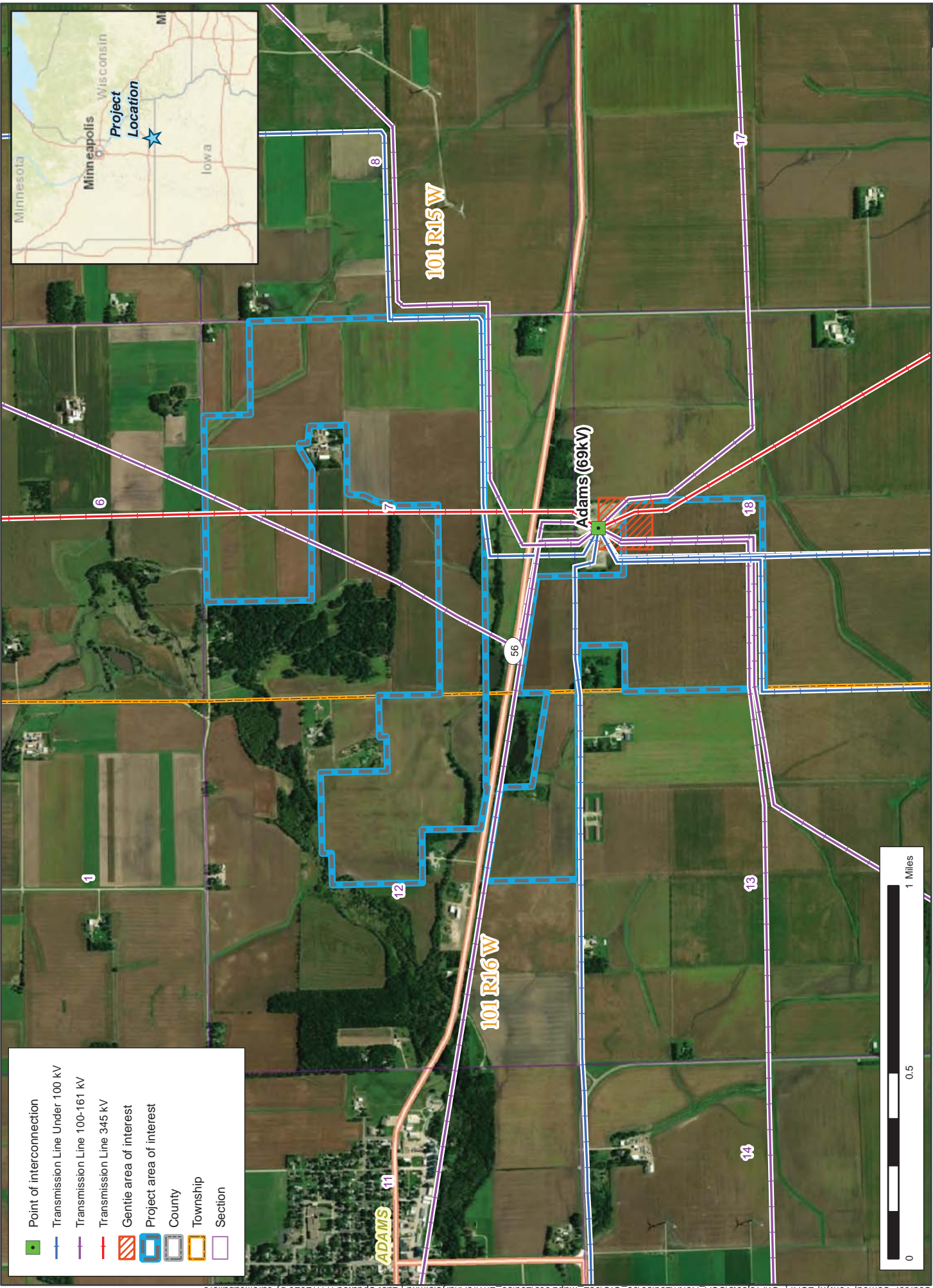
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Wentzell', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back to the right.

Scott Wentzell
Project Developer

- Point of interconnection
- Transmission Line Under 100 kV
- Transmission Line 100-161 kV
- Transmission Line 345 kV
- Gentle area of interest
- Project area of interest
- County
- Township
- Section



LOUISE SOLAR PROJECT
Mower County, MN



Anna Pitti

From: Trish Harren <trish.harren@CO.MOWER.MN.US>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:39 PM
To: David Weetman
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Thanks David. I will share this out with my board and the county engineer.

Trish

From: David Weetman [mailto:David.Weetman@westwoodps.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Trish Harren
Subject: Louise Solar Project

Trish,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood
12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Anna Pitti

From: MacPherson, Rebecca (FAA) <Rebecca.MacPherson@faa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:59 PM
To: David Weetman
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Thanks David.

From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2020 4:06 PM
To: MacPherson, Rebecca (FAA) <Rebecca.MacPherson@faa.gov>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

Rebecca,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

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12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Anna Pitti

From: Justin Hanson <justin@mowerdistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:07 AM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Steve Lawler
Subject: Re: Louise Solar Project

Thanks for the opportunity to review. I passed this along to Steve Lawler for a snapshot review of the project area, as it relates to Wetland Conservation Act provisions.

It looks like the solar panels would generally be located on cropped fields. Those fields are likely tilled and non wetland. We are unable to issue a blanket approval. However, the level of concern is low for this area. If you begin working in areas that appear to be wet for extended periods of time (2-3 weeks), drop us a line and we do assist you with reviewing those specific areas.

Good luck! Looks like a great project for Mower County!

On Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 4:24 PM David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com> wrote:

Justin,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman
Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

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12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

--

Justin Hanson
Mower SWCD
Cedar River Watershed District
justin@mowerdistrict.org
(507) 438-1752

Anna Pitti

From: Beimers, Sarah (ADM) <sarah.beimers@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:37 PM
To: David Weetman
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Thank you David. For any future projects, and while our temporary electronic submission procedures are still in place, please email to ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us.

-Sarah



Sarah Beimers | Environmental Review Program Manager
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203

Saint Paul, MN 55155

(651) 201-3290

sarah.beimers@state.mn.us

Given the Governor's implementation of [Stay Safe MN](#), SHPO staff will continue to work remotely and be available via [phone and email](#), and the SHPO office will be closed to visitors and unable to accommodate in-person research and deliveries. Mail is being delivered to the office via USPS, FedEx and UPS, however, staff have limited weekly access to sort and process mail. Our office will continue to take file search requests via DataRequestSHPO@state.mn.us. Check [SHPO's webpage](#) for the latest updates and we thank you for your continued patience.

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Beimers, Sarah (ADM) <sarah.beimers@state.mn.us>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

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

Sarah,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project. A letter is in the mail as well.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager

david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

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Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Anna Pitti

From: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Eric Hansen; David Weetman
Cc: Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com; Peek, Andy (FAA); 'Juran, Rylan (DOT)'; 'Gaug, Ryan (DOT)'
Subject: FW: Louise Solar Project
Attachments: FAA Contact Letter.pdf

David,

We received the attached letter regarding the proposed solar project. In order to properly review this proposal, you will need to submit an obstruction evaluation through our OE/AAA system for the transmission line and solar panels.

I do not see any airports nearby so there should not be any airspace issues, but the OE will properly evaluate.

That proposal can be submitted through the following link:
<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>

Additionally, I have copied the MnDOT Aeronautics representative on this email, should they have any comments.

There is no need to continue to include Rebecca MacPherson in further communications. Our local FAA office will assist you.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Lindsay Butler (Terry)

Deputy ADO Manager

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2020 4:06 PM
To: MacPherson, Rebecca (FAA) <Rebecca.MacPherson@faa.gov>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

Rebecca,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager

david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood

12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Anna Pitti

From: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:18 PM
To: Balk, Becky (MDA); David Weetman
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Hi David,
I'm looking forward to working with you and/or your staff as you progress through the Public Utilities Commission's process. Once you've made connections at the PUC and Energy Environmental Review & Analysis we can start working on the parts that we need to complete together – an Ag Impact Mitigation Plan and a Vegetation Management Plan (in conjunction with the MN DNR).

Stay in touch.
Thanks,
Steve

Steve Roos, PLA, ASLA
Environmental Planner
Energy and Environment Section
Agricultural Marketing and Development Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538
Ph: 651-201-6631 office, 651-245-2392 cell



www.mda.state.mn.us

From: Balk, Becky (MDA) <becky.balk@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:26 AM
To: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Cc: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Hi David,

Thank you so much for reaching out to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for comments on the Louise Solar Project. Steve Roos, on our staff (copied), is the contact person for solar projects and will assist you moving forward. I suspect he will be in contact with you soon. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to him with any questions.

All the Best,

Becky Balk
Land Use Program Manager
Agricultural Marketing & Development Division

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-6369 Becky.balk@state.mn.us

From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Balk, Becky (MDA) <becky.balk@state.mn.us>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

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Becky,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

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12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

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Anna Pitti

From: David Weetman
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Boettcher, Joanne (DNR)
Cc: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR)
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project
Attachments: Boundary_v11_Louise.kmz; FW: NHIS Data Request - Louise Solar Repower

Joanne,

Please find a kmz of the project boundary attached. Thanks in advance for your review. Please also see attached the NHIS information recently received from Samantha Bump.

Best Regards,
David

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood
12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

From: Boettcher, Joanne (DNR) [mailto:Joanne.Boettcher@state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 4:12 PM
To: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Cc: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Hi David,

Thanks for contacting us. I will get your project on my review list. Do you have a shapefile of the project area you could share?

Thanks,

Joanne Boettcher
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist
MNDNR – Mankato
(507) 389-8813

From: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 3:59 PM
To: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Cc: Boettcher, Joanne (DNR) <Joanne.Boettcher@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Hi David,

I forwarded the letter regarding the proposed Louise Solar Project to Joanne Boettcher, the new Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist in the DNR's South Region. Joanne is in the position previously held by Kevin Mixon. She will be your primary contact until the site permit application has been submitted to the PUC. However, please continue to copy me on any correspondence and include me in any future meetings.

Thank you.

Cynthia

Cynthia Warzecha
Energy Projects Planner

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5078
Email: cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us



From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

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Cynthia,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager

david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

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Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

Anna Pitti

From: GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 12:27 PM
To: David Weetman
Subject: SHPO No. 2020-2474 - Louise Solar Project
Attachments: 2020-2474.pdf

Hi David –

Here is the SHPO comment letter for this proposed project. Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Kelly



Kelly Gragg-Johnson | Environmental Review Specialist
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203
Saint Paul, MN 55155
(651) 201-3285
kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

Given the Governor's implementation of [Stay Safe MN](#), SHPO staff will continue to work remotely and be available via [phone and email](#), and the SHPO office will be closed to visitors and unable to accommodate in-person research and deliveries. Mail is being delivered to the office via USPS, FedEx and UPS, however, staff have limited weekly access to sort and process mail. Our office will continue to take file search requests via DataRequestSHPO@state.mn.us. Check [SHPO's webpage](#) for the latest updates and we thank you for your continued patience.



From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:36 PM
To: MN_ADM_ENV Review SHPO <ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

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Sarah,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project. A letter is in the mail as well.

Thanks!

David Weetman

Environmental Permitting Manager

david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419

main (952) 937-5150

cell (612) 849-5320

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Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com

(888) 937-5150

Anna Pitti

From: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Brusven, Christina (CBrusven@fredlaw.com); David Weetman
Cc: Jacob Salisbury; Adam Sokolski
Subject: FW: Louis Solar Project

FYI

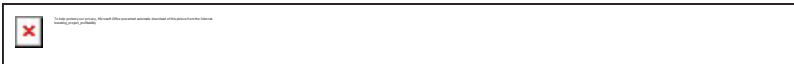


Scott Wentzell

Project Developer

T: 612-486-4523

M: 617-637-0376



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From: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Subject: Louis Solar Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL : This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Dear Scott Wentzell

Thank You for your letter dated August 27 2020 regarding the Louis Solar Project Mower County Minnesota.

At this time the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has no concerns regarding this project, however in the event of an inadvertent discovery please stop all work and contact the proper authorities. And, Please keep us informed of the progress of this project.

Also please send future correspondence to myself at the following address as our office has moved:

2300 Tiwahe Circle

Shakopee, MN. 55379

Thank you again and Have a Great Day!

Respectfully,



LEONARD WABASHA

Director of Cultural Resources • Cultural Resources
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
d: 952.496.6120
hokokatati.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.

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The information contained in this message is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, dissemination or copying of this information is prohibited.

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

~~~~~

Anna Pitti

From: Boettcher, Joanne (DNR) <Joanne.Boettcher@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 4:31 PM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR); Wagar, Joel D (DNR); Tranel, Molly (DNR); Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR); Ihns, Karla A (DNR); Piepho, Todd (DNR); Gelvin-Innvaer, Lisa A (DNR); Soupir, Craig (DNR); Vorland, Jeanine (DNR); Gieseke, Tim (DNR)
Subject: Louise Solar - DNR Early Coordination Comments
Attachments: Erosion_InvasiveSpecies_StandardGuidance_20200707.pdf

Good afternoon David, this email includes DNR early coordination comments on the proposed Louise Solar project. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you

- Refer to the DNR [Commercial Solar Siting Guidance](#) and [Prairie Establishment & Maintenance Technical Guidance for Solar Projects](#) for general project recommendations.
- The project can download and use natural resource GIS data layers, available on the [Minnesota Geospatial Commons](#) for planning purposes.
- The project footprint surrounds portions of Shooting Star State Trail. The DNR has an easement for this land. We ask that that infrastructure is placed sufficiently away from the trail so that it does not impact trail maintenance, typically the 10ft paved trail and about 5ft on either side of the trail. We prefer crossings to be directionally bored or placed overhead to avoid damage to the paved trail.
- As documented in the NHIS review letter, the MBS site/remnant prairie on the project boundary edge should be avoided and contains a documented state-listed plant, wild quinine. If the native plant community will be disturbed, a botanical survey for wild quinine will be required.
- Live mussels have been document upstream and downstream of the proposed project and could occur within the project area. Although none of the documented mussels were legally listed under state or federal endangered species laws, mussels are generally less common and very sensitive to a variety of disturbance. Due to this, we recommend the following: Use effective erosion and sediment control. Avoid or minimize stream crossings and work instream, as mussels can be crushed, stranded, or smothered. Use environmentally sensitive construction techniques such as directional boring or overhead line. If boring is planned, bore pits should be placed away from the water's edge and erosion control methods should be employed to prevent excavation material from entering the water. Upon completion, pits should be filled, graded to preconstruction contours, and re-vegetated with native plant species.
- The NW corner of boundary overlaps "unnamed" stream (a public water) and it's floodplain. Any work within the ordinary high water level would require [public waters work permit](#). We don't recommend placing any infrastructure in the flood zone. If you decide to pursue this specific location, ensure you are meeting any local floodplain requirements.
- A few small areas within the project footprint are identified as National Wetlands Inventory wetlands. We recommend avoiding these areas to avoid installation and operational problems as well as to minimize environmental impacts. Ensure any wetland and WCA requirements are fulfilled by contacting the Wetland Conservation Act authority, typically the county.
- A few flow paths transect the project footprint. We recommend avoiding placing infrastructure in the flow paths.
- We recommend wildlife friendly fencing due to the proximity to natural areas. See the first guidance link above for more information.

- We recommend wildlife friendly erosion control and invasive species prevention best management practices (see attachment).

Joanne Boettcher
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist
MNDNR – Mankato
(507) 389-8813



Anna Pitti

From: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Brusven, Christina (CBrusven@fredlaw.com); David Weetman
Cc: Adam Sokolski; Jacob Salisbury
Subject: FW: Louise Solar Project

Hi All – see below for response from the FAA. They have determined that we do not need to file for formal determination. Would it be in our interest to still file to receive a determination letter?



Scott Wentzell
Project Developer

T: 612-486-4523
M: 617-637-0376



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From: Pratt, Nick (FAA) <nick.pratt@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL : This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Hi Scott,

I spoke to Roby Kiser and he confirmed you do not need to file anything further if your proposal does not meet the notice criteria. You can choose to file anyway if you want us to issue a determination letter but it is not required.

Nick Pratt
Program Manager
Dakota-Minnesota ADO
T 612 253 4633
F 612 253 4611

From: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 1:01 PM

To: Pratt, Nick (FAA) <nick.pratt@faa.gov>; David.Weetman@westwoodps.com; eric.hansen@westwoodps.com; Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>; Souchet, Fred (FAA) <Fred.Souchet@faa.gov>

Cc: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Nick,

My apologies, it appears there has been some confusion. We were under the impression that Lindsay had directed us to the Notice Criteria Review tool., which indicated the project did not meet the Notice Criteria.

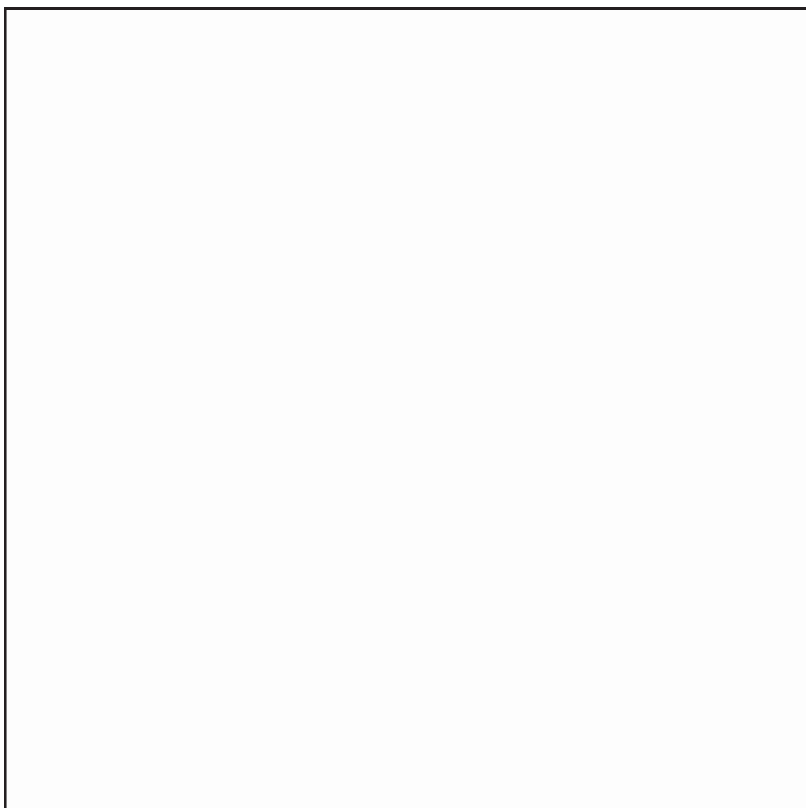
For the sake of clarity, does the agency request that Louise Solar submit a proposal for an OE study?

Thank you,
Scott



Scott Wentzell
Project Developer

T: 612-486-4523
M: 617-637-0376



Disclaimer: This email and any attachments sent to EDF employees or their intended recipients should be considered confidential, may contain legal, professional and/or other privileged information, and intended solely for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, do not use the information in this email in any way; delete and notify the sender.

From: Pratt, Nick (FAA) <nick.pratt@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>; David.Weetman@westwoodps.com; eric.hansen@westwoodps.com;
Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>; Souchet, Fred (FAA) <Fred.Souchet@faa.gov>
Cc: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Louise Solar Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL : This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Hi Scott,

Do you have an OE study number or a determination letter? I did not find them filed in the system.

Fred Souchet and Roby Kiser are part of the Obstruction Evaluation group that leads this type of airspace study and issues the determinations. They can help you locate and or file your proposal.
I copied them on this email.

Roby/Fred,

Have you seen an OE study for the proposed Louise Solar Project?

Thanks,

Nick Pratt
Program Manager
Dakota-Minnesota ADO
T 612 253 4633
F 612 253 4611

From: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Pratt, Nick (FAA) <nick.pratt@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Louise Solar Project

Can you help me on this one? Does he need to do anything further? Thanks!

Lindsay Butler (Terry)
Deputy ADO Manager
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

From: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>; eric.hansen@westwoodps.com;
David.Weetman@westwoodps.com

Cc: Peek, Andy (FAA) <Andy.Peek@faa.gov>; 'Juran, Rylan (DOT)' <Rylan.Juran@state.mn.us>; 'Gaug, Ryan (DOT)' <ryan.gaug@state.mn.us>; Brusven, Christina (CBrusven@fredlaw.com) <CBrusven@fredlaw.com>

Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

Lindsay,

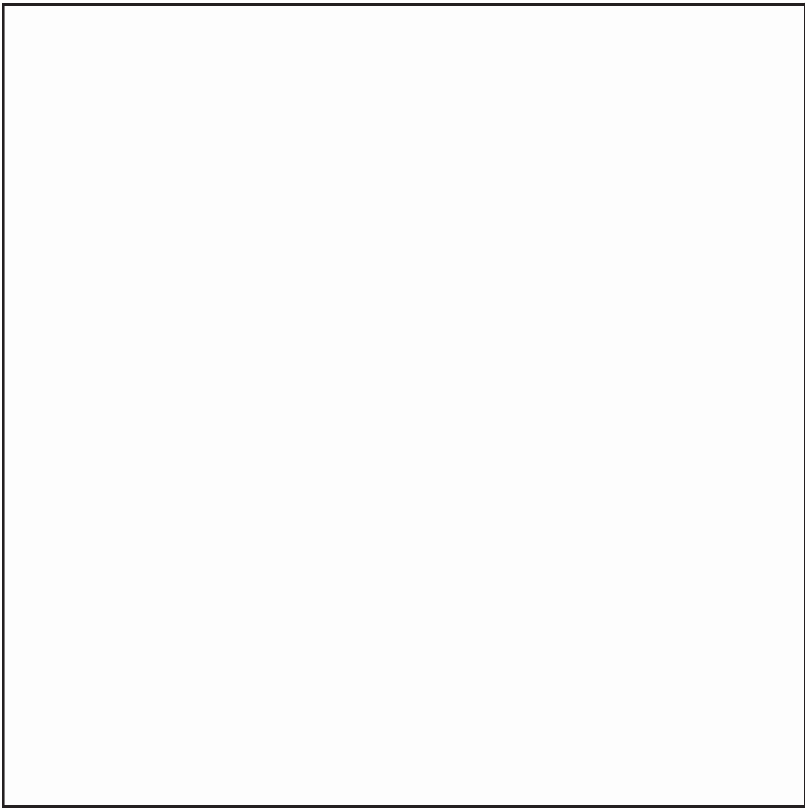
EDF has submitted an obstruction evaluation for the Louise Solar Project through the OE/AAA screening tool that you provided. The results of that evaluation indicate that the project does not exceed Notice Criteria. I've attached screenshots from that review for reference.

Can you please advise if additional evaluation is necessary at this time?

Thank you,
Scott



Scott Wentzell
Project Developer
T: 612-486-4523
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From: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:34 PM
To: eric.hansen@westwoodps.com; David.Weetman@westwoodps.com
Cc: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>; Peek, Andy (FAA) <Andy.Peek@faa.gov>; 'Juran, Rylan (DOT)' <Rylan.Juran@state.mn.us>; 'Gaug, Ryan (DOT)' <ryan.gaug@state.mn.us>
Subject: FW: Louise Solar Project

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David,

We received the attached letter regarding the proposed solar project. In order to properly review this proposal, you will need to submit an obstruction evaluation through our OE/AAA system for the transmission line and solar panels.

I do not see any airports nearby so there should not be any airspace issues, but the OE will properly evaluate.

That proposal can be submitted through the following link:
<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>

Additionally, I have copied the MnDOT Aeronautics representative on this email, should they have any comments.

There is no need to continue to include Rebecca MacPherson in further communications. Our local FAA office will assist you.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Lindsay Butler (Terry)
Deputy ADO Manager
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

From: David Weetman <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2020 4:06 PM
To: MacPherson, Rebecca (FAA) <Rebecca.MacPherson@faa.gov>
Subject: Louise Solar Project

Rebecca,

Please see the attached letter in regards to the Louise Solar Project.

Thanks!

David Weetman
Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood

Anna Pitti

From: Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Pratt, Nick (FAA); Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com; David Weetman; Eric Hansen; Souchet, Fred (FAA)
Cc: Butler, Lindsay (FAA)
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project

You do not exceed Notice Criteria on any of these sites. Filing is NOT needed.

Regards,

Robby

NOTE: Email is the fastest way to reach me.

Robby Kiser

Federal Aviation Administration
AJV-A51/Obstructions and Evaluations Group
Air Traffic Specialist III / FAA OEG – NAVTAC Support
1701 Columbia Ave. College Park, GA 30337
Telephone: Work: 404-305-6616 Cell: 678-340-7996 Fax: 404-305-6588
Email: Robert.k-CTR.kiser@faa.gov

Technician for the states of Michigan, Minnesota and South Carolina



- 1) To see if your structure is required to file with FAA, please go to:
<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/gisTools/gisAction.jsp?action=showNoNoticeRequiredToolForm>
- 2) OEAAA.faa.gov Filing Instructions: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/content/instructions.jsp>
- 3) Wind Turbine FAQs: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/searchAction.jsp?action=showWindTurbineFAQs>
- 4) DOT/FAA Obstruction Marking & Lighting Advisory Circular (AC 70/7460-1L Change 2):
https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1030047
- 5) LIGHT OUTAGE REPORTING: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/content/lightOutageReporting.jsp>
- 6) Helpdesk (System Issues/Support): 202-580-7500/Email: oeaaa_helpdesk@cghtech.com

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To: Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com; David.Weetman@westwoodps.com; eric.hansen@westwoodps.com; Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>; Souchet, Fred (FAA) <Fred.Souchet@faa.gov>
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To: Butler, Lindsay (FAA) <Lindsay.Butler@faa.gov>; eric.hansen@westwoodps.com;
David.Weetman@westwoodps.com
Cc: Peek, Andy (FAA) <Andy.Peek@faa.gov>; 'Juran, Rylan (DOT)' <Rylan.Juran@state.mn.us>; 'Gaug, Ryan (DOT)' <ryan.gaug@state.mn.us>; Brusven, Christina (CBrusven@fredlaw.com) <CBrusven@fredlaw.com>
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Can you please advise if additional evaluation is necessary at this time?

Thank you,

Scott



Scott Wentzell

Project Developer

T: 612-486-4523

M: 617-637-0376



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To: eric.hansen@westwoodps.com; David.Weetman@westwoodps.com

Cc: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>; Peek, Andy (FAA) <Andy.Peek@faa.gov>; 'Juran, Rylan (DOT)'

<Rylan.Juran@state.mn.us>; 'Gaug, Ryan (DOT)' <ryan.gaug@state.mn.us>

Subject: FW: Louise Solar Project

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David,

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Additionally, I have copied the MnDOT Aeronautics representative on this email, should they have any comments.

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Deputy ADO Manager

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

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David Weetman
Environmental Permitting Manager
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

direct (952) 906-7419
main (952) 937-5150
cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood
12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Anna Pitti

From: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Marsh, Dawn S
Cc: David Weetman; Brusven, Christina (CBrusven@fredlaw.com)
Subject: RE: Louise Solar Project, Mower County, Minnesota
Attachments: Project_boundary_v12_Louise_20200717.zip

Dawn,

Thank you for reaching out. Please find attached the requested file. Let me know if I can provide any additional details.

Best,
Scott



Scott Wentzell
Project Developer
T: 612-486-4523
M: 617-637-0376



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From: Marsh, Dawn S <dawn_marsh@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Scott Wentzell <Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com>
Subject: Louise Solar Project, Mower County, Minnesota

EXTERNAL EMAIL : This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I recently received a copy of the letter requesting comments on the proposed Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota that was sent to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office on August 4, 2020. Could you please send a shapefile of the proposed project area to assist in our review?

Thank you,
Dawn

Dawn Marsh (she/her/hers) | Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office
4101 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, MN 55425
Tel: (952) 252-0092 x 202*
*Teleworking - please email to schedule a call



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.

Latitude: 43 Deg 33 M 52.8 S N ▾

Longitude: 92 Deg 40 M 30.23 S W ▾

Horizontal Datum: NAD83 ▾

Site Elevation (SE): 1355 (nearest foot)

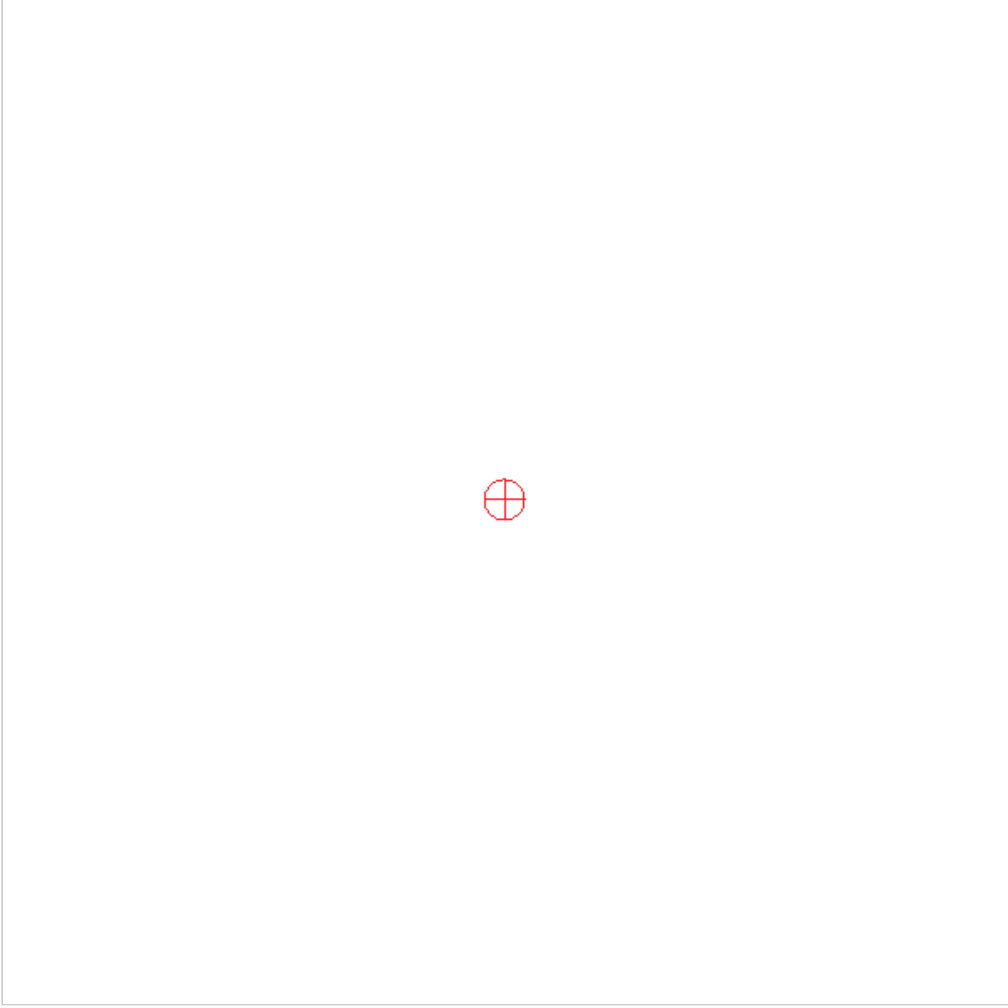
Structure Height : 20 (nearest foot)

Traverseway: No Traverseway ▾
 (Additional height is added to certain structures under 77.9(c))
 User can increase the default height adjustment for Traverseway, Private Roadway and Waterway

Is structure on airport: No Yes

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.





Notice Criteria Tool

Notice Criteria Tool - Desk Reference Guide V_2018.2.0

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Latitude:

Longitude:

Horizontal Datum:

Site Elevation (SE): (nearest foot)

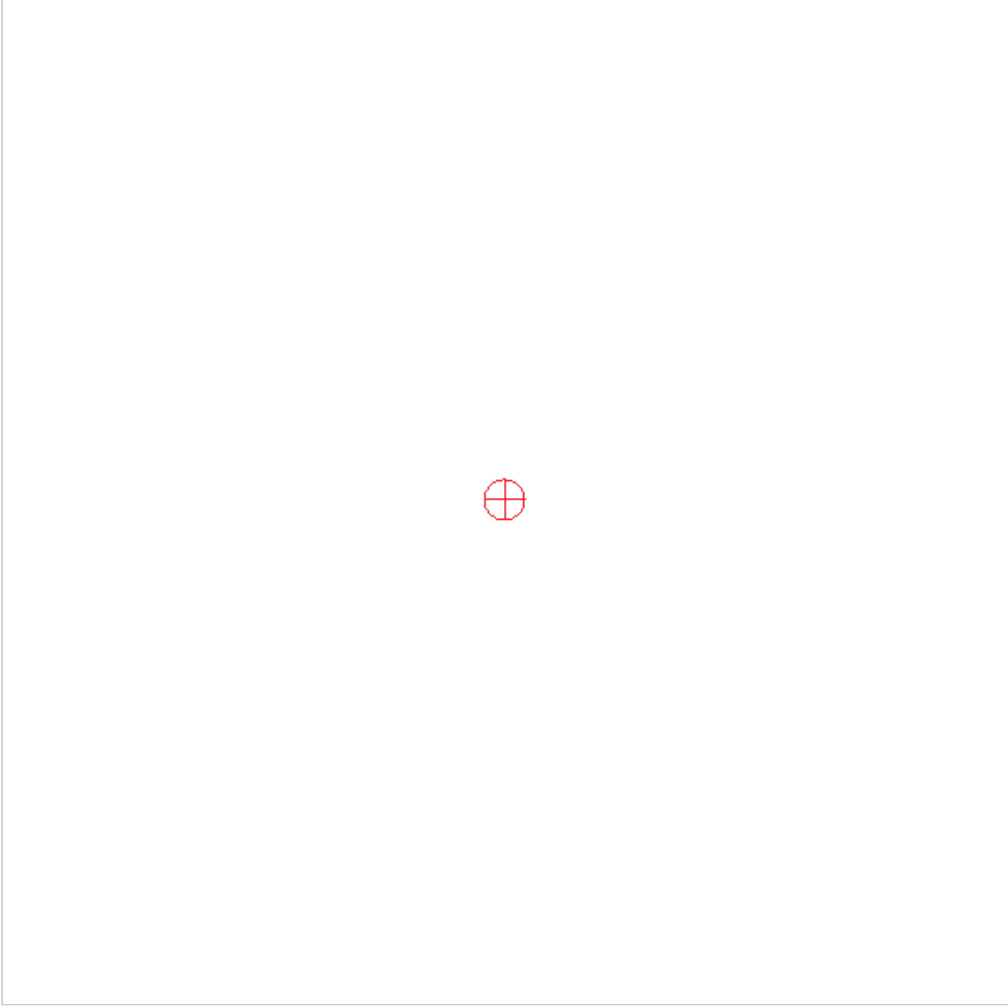
Structure Height : (nearest foot)

Traverseway:

Is structure on airport: No Yes
(Additional height is added to certain structures under 77.9(c))
 User can increase the default height adjustment for Traverseway, Private Roadway and Waterway

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.





Notice Criteria Tool

Notice Criteria Tool - Desk Reference Guide V_2018.2.0

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Latitude:

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Horizontal Datum:

Site Elevation (SE): (nearest foot)

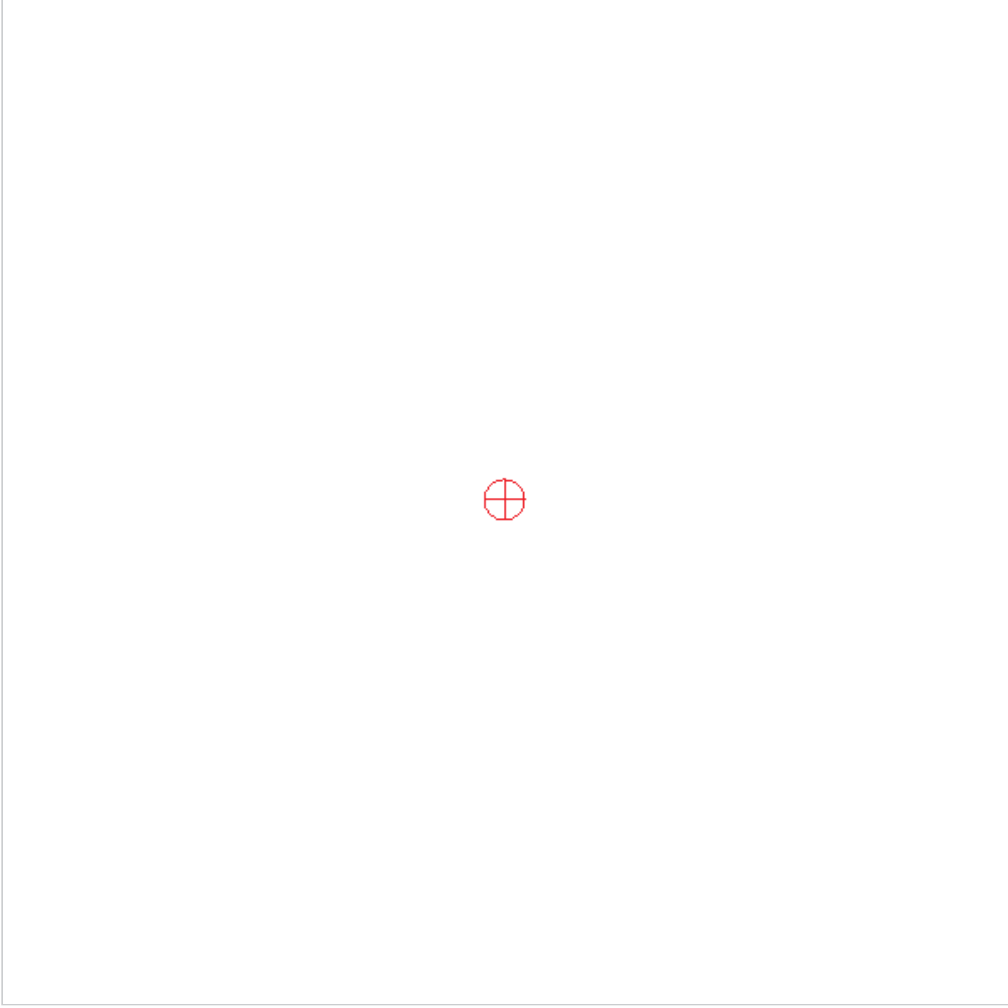
Structure Height : (nearest foot)

Traverseway:

Is structure on airport: No Yes
(Additional height is added to certain structures under 77.9(c))
 User can increase the default height adjustment for Traverseway, Private Roadway and Waterway

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.



September 1, 2020

Mr. Scott Wentzell
EDF Renewables
15445 Innovation Drive
San Diego, CA 92128

RE: File No. 0014192.01
Louise Solar Project
T101 R15 S7 & 18 & T101 R16 S12, Mower County
SHPO Number: 2020-2474

Dear Mr. Wentzell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received on August 10, 2020 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (Minn. Stat. 138.665-666) and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat. 138.40).

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

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 kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
4101 American Blvd E

Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Phone: (952) 252-0092 Fax: (952) 646-2873

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/s7process/step1.html>

In Reply Refer To:

May 27, 2020

Consultation Code: 03E19000-2020-SLI-1422

Event Code: 03E19000-2020-E-04270

Project Name: Louise Solar

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list identifies any federally threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may occur within the action area the area that is likely to be affected by your proposed project. The list also includes any designated and proposed critical habitat that overlaps with the action area. This list is provided to you as the initial step of the consultation process required under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, also referred to as Section 7 Consultation.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representatives) must consult with the Service if they determine their project may affect listed species or critical habitat. Agencies must confer under section 7(a)(4) if any proposed action is likely to jeopardize species proposed for listing as endangered or threatened or likely to adversely modify any proposed critical habitat.

Under 50 CFR 402.12(e) (the regulations that implement Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally. You may verify the list by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> at regular intervals during project planning and implementation and completing the same process you used to receive the attached list. As an alternative, you may contact this Ecological Services Field Office for updates.

Please use the species list provided and visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 3 Section 7 Technical Assistance website at - <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/s7process/index.html>. This website contains step-by-step instructions that will help you

determine if your project will have an adverse effect on listed species or critical habitat and will help lead you through the Section 7 process.

For all **wind energy projects** and **projects that include installing towers that use guy wires or are over 200 feet in height**, please contact this field office directly for assistance, even if no federally listed plants, animals or critical habitat are present within the action area.

Although no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, be aware that bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), as are golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Projects affecting these species may require measures to avoid harming eagles or may require a permit. If your project is near a bald eagle nest or winter roost area, see our Eagle Permits website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/midwestbird/EaglePermits/index.html>. The information available at this website will help you determine if you can avoid impacting eagles or if a permit may be necessary.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - Migratory Birds
-

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

4101 American Blvd E

Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

(952) 252-0092

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 03E19000-2020-SLI-1422

Event Code: 03E19000-2020-E-04270

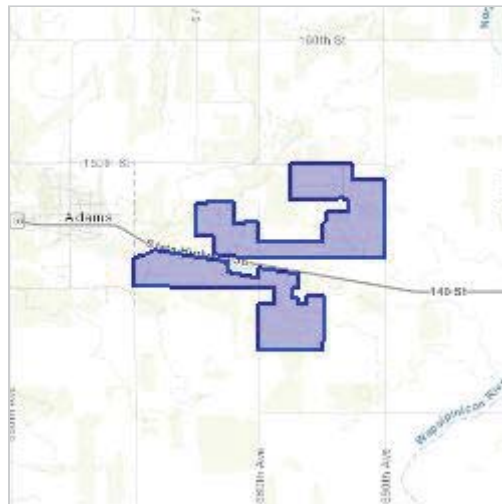
Project Name: Louise Solar

Project Type: POWER GENERATION

Project Description: 50 megawatt solar project in Mower County, Minnesota

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.5669229754753N92.69605978212186W>



Counties: Mower, MN

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 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
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Prairie Bush-clover <i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4458	Threatened

Critical habitats

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

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 habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

-
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)

THERE ARE NO FWS MIGRATORY BIRDS OF CONCERN WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Migratory Birds FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) and/or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ “What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location”. Please be aware this report provides the “probability of presence” of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the “no data” indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ “Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds” at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
4101 American Blvd E

Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Phone: (952) 252-0092 Fax: (952) 646-2873

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/s7process/step1.html>

IPaC Record Locator: 186-23971835

October 22, 2020

Subject: Consistency letter for the 'Louise Solar Project' project indicating that any take of the northern long-eared bat that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

Dear Lucas Wandrie:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on October 22, 2020 your effects determination for the 'Louise Solar Project' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. You indicated that no Federal agencies are involved in funding or authorizing this Action. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a non-Federal action may cause “take”^[1] of the northern long-eared bat that is prohibited under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, any take of the northern long-eared bat that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the Action is not likely to result in unauthorized take of the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you entered into IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation.

If your Action proceeds as described and no additional information about the Action’s effects on species protected under the ESA becomes available, no further coordination with the Service is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in your Action area:

- Prairie Bush-clover, *Lespedeza leptostachya* (Threatened)

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the animal species listed above.

[1]Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

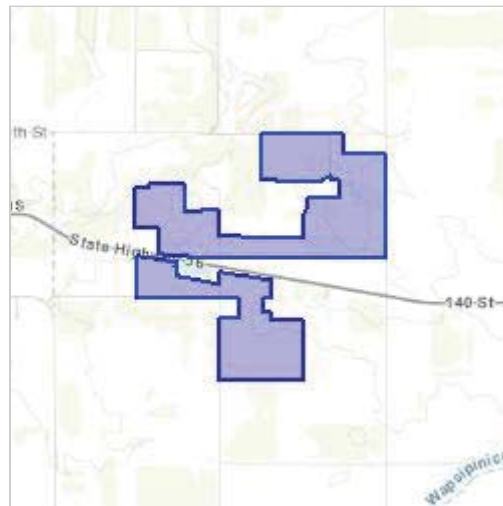
Louise Solar Project

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Louise Solar Project':

Utility-scale solar project

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.56698443044927N92.69605240382025W>



Determination Key Result

This non-Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take of this species that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule

This key was last updated in IPaC on **May 15, 2017**. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for non-Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are excepted from take prohibitions under the northern long-eared bat 4(d) rule.

If a non-Federal action may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats or other ESA-listed animal species, we recommend that you coordinate with the Service.

Determination Key Result

Based upon your IPaC submission, any take of the northern long-eared bat that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

Qualification Interview

1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?

No

2. Will your activity purposefully **Take** northern long-eared bats?

No

3. [Semantic] Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?

Automatically answered

No

4. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your project is near a known hibernaculum or maternity roost tree?

Location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula is generally kept in state Natural Heritage Inventory databases – the availability of this data varies state-by-state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited. A web page with links to state Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roost trees and hibernacula is available at www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/mammals/nleb/nhisites.html.

Yes

5. Will the action affect a cave or mine where northern long-eared bats are known to hibernate (i.e., hibernaculum) or could it alter the entrance or the environment (physical or other alteration) of a hibernaculum?

No

6. Will the action involve Tree Removal?

No

Project Questionnaire

If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.

1. Estimated total acres of forest conversion:

0

2. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31

0

3. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.

4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest

0

5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31

0

6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.

7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire

0

8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31

0

9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?
0



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

April 15, 2019

Correspondence # ERDB 20190287

Ms. Shelby Kilibarda
Westwood Professional Services, Inc
12701 Whitewater Drive, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Louise Solar Facility,

County	Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
Mower	101	16	11, 12, 14
Mower	101	15	7, 18

Dear Ms. Kilibarda,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, please visit the [Rare Species Guide Website](#) for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Please note that the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

- The proposed project is adjacent to an area the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) has identified as a *Moderate* Biodiversity Significance south of Minnesota Trunk Highway 56 within T101N R16W Section 12. Sites of Biodiversity Significance have varying levels of native biodiversity and are ranked based on the relative significance of this biodiversity at a statewide level. Sites ranked as *Moderate* contain occurrences of rare species and/or moderately disturbed native plant communities, and/or landscapes that have a strong potential for recovery.

This particular Site contains Mesic Prairie (Southern). This community is considered imperiled, in Minnesota. More than 99% of the prairie that was present in the state before settlement has been destroyed, and more than one-third of Minnesota's endangered, threatened, and special concern species are now dependent on the remaining small fragments of Minnesota's prairie ecosystem. Therefore, we feel that all prairie remnants merit protection. Although current conditions at these sites are unknown, undisturbed areas of these Sites could still contain native prairie species. (GIS shapefiles of MBS Sites of

Biodiversity Significance and DNR Native Plant Communities can be downloaded from the [MN Geospatial Commons](#). Please contact me if you do not have access to the appropriate mapping services.)

Wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), a state-listed endangered plant, has been documented within this prairie remnant. The species was historically abundant within its range in southeastern Minnesota, however the massive conversion of prairie habitat to agricultural land has caused the near extinction of this species in the state. In addition to direct habitat loss, the species appears to be intolerant of herbicides, cattle grazing, and haying. Minnesota's endangered species law (Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0895) and associated rules (Minnesota Rules, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the taking of threatened or endangered species without a permit.

If the MSB Site will be impacted by the proposed construction activities, a botanical survey for wild quinine will be necessary. Surveys must follow the standards contained in the attached Rare Species Survey Process and Rare Plant Guidance. Project planning should take into account that any botanical survey needs to be conducted during the appropriate time of the year, which may be limited.

There is also an area ranked as *Below* adjacent to the project boundary that the Minnesota Biological Survey considered for Sites of Biodiversity Significance, but were determined to be below the minimum biodiversity threshold for statewide significance. These areas, however, have conservation value at the local level as habitat for native plants and animals, corridors for animal movements, buffers surrounding higher quality natural areas, or as areas with high potential for restoration of native habitat.

Given adjacent activities can negatively affect these ecologically significant areas, disturbance near these ecologically significant areas should be minimized. To minimize disturbance, inspect and clean all equipment prior to bringing it to the site to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and use effective erosion prevention and sediment control measures.

- Please include a copy of this letter in any state or local license or permit application. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or for an updated review if construction has not occurred within one year.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. If needed, please contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#) to determine whether there are other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us

Enc. Rare Species Survey Process

Links: Rare Species Guide

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>

DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/mcbs/biodiversity_guidelines.html

DNR Native Plant Communities

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/npc/index.html>

MN Geospatial Commons

<https://gisdata.mn.gov/>

Cc: Megan Benage

August 10, 2020

Scott Wentzell
EDF Renewables
10 NE 2nd Street, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Dear Mr. Wentzell

Thank you for submitting the Solar Size Determination request for EDF Renewable's (EDFR) proposed 50 MW Louise Solar project in Mower County.

The Department is responsible for reviewing these applications to determine "whether a combination of solar energy generating systems meets the definition of large electric power generating plant and is subject to the commission's siting authority jurisdiction" (Minnesota Statute 216E.021, Subd. a).

EDFR is currently pursuing four separate utility-scale solar projects in Minnesota. Based on information provided by the Applicant, and based on criteria established in the statute, the Department has determined that the Louise Solar project is not associated with any of these planned solar projects in a way that would require them to be combined into a single project. However, given that the project on its own is 50 MW, the Department determines that Louise Solar is subject to the Public Utilities Commission's siting authority and must submit an application for a site permit under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E).

EDFR has the right to dispute this determination with the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

I am available to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Louise Miltich
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

cc: Bret Eknes, Public Utilities Commission
Christina Brusven, Fredrikson & Byron