



---

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETINGS**

Issued: September 23, 2024

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

**Docket Number:** IP7119/GS-23-477

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold public information and environmental assessment scoping meetings on Birch Coulee Solar LLC's (Birch Coulee Solar) site permit application for the construction and operation of the Birch Coulee Solar Project, an up to 125-megawatt alternating current photovoltaic solar energy generating facility (Project).

The Project would be located on approximately 768 acres of land in the city of Franklin and Bandon, Birch Cooley, and Camp townships in Renville County, Minnesota (see Project Overview Map). The Project would include: solar panels and tracking racking systems; inverters; an electrical collection system; an operations and maintenance facility; step-up transformers; gravel access roads; weather stations; stormwater management system; fencing and gates; a substation and interconnection facilities; a short (<1,500 ft) aboveground 115-kilovolt transmission line; and other infrastructure typical of a solar facility.

**In-Person Meeting**

**Date:** October 9, 2024  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Franklin Community Center  
221 E 2nd Ave E  
Franklin, MN 55333

The purpose of the meeting is to: (1) provide information about the proposed project and the state's permitting process; and (2) provide an opportunity to participate in developing the scope of the environmental assessment.

State staff and the applicant will both make presentations during the meeting. State staff will explain the permitting and environmental review processes, and the applicant will provide an overview of the proposed project. Following the presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to offer oral and written comments for the record. The meetings will end when all

attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or the scheduled end time of the meeting, whichever occurs first. The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online meetings.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](https://mn.gov/puc).

### Online Meeting via WebEx

**Date:** October 10, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:**

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m5046bfd43b833fb4b4f9563ccdfce464>

**Webinar Number:** 2499 537 5645

**Webinar Password:** MnPUC! (667820 when dialing from a phone or video system)

**Join by Phone:** 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free    **Access Code:** 2499 537 5645

If you are joining the meeting via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat or raised-hand functions to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press \*3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at:

<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

### Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **October 25, 2024, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

### Topics for Comment

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project that should be considered in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed project that should be considered in the EA?

## Submit Comments

**Online:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

**Email:** [Lauren.Agnew@state.mn.us](mailto:Lauren.Agnew@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail:** Lauren Agnew  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 280  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission and the Department of Commerce do not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

## Additional Information

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules.** This project is being reviewed under Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The rules and statutes are available for review at: [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov)

**Review Process.** Information on the review processes for certificates of need and site and route permits for large electric power facilities is available on the Commission's website at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/>

**Filing Requirements.** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc/edockets](http://mn.gov/puc/edockets), select *Go to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc/edockets](http://mn.gov/puc/edockets), select *Go to eDockets*, enter the year (23) and the docket number (477), and select *Search*.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (23-477), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Department of Commerce Website:** <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15658>

## **Contacts**

### **Public Utilities Commission**

Craig Janezich, Energy Facilities Planner, [craig.janezich@state.mn.us](mailto:craig.janezich@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2203

Trevor Culbertson, Public Advisor, [trevor.culbertson@state.mn.us](mailto:trevor.culbertson@state.mn.us), or 651-201-2200

### **Department of Commerce**

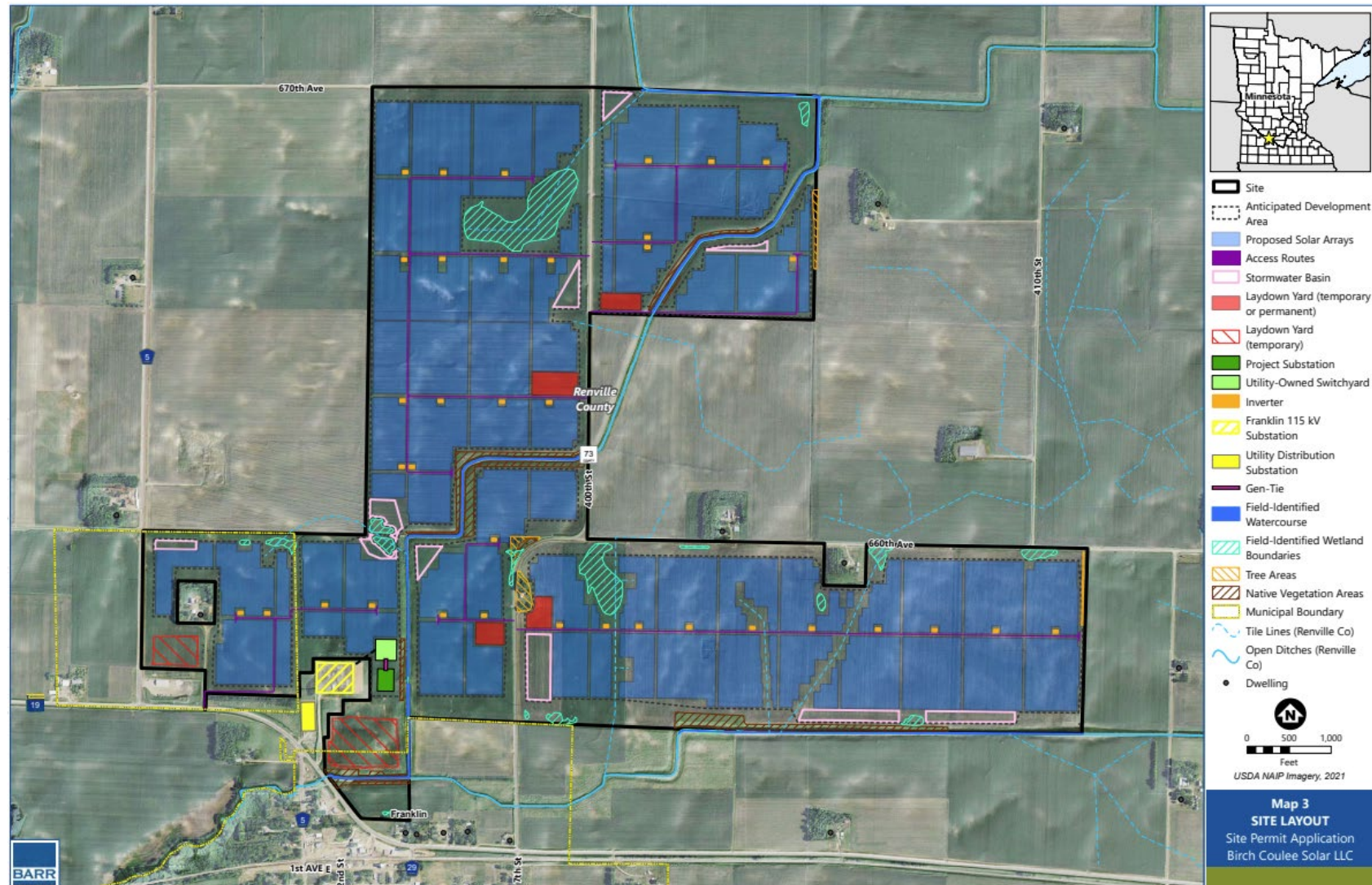
Lauren Agnew, Environmental Review Manager, [lauren.agnew@state.mn.us](mailto:lauren.agnew@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1838

### **Birch Coulee Solar**

Lauren Colwell, Project Manager, [lauren.colwell@aes.com](mailto:lauren.colwell@aes.com) or 1-800-579-7734

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

## Project Overview Map



## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Leesa Norton, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING  
MEETINGS**

Docket Number     **IP7119/GS-23-477**

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2024

/s/ Leesa Norton

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Lauren	Colwell	lauren.colwell@aes.com	Birch Coulee Solar LLC	2180 S 1300 E Suite 500  Salt Lake City, UT 84106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Scott	Groux	scott.groux@aes.com	Birch Coulee Solar LLC	2180 S 1300 E Suite 500  Salt Lake City, UT 84106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Jordan	Levin	jordan.levin@aes.com	Birch Coulee Solar LLC	2180 S 1300 E Suite 500  Salt Lake City, UT 84106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Nathaniel	Runke	nrunke@local49.org	International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49	611 28th St. NW  Rochester, MN 55901	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-477_Official
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-477_Official

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Hali	Carlson	halic@nationalconductor.com	National Conductor Constructors	18119 Hwy 371 Brainerd, MN 56401	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_23-477_Project Contact List
Mike	Wilson	Mike.Wilson@millelacsband.com	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	43408 Oodena Dr Onamia, MN 56359	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_23-477_Project Contact List



First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
David	Bell	david.bell@state.mn.us	Department of Health	POB 64975  St. Paul, MN 55164	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Kate	Fairman	kate.fairman@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 551554032	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us		Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Kelly	Gragg Johnson	ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us	MN Historical Society Preservation Office	345 Kellogg Blvd. W., Level A  St. Paul, MN 55102-1906	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Todd	Green	Todd.A.Green@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry	443 Lafayette Rd N  St. Paul, MN 55155-4341	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Chris	Green	Chris.Green@state.mn.us	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	504 Fairgrounds Rd Suite 200  Marshall, MN 56258	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Chad	Konickson	chad.konickson@usace.army.mil	U.S.Army Corps of Engineers	180 5th St # 700  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Stacy	Kotch Egstad	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd.  St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Dawn S	Marsh	dawn_marsh@fws.gov	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Offices 4101 American Blvd E Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
John	Reynolds	John.Reynolds@state.mn.us	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	161 St. Anthony Avenue, Ste. 940  St. Paul, MN 55103	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Jayme	Trusty	execdir@swrdc.org	SWRDC	2401 Broadway Ave #1 Slayton, MN 56172	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Jen	Tyler	tyler.jennifer@epa.gov	US Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Planning & Evaluation Unit 77 W Jackson Blvd. Mailstop B-19J Chicago, IL 60604-3590	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Alan	Whipple	sa.property@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department Of Revenue	Property Tax Division 600 N. Robert Street St. Paul, MN 551463340	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Jonathan	Wolfgram	Jonathan.Wolfgram@state.mn.us	Office of Pipeline Safety	445 Minnesota St Ste 147 Woodbury, MN 55125	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jaime	Arsenault	jaime.arsenault@whiteearthnsn.gov	White Earth	PO BOX 418  White Earth, MN 56591	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Amy	Burnette	amy.burnette@llojibwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	N/A	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Kade	Ferris	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org	Red Lake Region	PO Box 274  Red Lake, MN 56671	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Ashley	Harrison	ashley.harrison@llojibwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	190 Sailstar Dr NW  Cass Lake, MN 56633	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Rob	Hull	thpo@grandportage.com	Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	PO Box 428  Grand Portage, MN 55605	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Gina	Lemon	gina.lemon@llojibwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	190 Sailstar Dr NW  Cass Lake, MN 56633	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Samantha J	Odegard	samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov	Upper Sioux Tribal Community	PO Box 147  Granite Falls, MN 56241	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Evan	Schroeder	evanschroeder@fdlrez.com	Fond du Lac Band of Superior Chippewa	1720 Big Lake Road  Cloquet, MN 55720	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Cheyenne	St. John	cheyenne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	Lower Sioux Tribal Community	39527 Reservation Hwy 1  Morton, MN 56270	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Jaylen	Strong	jaylen.strong@boisfortensn.gov	Bois Forte Tribal Government	1500 Bois Forte Road  Tower, MN 55790	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Leonard	Wabasha	leonard.wabasha@shakopedakota.org	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	2300 Tiwahe Circle  Shakopee, MN 55379	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Noah	White	noah.white@piic.org	Prairie Island Indian Community	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road Welch, MN 55089	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Mike	Wilson	Mike.Wilson@millelacsband.com	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	43408 Oodena Dr Onamia, MN 56359	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

GRO INC 26048 CO HWY 2 MORGAN MN 56266	GRONAU/ROLAND R/LIVING TRUST 42388 660TH AVE FRANKLIN MN 55333	LEE/KEVIN D 66322 420TH ST FRANKLIN MN 55333
MCCORQUODALE/ROSS & DENISE 66721 410TH ST FRANKLIN MN 55333	GRONAU/WADE 31588 ST HWY 19 REDWOOD FALLS MN 56283	BORTH/JAMES M & BARBARA K 801 1ST ST SW FAIRFAX MN 55332
WOOD/CHRISTOPHER 40314 660TH AVE FRANKLIN MN 55333	BORTH/TOM P & KAREN M 60121 490TH ST FAIRFAX MN 55332	SULLIVAN/TIMOTHY A 68338 CO RD 5 FRANKLIN MN 55333
MENK/STEVEN W PO BOX 163 FRANKLIN MN 55333	GOELZ/ALICE/TR & JOHN GOELZ IV 1155 130TH AVE PIPESTONE MN 56164	NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, C/O XCEL ENERGY 414 NICOLLET MALL, 4TH FLOOR MINNEAPOLIS MN 55401
SERBUS/JOSEPH D./IV 72688 CO RD 5 BIRD ISLAND MN 55310	NORDBY/JUDY A PO BOX 282 FRANKLIN MN 55333	BRAZIL JOHNSON/ANN MARIE 6101 GLENWOOD AVE GOLDEN VALLEY MN 55422
HILBERT/BRENT H/& JODIE L DIETRICH 32796 742ND AVE SOUTH HAVEN MN 55382	RIEKE/LINDA R 450 5TH ST S FRANKLIN MN 55333	SULLIVAN/MICHAEL T & JANE A 37903 CO RD 2 FRANKLIN MN 55333
RUFF/EUNICE, C/O JEFFREY T RUFF 69325 COUNTY ROAD 5 FRANKLIN MN 55333	SCHIERIOTH/PHYLLIS & WALTER/TR 3060 KETTLE RIDGE DR COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80908	BENGTSON/PAUL R 40565 660TH AVE FRANKLIN MN 55333
TISDELL/CHRISTINE 12510 N HARD ROCK CIR HAYWARD WI 54843	WOLLING/GENE W & BECKY R 65436 410TH ST FRANKLIN MN 55333	MENK/STEVEN W PO BOX 163 FRANKLIN MN 55333
MC GOWAN/DENNIS & DARLA 38818 ST HWY 19 FRANKLIN MN 55333	CITY OF FRANKLIN PO BOX 326 FRANKLIN MN 55333	GOELZ/JOHN L/III 31349 CO HWY 11 FRANKLIN MN 55333
RENVILLE COUNTY 105 5TH ST S OLIVIA MN 56277	CHRISTOPHERSON/BRENT T. 1025 7TH AVE BROOKINGS SD 57006	MUNSELL/DAVID PO BOX 251 FRANKLIN MN 55333

KOKESCH/KEVIN S & DEBRA  
871 3RD ST S  
FRANKLIN MN 55333

SHIV FRANKLIN LLC  
PO BOX 60  
MORTON MN 56270

GEHRKE/MYRON JOHN  
371 ST HWY 19  
FRANKLIN MN 55333

ANDERSON/MATTHEW & NATASHA  
PO BOX 255  
FRANKLIN MN 55333

JEZIORSKI/CORY JAMES  
PO BOX 23  
FRANKLIN MN 55333

SENKYR/MARK R  
69689 CO RD 5  
FRANKLIN MN 55333

HELGET/RONEALE S  
509 CO RD 18  
MORTON MN 56270

LUND/MARK & AILEEN/TRUSTEES OF  
36849 STATE HWY 19  
FRANKLIN MN 55333

MINKEL/JENNIFER L  
651 STATE HWY 19  
FRANKLIN MN 55333