

April 15, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Jim Sullivan, Environmental Review Manager  
Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101  
[jim.sullivan@state.mn.us](mailto:jim.sullivan@state.mn.us)

Dawn Kaasa, Commissioner  
District 2, Freeborn County  
411 South Broadway Avenue, Albert Lea,  
Minnesota 56007  
[dawn.kaasa@co.freeborn.mn.us](mailto:dawn.kaasa@co.freeborn.mn.us)

RE: Midwater Energy Storage Project – Environmental Assessment

Dear: Jim Sullivan and Dawn Kaasa

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Midwater Energy Storage project (Project) located in Freeborn County, Minnesota. The Project consists of Midwater BESS, LLC (Applicant) constructing and operating an up to 150-megawatt alternating current (AC) battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated facilities (BESS Facility), and an approximately 2,668-foot long 161 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) and associated facilities. The Minnesota Pollution Control (MPCA) staff has reviewed the EA and have no comments at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Project. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit actions by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project Proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EA, please contact me by email at [chris.green@state.mn.us](mailto:chris.green@state.mn.us) or by telephone at 507-476-4258.

Sincerely,  
Chris Green  
This document has been electronically signed.  
Chris Green, Project Manager  
Environmental Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance Division

CG:rs

Attachment

cc: Dan Card, MPCA  
Kirsten Dieterman, MPCA  
Nicole Peterson, MPCA

cc continued next page

Jim Sullivan  
Dawn Kaasa  
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Lauren Dickerson, MPCA  
Innocent Eyoh, MPCA  
Deepa deAlwis, MPCA  
Wayne Cords, MPCA

## Sullivan, Jim (COMM)

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**From:** Sullivan, Jim (COMM)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** Swanson, Regina (MPCA); daw.kaasa@co.freeborn.mn.us; Harvieux, Jacques (He/Him/His) (PUC)  
**Cc:** Green, Chris (MPCA); Card, Dan (MPCA); Dieterman, Kristen (MPCA); Peterson, Nicole (She/Her/Hers) (MPCA); Dickerson, Lauren (She/Her/Hers) (MPCA); Eyoh, Innocent (MPCA); deAlwis, Deepa (She/Her/Hers) (MPCA); Cords, Wayne (MPCA)  
**Subject:** RE: MPCA Comment letter Midwater Energy Storage - EA  
**Attachments:** Draft\_EA Scope\_Midwater\_02102025\_Amended\_04022025\_Public.docx

Good afternoon!

Thank you, Regina, for passing this letter along. I do want to point out that the Midwater Energy Storage Project Environmental Assessment (EA) has not been developed, meaning that for now, an EA is not available for review. We are currently in the scoping process, which is designed to take comment from tribes, public agencies, governmental units, as well as the public, on topics that may require additional investigation, as well as concerns unique to the local environmental setting. Currently, the only set of formal documents we have are Midwater's permit application, located here:

<https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15971>

The final scoping decision will be made sometime in May, with the final Environmental Assessment anticipated in August of 2025. You will receive notice of the final scoping decision, as well as when the Environmental Assessment is available, along with hearing dates. The notice of availability for the EA will also begin a comment period which offers another opportunity for your feedback. I have attached a copy of the current amended scope for your review. If you see a topic of interest or would like to see an issue explored in the EA, please feel free to pass along another comment. The public comment period for the scoping ends on August 21, 2025.

Whether you submit an additional scoping comment, or expect to provide comment on the EA when it is available, you may file your comments directly to eDockets, which is located here:

[eDockets / Public Utilities Commission](#)

If you do not have access to an account, they are easy to set up. You are not required to do so to complete a comment with this process; however, all comments received are ultimately, posted to eDockets for Commission review. The project docket currently contains public comments received to date which may of interest for MPCA review. The eDocket numbers are included in the attachment.

I will keep your letter for the public record. If you have questions pertaining to the Energy Permitting process, or this project specifically, please feel free to contact me directly, or Jacques Harvieux, Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner, copied in this email.

Very kind regards,

James E. Sullivan  
Environmental Review Manager

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis  
651.539.1059  
[mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities)  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 280 | Saint Paul, MN 55101



**From:** Swanson, Regina (MPCA) <Regina.Swanson@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 3:31 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jim (COMM) <Jim.Sullivan@state.mn.us>; daw.kaasa@co.freeborn.mn.us  
**Cc:** Green, Chris (MPCA) <chris.green@state.mn.us>; Card, Dan (MPCA) <dan.card@state.mn.us>; Dieterman, Kristen (MPCA) <Kristen.Dieterman@state.mn.us>; Peterson, Nicole (She/Her/Hers) (MPCA) <Nicole.Peterson@state.mn.us>; Dickerson, Lauren (She/Her/Hers) (MPCA) <Lauren.Dickerson@state.mn.us>; Eyoh, Innocent (MPCA) <innocent.eyoh@state.mn.us>; deAlwis, Deepa (She/Her/Hers) (MPCA) <deepa.dealwis@state.mn.us>; Cords, Wayne (MPCA) <wayne.cords@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** MPCA Comment letter Midwater Energy Storage - EA

Greetings,

Please view the attached document for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's comment letter for the project referenced above. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chris Green. Thank you.

*Regina Swanson*

Office Administrative Specialist Senior

Business Systems 1 – Environmental Analysis & Outcomes

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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

651-757-2098



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