

Appendix B

Agency Correspondence



November 25, 2024

Name
Position
Organization
Address Line 1
Address Line 2

RE: Proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

To Whom It May Concern:

Summit Lake Solar, LLC (“Summit Lake”), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formerly known as Geronimo Energy, is gathering information and requesting agency comments for proposed utility-scale solar-energy and battery storage projects in Nobles County, Minnesota.

Summit Lake will be submitting a Joint Site Permit Application for a solar project and battery storage project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”). The planned output for the solar project is up to 200 MW of alternating current nameplate solar-energy capacity. The planned nameplate capacity of the 4-hour battery storage project is 200 MW and approximately 800 MWh. The combined permanent facilities for the two projects will include:

- Solar modules, inverters, and racking;
- Fencing;
- Access roads as required;
- Laydown areas;
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) building;
- Substation facility;
- On-site underground electrical collection lines;
- Up to two weather stations (up to 20 feet tall); and
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Summit Lake will interconnect to a 345-kV substation within the Project via a 345-kV transmission generation tie-line. The transmission line route has not yet been determined. Summit Lake does not anticipate a route permit at this time but will re-evaluate once the transmission line design is complete.

The racking layout, access roads, and electrical connections have not been finalized at this time. Table 1 provides the sections of land Summit Lake is evaluating for siting the solar energy project. Land use within the project area is predominantly agricultural land.

Table 1: Sections within the Summit Lake Project Boundary

State	County	Civil Township	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Nobles	Elk Township	103N	40W	18, 19
MN	Nobles	Summit Lake Township	103N	41W	10-15 and 22-24

The battery storage project is proposed to be located in Section 23 in Summit Lake Township.

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of the location and the associated project boundary of the combined solar and battery storage project, which will be co-located.

Summit Lake will seek site permits from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the solar project and battery storage project. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as Q2 of 2026 with intended completion by Q4 of 2027.

The purpose of this letter is to inform your organization of the proposed Project, seek your input regarding any permits and approvals that may be required, and identify interests your organization may have in the Project site or associated study area. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

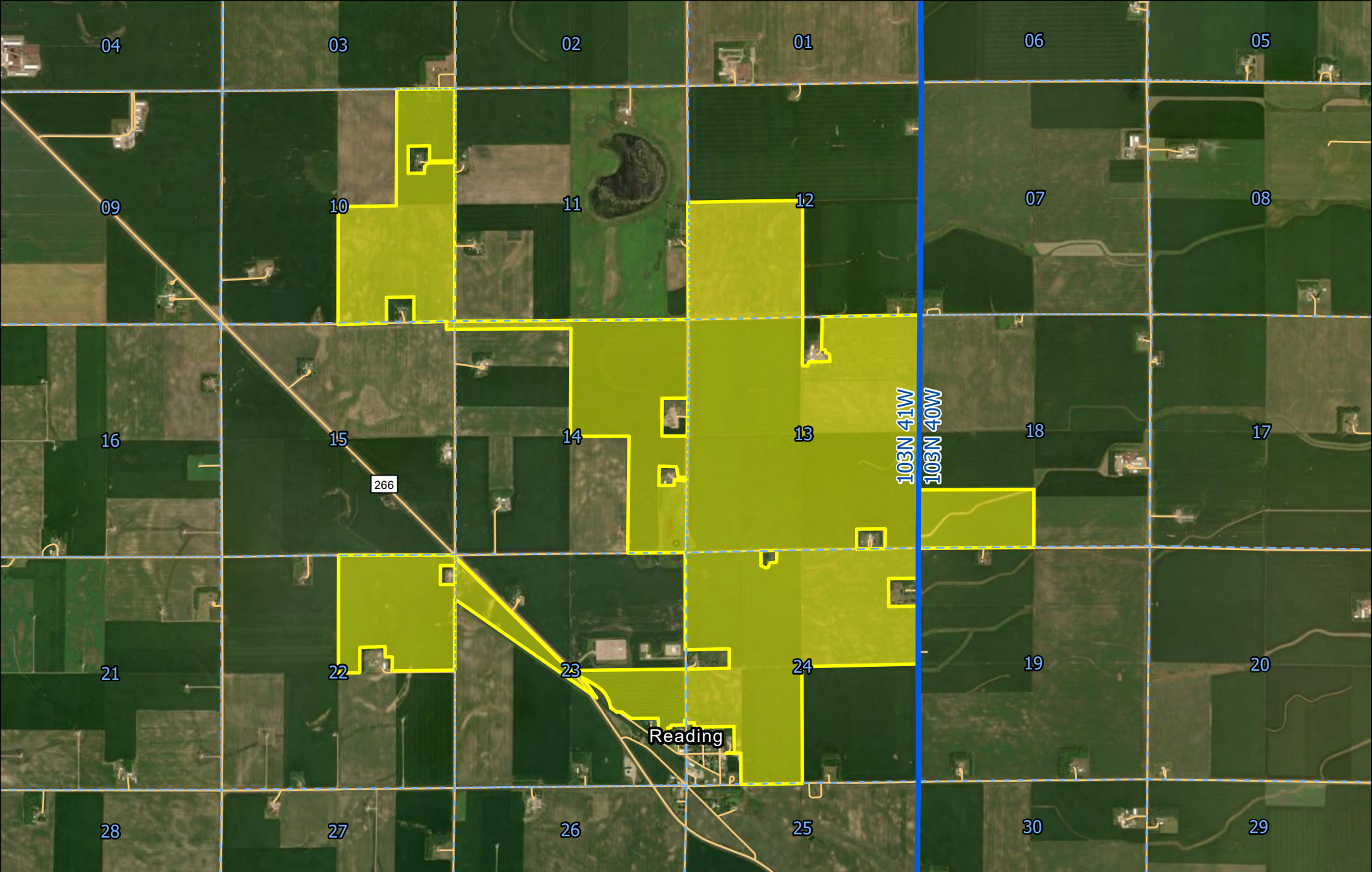
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-988-9000 or at amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alia Mohammad".

Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

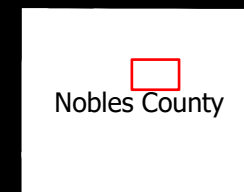
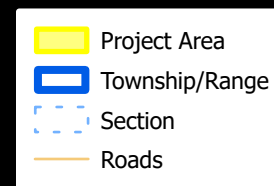
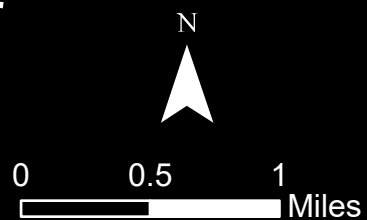
Enclosure:
Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project Location Map

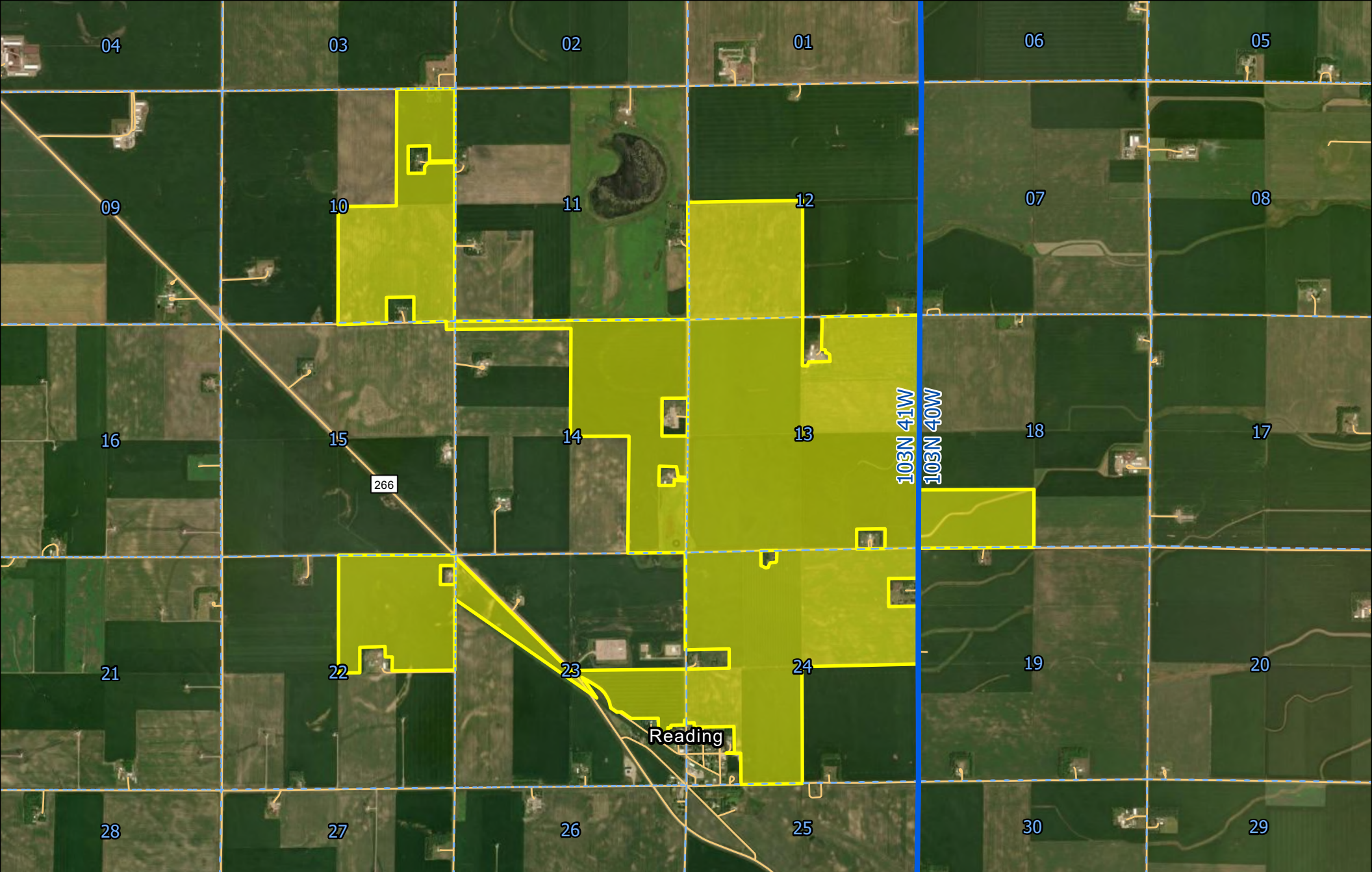


Summit Lake Solar

Nobles County, MN

43.72344, -95.71231

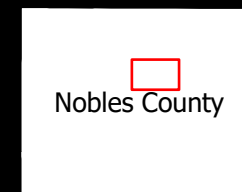
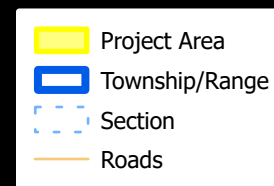
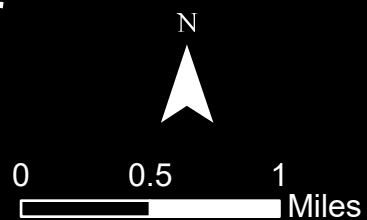


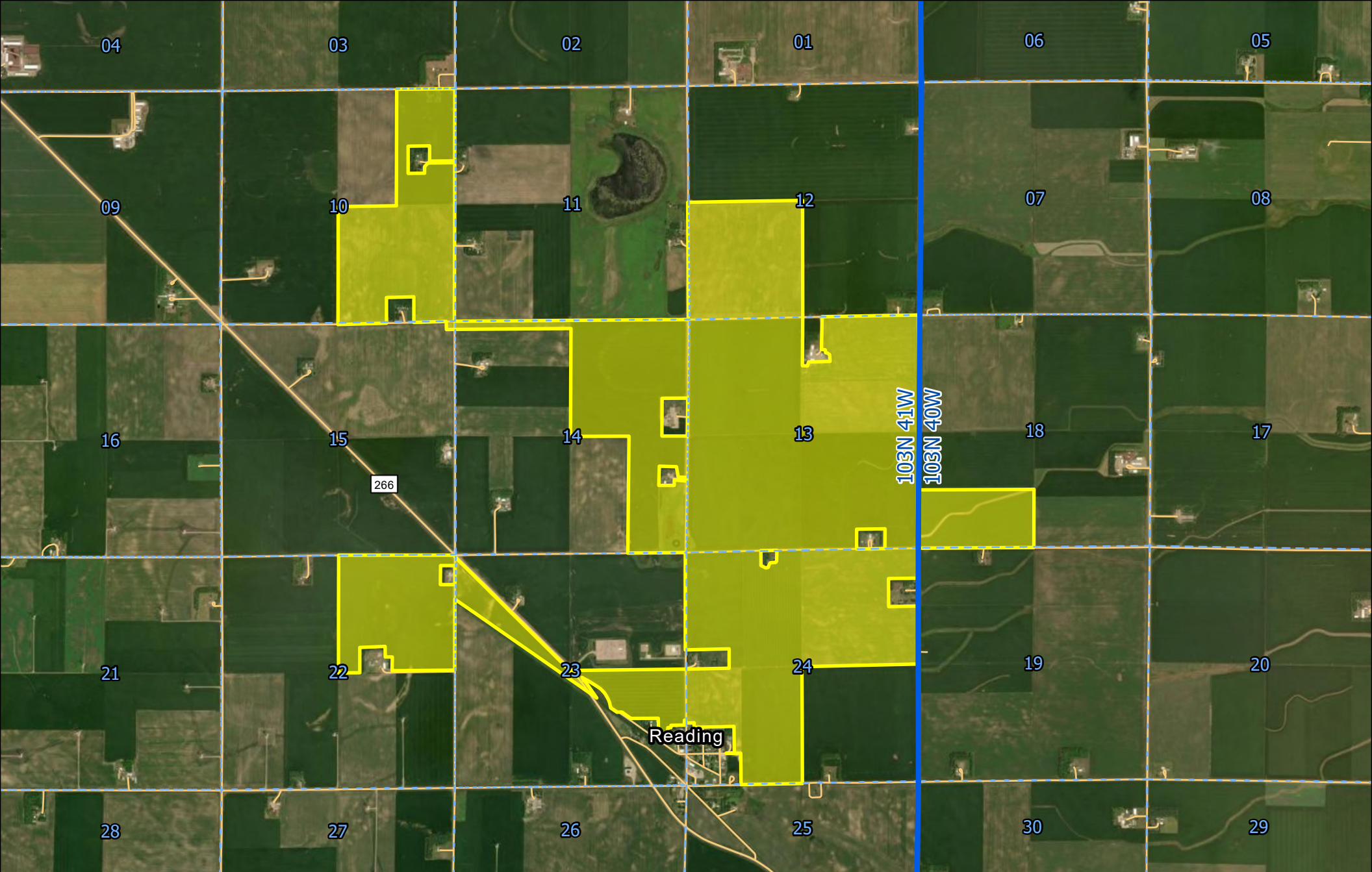


Summit Lake Solar

Nobles County, MN

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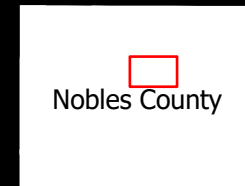
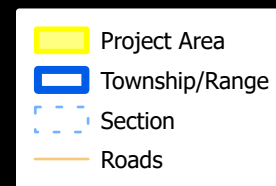
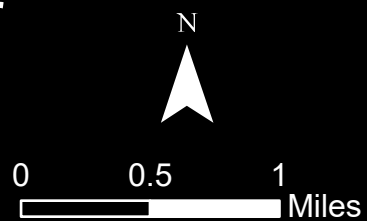




Summit Lake Solar

Nobles County, MN

43.72344, -95.71231



Federal Agencies



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2025-0020553
Project Name: Summit Lake Solar Project

11/15/2024 23:19:53 UTC

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

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect.” In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

Northern Long-Eared Bats

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected. For bat activity dates, please review Appendix L in the [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC

species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat range-wide D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. Additional information about available tools can be found on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

Whooping Crane

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States](#)."

Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to survey the area for any migratory bird nests. If there is an eagle nest on-site while work is on-going, eagles may be disturbed. We recommend avoiding and minimizing disturbance to eagles whenever practicable. If you cannot avoid eagle disturbance, you may seek a [permit](#). A [nest take permit](#) is always required for removal, relocation, or obstruction of an eagle nest. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. **Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.**

Minnesota

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

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

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

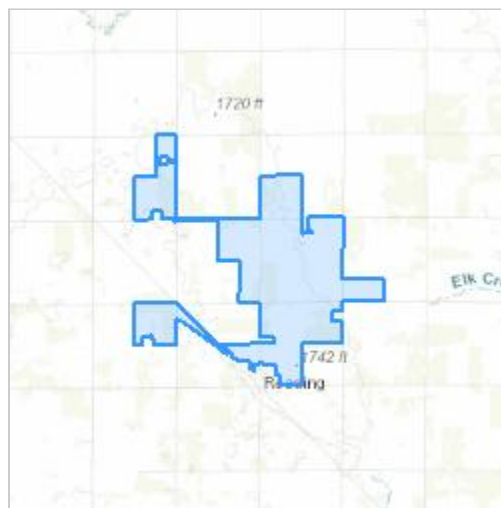
(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0020553
Project Name: Summit Lake Solar Project
Project Type: Power Gen - Solar
Project Description: Summit Lake Solar, LLC (Summit Lake, Summit Lake Solar, or Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) proposes to construct the Summit Lake Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The Solar Facility is a solar energy conversion facility with a 200-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity. The associated BESS consists of a stand-alone structure with a 200 MWac nameplate capacity and ancillary support infrastructure.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@43.7251623,-95.70558041497515,14z>



Counties: Nobles County, Minnesota

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.

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Topeka Shiner <i>Notropis topeka</i> (=tristis) Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4122	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

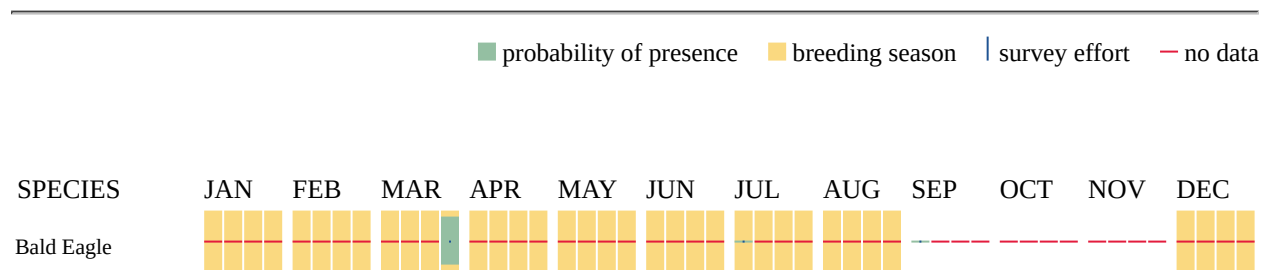
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Non-BCC
Vulnerable

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

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 habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

-
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)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350	Breeds Apr 1 to Sep 15

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

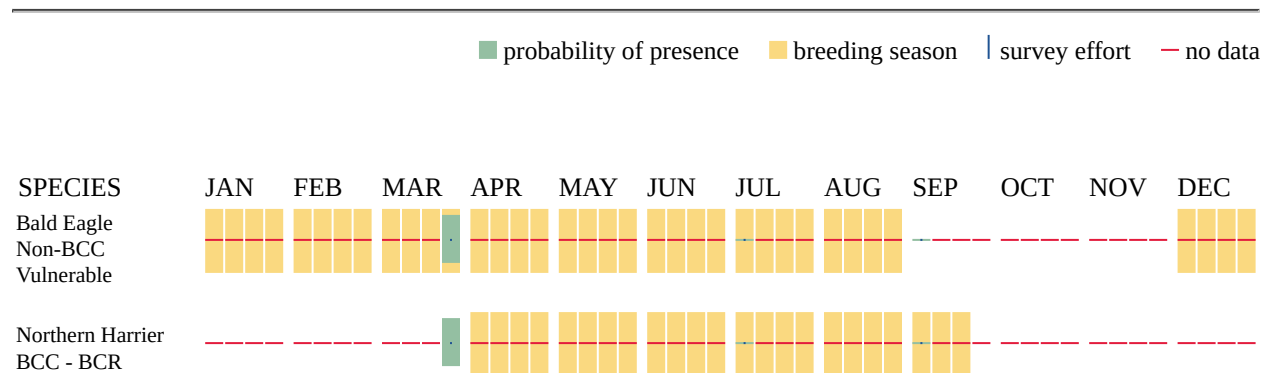
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (I)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>

- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1C
- PEM1A
- PEM1Af
- PEM1F

RIVERINE

- R4SBC

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSS1A

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBF_x
- PUBH_x

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Andrea Townsend
Address: 1 SE Main St
Address Line 2: Suite 300
City: Minneapolis
State: MN
Zip: 55414
Email: andrea.sampson@merjent.com
Phone: 6122261331

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Army Corps of Engineers



January 7, 2025

Betsy Galbraith
Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2661 Scott Tower Drive
New Franken WI 54229

RE: Proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

To Whom It May Concern:

Summit Lake Solar, LLC ("Summit Lake"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formerly known as Geronimo Energy, is gathering information and requesting agency comments for proposed utility-scale solar-energy and battery storage projects in Nobles County, Minnesota.

Summit Lake will be submitting a Joint Site Permit Application for a solar project and battery storage project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"). The planned output for the solar project is up to 200 MW of alternating current nameplate solar-energy capacity. The planned nameplate capacity of the 4-hour battery storage project is 200 MW and approximately 800 MWh. The combined permanent facilities for the two projects will include:

- Solar modules, inverters, and racking;
- Fencing;
- Access roads as required;
- Laydown areas;
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) building;
- Substation facility;
- On-site underground electrical collection lines;
- Up to two weather stations (up to 20 feet tall); and
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Summit Lake will interconnect to a 345-kV substation within the Project via a 345-kV transmission generation tie-line. The transmission line route has not yet been determined. Summit Lake does not anticipate a route permit at this time but will re-evaluate once the transmission line design is complete.

The racking layout, access roads, and electrical connections have not been finalized at this time. Table 1 provides the sections of land Summit Lake is evaluating for siting the solar energy project. Land use within the project area is predominantly agricultural land.

Table 1: Sections within the Summit Lake Project Boundary

State	County	Civil Township	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Nobles	Elk Township	103N	40W	18, 19
MN	Nobles	Summit Lake Township	103N	41W	10-15 and 22-24

The battery storage project is proposed to be located in Section 23 in Summit Lake Township.

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of the location and the associated project boundary of the combined solar and battery storage project, which will be co-located.

Summit Lake will seek site permits from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the solar project and battery storage project. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as Q2 of 2026 with intended completion by Q4 of 2027.

The purpose of this letter is to inform your organization of the proposed Project, seek your input regarding any permits and approvals that may be required, and identify interests your organization may have in the Project site or associated study area. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-988-9000 or at amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alia Mohammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alia" and last name "Mohammad" clearly distinguishable.

Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:
Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project Location Map



January 7, 2025

Kaecey R. Parker
Regulatory Division, St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 5th Street E, Suite 700
St. Paul MN 55101

RE: Proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

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- Solar modules, inverters, and racking;
- Fencing;
- Access roads as required;
- Laydown areas;
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) building;
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- Up to two weather stations (up to 20 feet tall); and
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The purpose of this letter is to inform your organization of the proposed Project, seek your input regarding any permits and approvals that may be required, and identify interests your organization may have in the Project site or associated study area. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alia Mohammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alia" and last name "Mohammad" clearly distinguishable.

Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:
Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project Location Map

Bellrichard, Kathy

From: Parker, Kaecey R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kaecey.R.Parker@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:04 AM
To: Bellrichard, Kathy
Subject: Summit Lake Solar Delineation Request

 **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. Verify the source before opening links or attachments. 

Dear Kathy Bellrichard:

The Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Regulatory Division (the Corps) recently received a request for a wetland delineation concurrence for the Summit Lake Solar located in Nobles County, Minnesota.

Our office is committed to efficient, helpful service. In this spirit we are focusing on processes that allow for more efficient project reviews. At this time, it appears a delineation concurrence may not be necessary from the Corps as there is not any proposed work at the site. If that is the case, we suggest moving forward at this time without further coordination on the delineation with our office and complete your project planning. If your project will have impacts to aquatic resources, please submit a permit application, and we will identify the aquatic resources that are subject to Corps regulation and determine if a Corps permit authorization is required. You may also request a pre-application meeting to discuss your project prior to submitting permit application. You can find more information on our permit program and our joint application here: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting-Process-Procedures/>

Please note this recommendation is only pertaining to the Corps process and does NOT indicate whether a review is required from the state or local authorities. In addition, a delineation concurrence will not address the jurisdictional status of the aquatic resources on the property; only the boundaries of the delineated aquatic resources (including wetlands, tributaries, lakes, etc.) will be evaluated for accuracy. If you do determine a delineation concurrence is needed from our office at this time, we will review your request. Our response time will vary depending upon the District's workload, requested permit actions, site location, and weather conditions (if a site visit is determined to be necessary).

If we do not get a response from you within 3 business days, we will assume that you do not wish to receive a delineation concurrence letter from our office.

Sincerely,

Kaecey Parker
Environmental Protection Technician
Regulatory Division, St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

State Agencies

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Marc Morandi](#); [Eknes, Bret \(PUC\)](#); [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Jeremy Duehr](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: EERA - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 2:28:18 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[NG Renewables Logo Primary RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)
[Summit Lake Solar - EERA - Pre-Application Meeting Powerpoint 11.14.24.pdf](#)

Hi Bret and Ray,

Thank you for your time today to discuss our Summit Lake Solar project. Please find attached the pdf version of our PowerPoint presentation. As discussed earlier, we will plan to submit our draft application in early December for EERA's review. We are still coordinating with agencies this week and next week. We also plan to mail out letter notifications next week, including tribal notifications. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Eknes, Bret (PUC) <bret.eknes@state.mn.us>; Kirsch, Raymond (COMM) <raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: EERA - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Sounds good, I just sent an invite for 11/14 at 12:30. Thank you!



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

From: Eknes, Bret (PUC) <bret.eknes@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 4:34 PM

To: Kirsch, Raymond (COMM) <raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us>; Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: [External] RE: EERA - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Here is my availability among the times set out by Ray:

Wednesday 11/13 2:30-3pm

Thursday 11/14 10-1pm

From: Kirsch, Raymond (COMM) <raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 3:08 PM

To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Eknes, Bret (PUC) <bret.eknes@state.mn.us>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Kirsch, Raymond (COMM) <raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: EERA - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Marc,

Good day. Thanks for your note; happy to meet. Here is my availability:

Tuesday, 11/12, 3 – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/13, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Thursday, 11/14, 10 – 4 p.m.

Ray

Ray Kirsch

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

651-539-1841

mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 280 | Saint Paul, MN 55101



From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM

To: Kirsch, Raymond (COMM) <raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us>; Eknes, Bret (PUC) <bret.eknes@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: EERA - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

This message may be from an external email source.

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

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February 2025 as our submittal date. I'm hoping to schedule a meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting, including EERA review timelines. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437



Pre-Application Meeting Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

November 14, 2024

About National Grid Renewables



Permitting/Development Team

- **Marc Morandi**, Sr. Permitting Specialist
 - mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Alia Mohammad**, Permitting Specialist
 - amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Sophia Gilleland**, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Amber Miller**, Permitting Director
 - amiller@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Tom Karas**, Sr. Project Developer
 - tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com



Brooten Community Solar

About National Grid Renewables



Expertise as Top U.S. Renewable Energy Company

- National Grid Renewables is a leading North American independent developer and operator of utility-scale renewable energy and battery storage projects
- National Grid Renewables includes the renewable energy development company formerly known as Geronimo Energy, whose team has successfully developed over 2,800 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar projects that are currently in operation or under construction
- We are experts in renewable energy project development, construction and operations
- The robust National Grid Renewables pipeline stretches across the United States, including projects in advanced development phases



Brooten Community Solar

Introduction



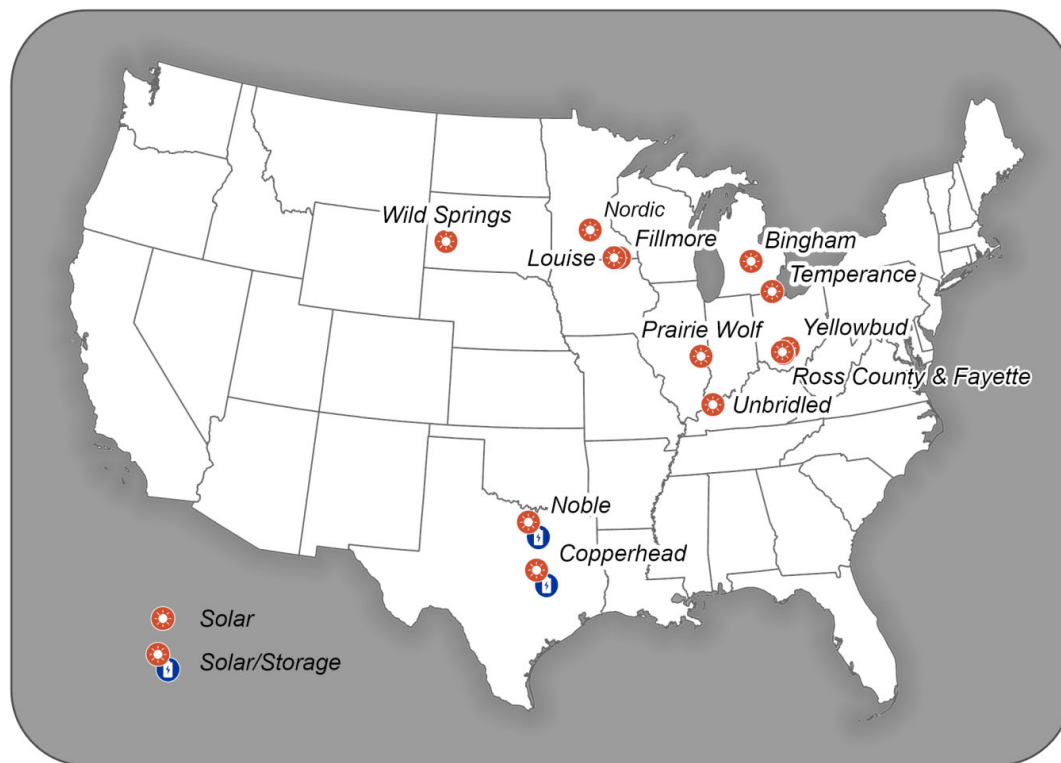
- **National Presence**

- NGR operates 14 individual Projects or Portfolios that amount to over 50 individual solar sites

- **MN Presence**

- Fillmore Solar (45 MW)
 - Fillmore County, MN
- Louise Solar (50 MW)
 - Mower County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
 - Rock County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
 - Community solar throughout MN

National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities



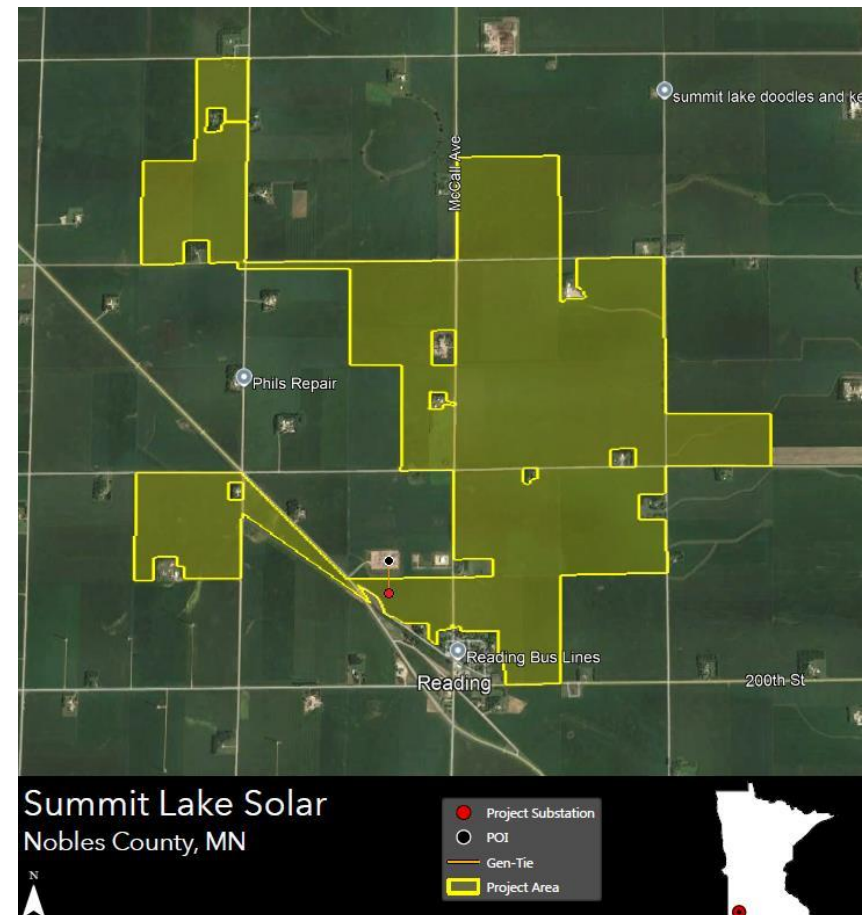
Additional details found here:

<https://nationalgridrenewables.com/project-technologies/solar/>

Summit Lake Solar Details



- **200 MW Solar Facility with BESS**
- **Location: North of Reading, MN**
 - Nobles County
 - Elk and Summit Lake Townships
- **Interconnection:** GIA executed 7/18/24
- **Expected COD:** Q4 2027



Permitting Timeline



- **Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources):** Currently Underway
- **Draft Application for EERA Review:** Early December 2024
- **Application Submittal to PUC:** Mid-January 2025
- **Target Permit Date:** ~September 2025
- **Construction Start:** Q3 2026
- **Project Operation Start:** Q4 2027

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Byron, Haley \(DNR\)](#); [Donovan, Martin \(DNR\)](#)
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Amber Miller](#); [Jeremy Duehr](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Monday, November 18, 2024 5:19:36 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
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[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)
[Summit Lake_Boundary.shp](#)
[Summit Lake - Agency Coordination Meetings PPT - MN DNR.pdf](#)

Hi Haley and Martin,

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss our Summit Lake Solar project. Attached please find a shapefile of our Project Area and our PowerPoint presentation. We look forward to receiving your letter after your review.

Let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>; Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>; Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Great, thank you. I just sent out the invite.

We look forward to meeting you both.

Best,



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

952.988.9000



P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

From: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 10:12 AM
To: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>; Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

November at 1:30pm works for me as well.

Best,

Haley Byron

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Southern Region EWR

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

117 Rogers Street

Mankato, MN 56001

Office: 507-389-8813

Cell: 507-910-8963

Email: haley.byron@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



From: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello,

Monday, November 18th at 1:30pm works for me. Best of luck in your future endeavors, Marc.

Best,
Martin

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 9:20 AM

To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>

Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Martin and Haley,

We are available the week of the 18th. Are you available during any of the dates/times below?

- Monday November 18th – 9am-10am
- Monday November 18th – Anytime between 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Tuesday November 19th – Anytime between 10am-2pm

Let us know what works best for your schedule, and I will set up a 45 minute Microsoft Teams meeting.

Thank you!



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 8:16 AM

To: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Martin,

Thank you for the response! Full disclosure – I'll be leaving the company at the end of next week, so I'll ask Alia and Sophia handle the scheduling for the week of November 18.

Marc



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

From: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>
Subject: [External] RE: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello Marc,

Thank you for contacting the DNR to schedule an early coordination meeting. Haley Byron, who is Cc'd on this email, will be your point of contact during early coordination. Haley is the Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist for the DNR's Southern Region. I will become your primary point of contact once the application is submitted with the PUC, but I still attend early coordination meetings.

Haley will be at a conference next week and will be unable to attend the meeting. Is your group able to meet on the week of November 18th?

Thank you,
Martin Donovan

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Donovan, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: MN DNR - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

You don't often get email from mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as

well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437



Pre-Application Meeting

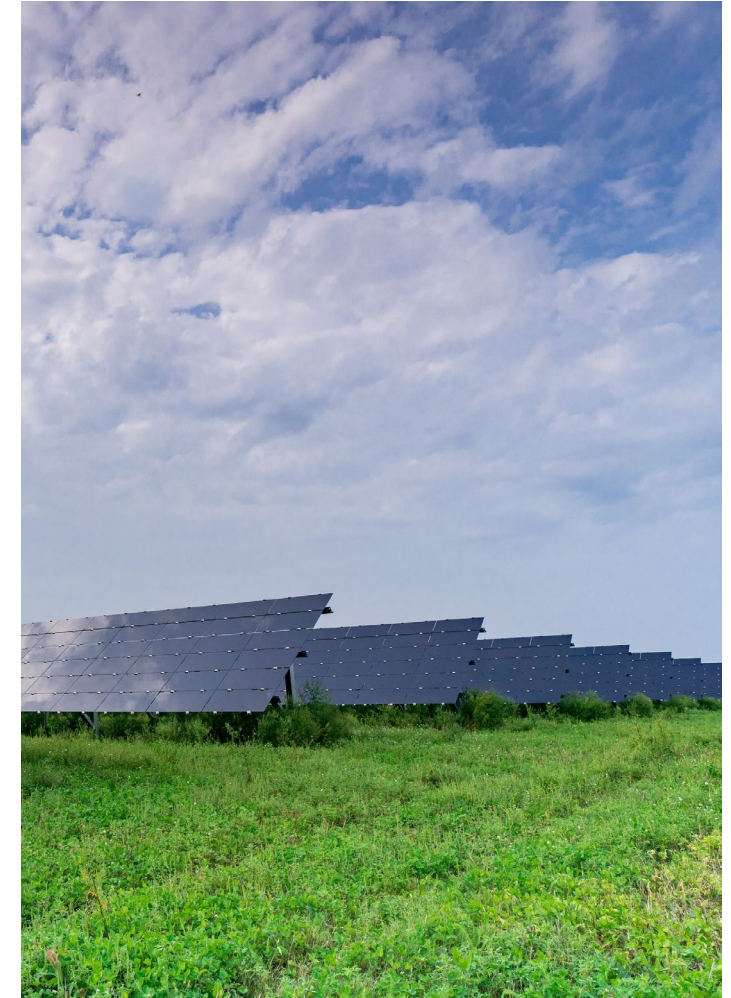
MN Dept. of Natural Resources

November 18, 2024

About National Grid Renewables

Permitting/Development Team

- **Alia Mohammad**, Permitting Specialist
 - amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Sophia Gilleland**, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Amber Miller**, Permitting Director
 - amiller@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Tom Karas**, Sr. Project Developer
 - tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com

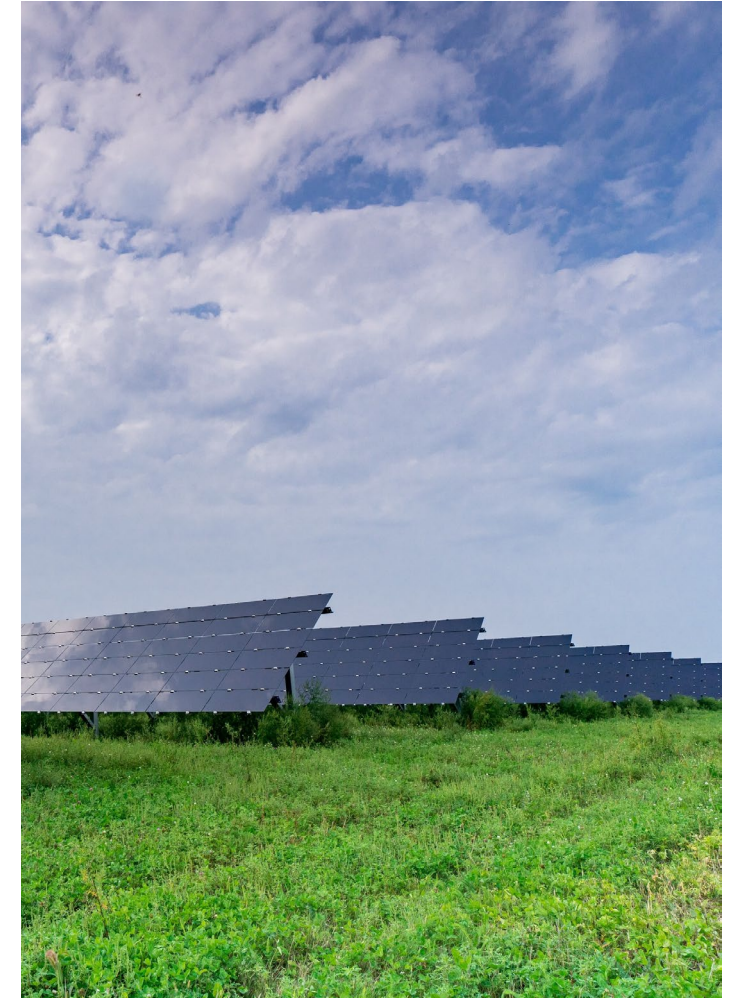


Brooten Community Solar

About National Grid Renewables

Expertise as Top U.S. Renewable Energy Company

- National Grid Renewables is a leading North American independent developer and operator of utility-scale renewable energy and battery storage projects
- National Grid Renewables includes the renewable energy development company formerly known as Geronimo Energy, whose team has successfully developed over 2,800 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar projects that are currently in operation or under construction
- We are experts in renewable energy project development, construction and operations
- The robust National Grid Renewables pipeline stretches across the United States, including projects in advanced development phases



Brooten Community Solar

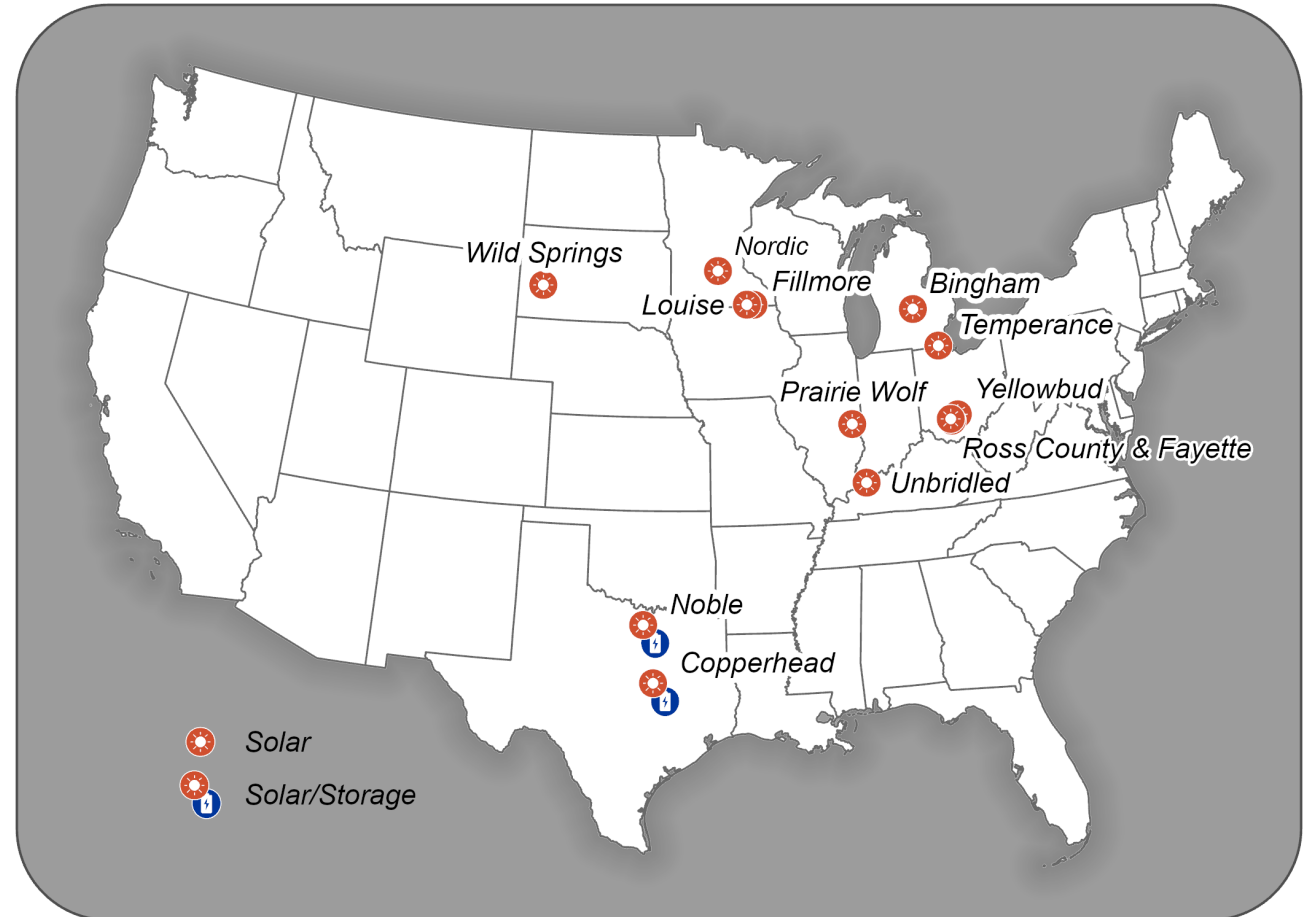
- **National Presence**

- NGR operates 14 individual Projects or Portfolios that amount to over 50 individual solar sites

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 - Fillmore County, MN
- Louise Solar (50 MW)
 - Mower County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
 - Rock County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
 - Community solar throughout MN

National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities

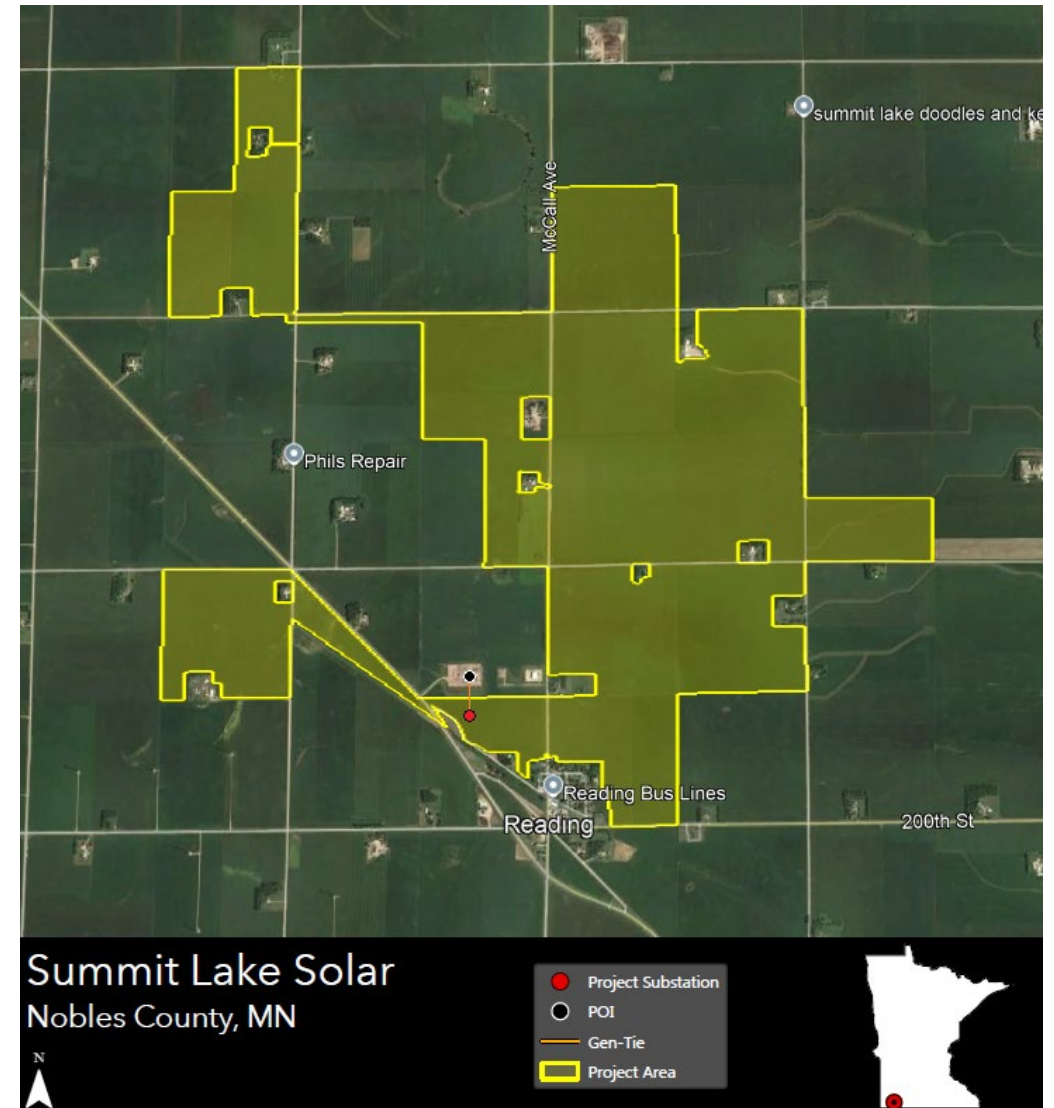


Additional details found here:

<https://nationalgridrenewables.com/project-technologies/solar/>

Summit Lake Solar Details

- **200 MW Solar Facility with BESS**
- **Location: North of Reading, MN**
 - Nobles County
 - Elk and Summit Lake Townships
- **Interconnection:** GIA executed 7/18/24
- **Expected COD:** Q4 2027



Permitting Timeline

- **Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources):** Currently Underway
- **Draft Application for EERA Review:** Early December 2024
- **Application Submittal to PUC:** Mid-January 2025
- **Target Permit Date:** ~September 2025
- **Construction Start:** Q3 2026
- **Project Operation Start:** Q4 2027

- **Some studies have been completed so far**
 - Initial wetland studies completed in July, 2023 and a NOD from LGU was received on 11/20/23. USACE no review response received 11/30/2023
 - Additional wetland studies completed. Submittal to LGU on 10/22/2024.
 - Biological Resource Survey Findings: Based on the absence of suitable habitat, identified federally-listed, federally-protected, and state-listed species have a low likelihood of occurrence within the Project Area.
 - Initial cultural studies completed – no cultural avoidance areas. Additional cultural surveys underway.
- **Site-specific Information**
 - Are there any specific issues that we should be aware of as we develop the project?

Conservation Planning Report: Summit Lake Solar Project

This document is intended for planning purposes only for the area of interest defined by the user. The report identifies ecologically significant areas documented within the defined area of interest plus any additional search distance indicated below. These ecologically significant areas can be viewed in the Explore Tab of the Minnesota Conservation Explorer. Please visit [MN Geospatial Commons](#) for downloadable GIS data.

This document does not meet the criteria for a Natural Heritage Review. If a Natural Heritage Review is needed, please define an Area of Interest in the Explore Tab and click on the Natural Heritage Review option.

This document does not include known occurrences of state-listed or federally listed species.

MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance

Search distance = 330 feet

Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) Sites of Biodiversity Significance are areas with varying levels of native biodiversity that may contain high quality native plant communities, rare plants, rare animals, and/or animal aggregations. A [Biodiversity Significance Rank](#) is assigned on the basis of the number of rare species, the quality of the native plant communities, size of the site, and context within the landscape. MBS Sites are ranked Outstanding, High, or Moderate. Areas ranked as Below were found to be disturbed and are retained in the layer as negative data. These areas do not meet the minimum biodiversity threshold for statewide significance but may 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. The DNR recommends avoidance of MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance ranked High or Outstanding.

Wetlands within MBS Sites of Outstanding or High Biodiversity Significance may be considered Rare Natural Communities under the Wetland Conservation Act. For technical guidance on Rare Natural Communities, please visit [WCA Program Guidance and Information](#).

For more information please visit [MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance](#).

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

DNR Native Plant Communities

Search distance = 330 feet

A native plant community is a group of native plants that interact with each other and with their environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced organisms. These groups of native plant species form recognizable units, such as oak savannas, pine forests, or marshes, that tend to repeat over space and time. Native plant communities are classified and described by considering vegetation, hydrology, landforms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes.

DNR Native Plant Community types and subtypes are given a [Conservation Status Rank](#) that reflects the relative rarity and endangerment of the community type in Minnesota. Conservation Status Ranks range from S1 (critically imperiled) to S5 (secure, common, widespread, and abundant). Native plant communities with a Conservation Status Rank of S1 through S3 are considered rare in the state. The DNR recommends avoidance of rare native plant communities.

Wetland native plant communities with a conservation status rank of S1 through S3 may also be considered Rare Natural Communities under the Wetland Conservation Act. For technical guidance on Rare Natural Communities, please visit [WCA Program Guidance and Information](#).

DNR Native Plant Communities may be given a Condition Rank that reflects the degree of ecological integrity of a specific occurrence of a native plant community. The Condition Rank is based on species composition, vegetation structure, ecological processes and functions, level of human disturbance, presence of exotic species, and other factors. Condition Ranks range from A-rank (excellent ecological integrity) to D-rank (poor ecological integrity). A Condition Rank of NR means Not Ranked and a Condition Rank of MULTI mean multiple ranks are present because the record is a native plant community complex.

For more information please visit [Minnesota's Native Plant Communities](#).

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

Calcareous Fens

Search distance = 5 miles

A calcareous fen is a rare and distinctive peat-accumulating wetland that is legally protected in Minnesota under the Wetland Conservation Act (*Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.223*). Many of the unique characteristics of calcareous fens result from the upwelling of groundwater through calcareous substrates. Because of this dependence on groundwater hydrology, calcareous fens can be affected by nearby activities or even those several miles away. For more information regarding calcareous fens, please see the [Calcareous Fen Fact Sheet](#) or review the [List of Known Calcareous Fens](#).

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

DNR Old Growth Stands

Search distance = 330 feet

[Old-growth forests](#) are natural forests that have developed over a long period of time, generally at least 120 years, without experiencing severe, stand-replacing disturbances such as fires, windstorms, or logging. Old-growth forests are a unique, nearly vanished piece of Minnesota's history and ecology; less than 4% of Minnesota's old-growth forests remain. The DNR recommends avoidance of all DNR Old Growth Stands. The following DNR Old Growth Stands have been documented within the search area.

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

MN Prairie Conservation Plan

Search distance = 330 feet

The [Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan](#), a twenty-five year strategy for accelerating prairie conservation in the state, identifies Core Areas, Corridors, and Corridor Complexes as areas to focus conservation efforts. The Plan's strategies include protection, enhancement, and restoration of grassland and wetland habitat. To meet the Plan's goals, approaches within Core Areas will need to include restoration and approaches within Corridors will need to include conservation of grassland habitat which can provide stepping stones between larger Core Areas.

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

Important Bird Areas

Search distance = 1 mile

[Important Bird Areas](#), identified by Audubon Minnesota in partnership with the DNR, are part of an international conservation effort aimed at conserving globally important bird habitats. They are voluntary and non-regulatory, but the designation demonstrates the significant ecological value of the area.

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

Lakes of Biological Significance

Search distance = 330 feet

[Lakes of Biological Significance](#) are high quality lakes as determined by the aquatic plant, fish, bird, or amphibian communities present within the lake. To be included in this layer, a lake only needs to meet the criteria for one of these four community types. The lake is assigned a biological significance of Outstanding, High, or Moderate based on the community with the highest quality.

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

USFWS Habitat Conservation Plans

A [Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)](#) is a mechanism for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act for a given set of activities and protected species. An HCP is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of an application for an [incidental take permit \(ITP\)](#). The ITP allows the permit holder to proceed with activities covered in the HCP that could result in the unintentional take of federally listed species.

[Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan \(Bat HCP\)](#): (search distance = 0; within area of interest only) This HCP was created to provide flexibility to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to manage forests while addressing federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations related to federally threatened and endangered bat species. The Bat HCP covers three bat species within Minnesota: northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tricolored bat. This report is intended to help non-federal, non-DNR landowners evaluate their potential eligibility for the Landowner Enrollment Program of the Bat HCP (For DNR-administered land, DNR staff should refer to the Bat HCP Implementation Policy).

[Landowner Enrollment Program](#) – DNR's incidental take permit may be extended through the Landowner Enrollment Program (LEP) to eligible non-federal landowners who conduct forest management activities. Landowners may be eligible to enroll in the LEP if they are a county land administrator, own more than 10,000 acres, or own land that overlaps a Bat HCP feature. The results below indicate if the defined area of interest overlaps a Bat HCP feature. For more information on how to enroll in the LEP, please visit the [Landowner Enrollment Program \(LEP\)](#).

SEARCH RESULTS: No Bat HCP features were found within the area of interest. Landowners are only eligible to apply for the Landowner Enrollment Program if they are a county land administrator or they own more than 10,000 acres.

USFWS Regulatory Layers

To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#). This report is not a substitution for a Section 7 review.

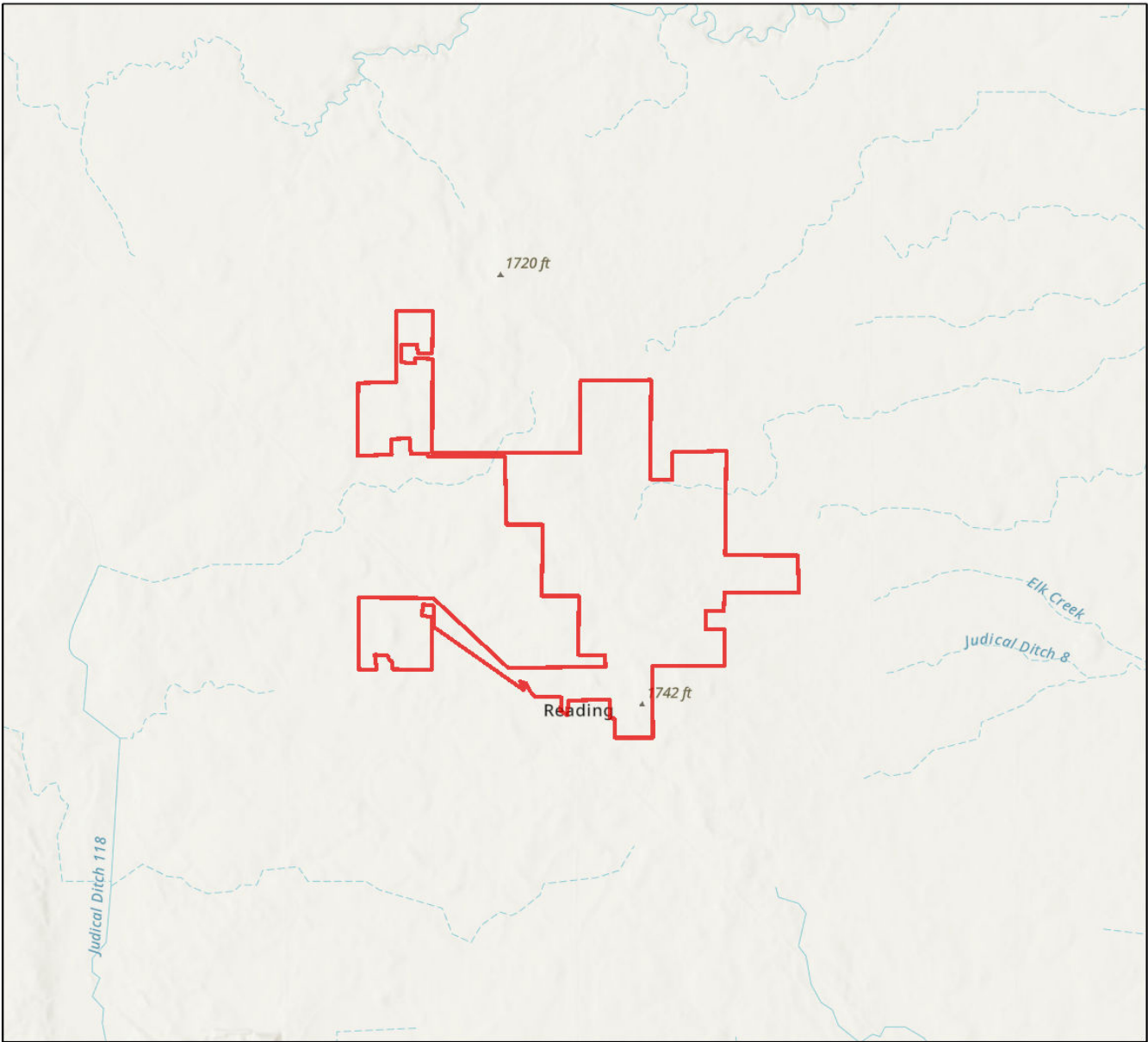
For informational purposes only, this tool currently checks the following USFWS Regulatory Layers:

[Rusty Patched Bumblebee High Potential Zones](#): (search distance = 0; within area of interest only) The rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), federally listed as endangered, is likely to be present in suitable habitat within the high potential zones. From April through October this species uses underground nests in upland grasslands, shrublands, and forest edges, and forages where nectar and pollen are available. From October through April the species overwinters under tree litter in upland forests and woodlands. The rusty patched bumble bee may be impacted by a variety of land management activities including, but not limited to, prescribed fire, tree-removal, haying, grazing, herbicide use, pesticide use, land-clearing, soil disturbance or compaction, or use of non-native bees. The [USFWS RPBB guidance](#) provides guidance on avoiding impacts to rusty patched bumble bee and a key for determining if actions are likely to affect the species; the determination key can be found in the appendix. Please visit the [USFWS Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map](#) for the most current locations of High Potential Zones.

SEARCH RESULTS: No features were found within the search area.

Summit Lake Solar Project

Conservation Planning Map



0 0.42 0.85 1.7 2.55 3.4 Miles

 Area of Interest

Size (acres): 2,016.69

County(s): Nobles

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,





Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

Project Name: Summit Lake Solar Facility

Project Proposer: Summit Lake Solar, LLC

Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Type Activities: Waterbody or watercourse impacts (e.g., dewatering, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology); Wetland impacts (e.g., dewatering, tiling, drainage, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology)

TRS: T103 R40 S18, T103 R40 S19, T103 R41 S10, T103 R41 S11, T103 R41 S12, T103 R41 S13, T103 R41 S14, T103 R41 S15, T103 R41 S22, T103 R41 S23, T103 R41 S24, T103 R41 S25

County(s): Nobles

DNR Admin Region(s): South

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: Summit Lake Solar, LLC (Summit Lake, Summit Lake Solar, or Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) ...

Existing Land Uses: Land use in the Project area is primarily agricultural (cultivated crops; approx. 1,537 acres), developed open space (approx. 65 acres), and emergent herbaceous wetlands (approx. 15 acres).

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: As noted above, the project area consists primarily of cultivated croplands. Wooded areas consist of small wind breaks.

Waterbodies Affected: Waterbodies - The Project will have minor, mostly short-term effects on surface water resources. Project facilities have been designed to avoid impacts.

Groundwater Resources Affected: Summit Lake does not anticipate any impacts to groundwater during construction or operation of the Project due to the depth of bedrock in this area (min. 500' below surface per MN Geological Survey).

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Ecologically Significant Area	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	Comments	Recommendations

Category	Results	Response By Category
Federally Listed Species	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review



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

November 14, 2024

Project ID: MCE #2024-00950

Andrea Sampson
Merjent, Inc.
1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Summit Lake Solar Facility
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Andrea Sampson,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Based on this review, the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

Ecologically Significant Area

No ecologically significant areas have been documented in the vicinity of the project.

State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species

No state-listed endangered or threatened species have been documented in the vicinity of the project.

State-Listed Species of Special Concern

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Water Regime	Habitat	Federal Status
Invertebrate Animal	Regal Fritillary	Argynnis idalia		Lowland Prairie, Upland Prairie	

- The above table identifies state-listed species of special concern that have been documented in the vicinity of your project. If suitable habitat for any of these species occurs within your project footprint or activity impact area, the project may negatively impact those species. To avoid impacting state-listed species of special concern, the DNR recommends modifying the location of project activities to avoid suitable habitat or modifying the timing of project activities to avoid the presence of the species. Please visit the [DNR Rare Species Guide](#) for more information on the habitat use of these species and recommended measures to avoid or minimize impacts. Species-specific comments, if any, appear below.

Federally Listed Species

The Natural Heritage Information System does not contain any records for federally listed species within one mile of the proposed project. Please note, however, that not all federally listed species are tracked within the NHIS. To ensure compliance with federal law, please conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

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 and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review before initiating project activities.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

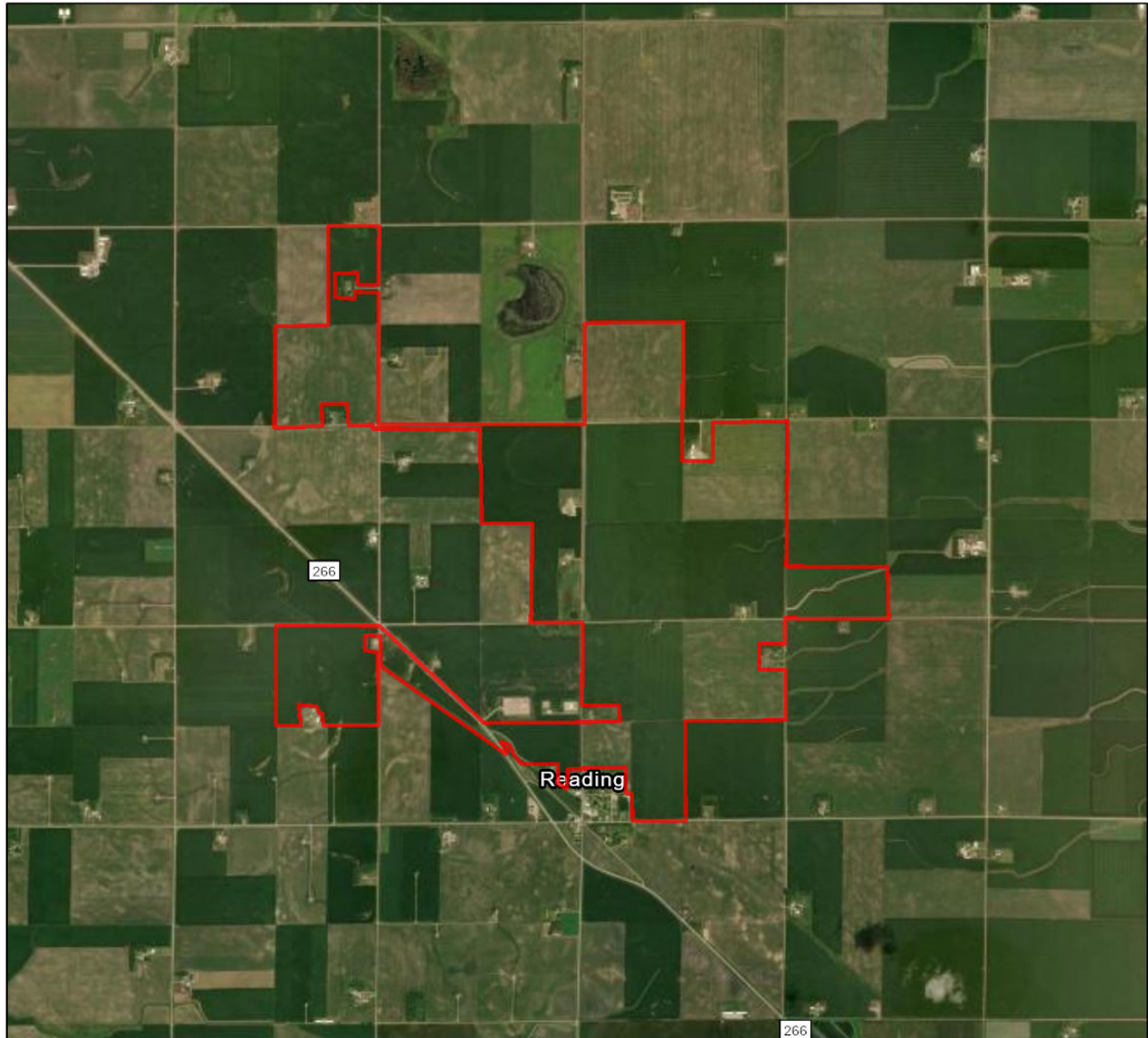
Sincerely,

Jim Drake Jim Drake
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
James.F.Drake@state.mn.us

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

Summit Lake Solar Facility

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

 Project_Boundary

Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Size (acres): 2,016.69

County(s): Nobles

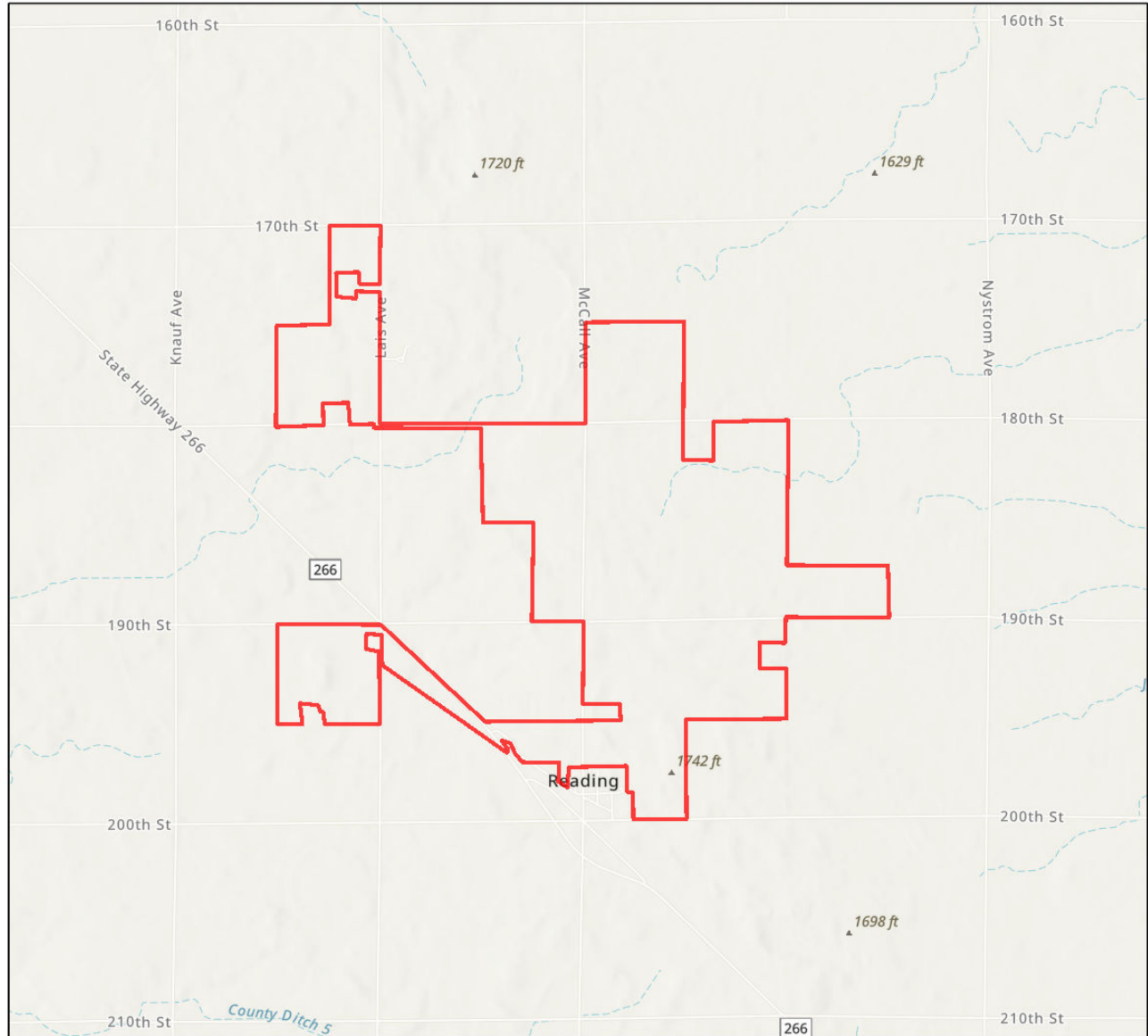
TRS: T103 R40 S18, T103 R40 S19, T103 R41 S10, T103 R41 S11, T103 R41 S12 +

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Earthstar Geographics
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,



Summit Lake Solar Facility

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

 Project_Boundary

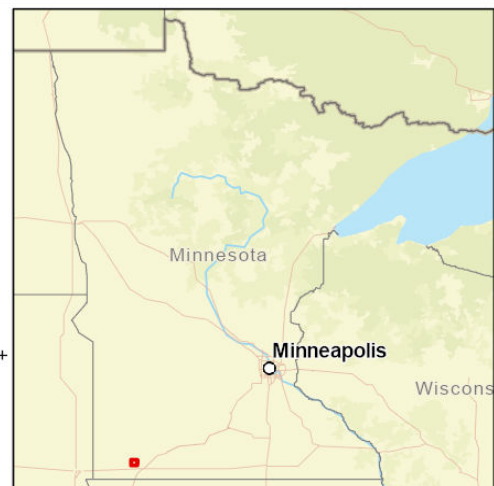
Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Size (acres): 2,016.69

County(s): Nobles

TRS: T103 R40 S18, T103 R40 S19, T103 R41 S10, T103 R41 S11, T103 R41 S12 +

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,



From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Roos, Stephan \(MDA\)](#)
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Marc Morandi](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:16:28 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[NG Renewables Logo Primary_RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
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[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)
[Summit Lake Solar - MN Dept of Agriculture Pre-Application Meeting 11.12.2024.pdf](#)

Hi Steve,

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss our Summit Lake Solar project. We will make sure to send over the AIMP to you for review in early December and it will include both solar and BESS. Also, thank you for bringing up the topic of irrigation and aerial spraying on transmission and wind projects. Although it may not be an issue for our solar project, we will keep it in mind for future conversations and check-in with our neighbors.

Attached is a pdf of our powerpoint presentation. If you have any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:47 PM

To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Thanks, Steve! I'll send an invite for 11/12 at 1pm.



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P



From: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 5:52 PM
To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Marc,

Sorry for the late response – I was out most of today at a site visit. I'm glad that you've reached out to me and would be happy to meet.

I am available:

- Tomorrow
 - between 9-10:30 am
 - between 12-2pm
 - after 3:30pm
- Tuesday the 12th
 - between 9-10am
 - between 12-3pm
- Wednesday the 13th
 - anytime
- Thursday the 14th
 - between 9am-12pm
 - after 3:30pm

Let me know what works for you all.

Steve

Steve Roos

Environmental Planner

Agricultural Marketing and Development Division

625 Robert Street North

Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538

O: 651-201-6631

C: 612-968-7208



From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland

<sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

This message may be from an external email source.

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

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February 2025 as our submittal date. As one of the main stakeholders on the project, I'm hoping to schedule a meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437



Pre-Application Meeting
MN Dept Of Agriculture
November 12, 2024

About National Grid Renewables



Permitting/Development Team

- **Marc Morandi**, Sr. Permitting Specialist
 - mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Alia Mohammad**, Permitting Specialist
 - amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Sophia Gilleland**, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Amber Miller**, Permitting Director
 - amiller@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Tom Karas**, Sr. Project Developer
 - tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com



Brooten Community Solar

About National Grid Renewables



Expertise as Top U.S. Renewable Energy Company

- National Grid Renewables is a leading North American independent developer and operator of utility-scale renewable energy and battery storage projects
- National Grid Renewables includes the renewable energy development company formerly known as Geronimo Energy, whose team has successfully developed over 2,800 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar projects that are currently in operation or under construction
- We are experts in renewable energy project development, construction and operations
- The robust National Grid Renewables pipeline stretches across the United States, including projects in advanced development phases



Brooten Community Solar

Introduction



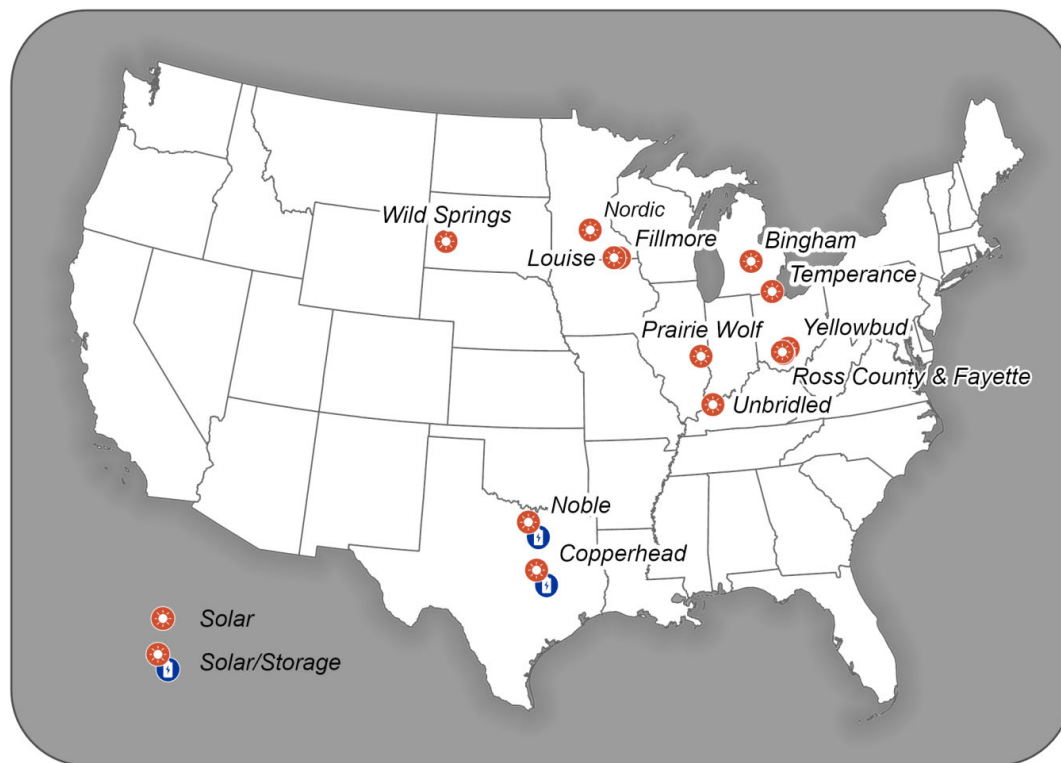
- **National Presence**

- NGR operates 14 individual Projects or Portfolios that amount to over 50 individual solar sites

- **MN Presence**

- Fillmore Solar (45 MW)
 - Fillmore County, MN
- Louise Solar (50 MW)
 - Mower County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
 - Rock County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
 - Community solar throughout MN

National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities



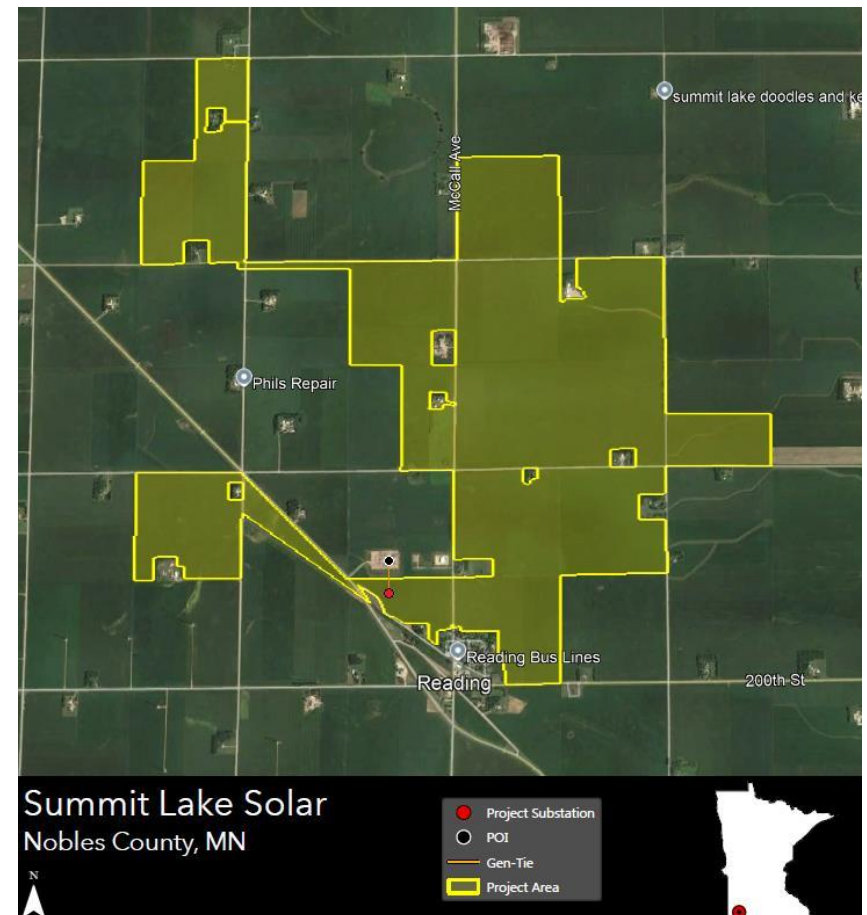
Additional details found here:

<https://nationalgridrenewables.com/project-technologies/solar/>

Summit Lake Solar Details



- **200 MW Solar Facility with BESS**
- **Location: North of Reading, MN**
 - Nobles County
 - Elk and Summit Lake Townships
- **Interconnection:** GIA executed 7/18/24
- **Expected COD:** Q4 2027



Permitting Timeline



- **Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources):** Currently Underway
- **Draft Application for EERA Review:** Early December 2024
- **Application Submittal to PUC:** Mid-January 2025
- **Target Permit Date:** ~September 2025
- **Construction Start:** Q3 2026
- **Project Operation Start:** Q4 2027

- **Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan**

- AIMP is currently in development
- Will submit concurrently with our PUC application draft
- Expected to seek Dept. of Ag. review in early December (**Target Date: 12/4/24**)
- Once we've submitted our initial draft, we will schedule a meeting to address Dept. of Ag. comments to incorporate into final PUC application

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Marc Morandi](#); [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Jeremy Duehr](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 5:36:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
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[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)
[Summit Lake Solar - MN DOT - Pre-Application Meeting Powerpoint 11.13.24.pdf](#)

Hi Stacy,

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss our Summit Lake Solar project. Please find attached the pdf version of our PowerPoint presentation. As discussed earlier, we will provide shapefiles and figures of our design and show any impacts to the Right of Way once we have them available. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 1:05 PM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Stacy,

Thanks for your response! I think an informal meeting for now is fine and then we can bring in everyone else once we figure out what would be helpful for us to share. I'll send you an invite for 11/13 at 1pm.

Marc



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello Marc and Team,

Thank you for reaching out to begin early coordination on the Summit Lake Solar Project. Is it fair to assume that this will be an informal conversation as opposed to a formal project introduction meeting? Reason being, if the latter, I'd typically invite district permitting, planning, and environmental staff. If informal, we can discuss adding that staff for a second meeting, if deemed necessary.

Please use the link in my signature to view MnDOT's *Utility Project Guidance for Large Energy Facility Project Proposals* document to learn about our agency's expectations throughout all stages of your permitting process.

How does Tuesday, 11-12-24 at 10am or Wednesday, 11-13-24 at 1pm work on your side? I do prefer MS Teams as the meeting format.

Lastly, if you happen to have a shapefile of the project that you are willing to share, I'd appreciate that as well.

Thank you again and I look forward to coordinating with you and your team,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us/large-energy-facility-project-guidance)



From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

This message may be from an external email source.

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

Hello,

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I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437



Pre-Application Meeting

MN Dept Of Transportation

November 13, 2024

About National Grid Renewables



Permitting/Development Team

- **Marc Morandi**, Sr. Permitting Specialist
 - mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Alia Mohammad**, Permitting Specialist
 - amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Sophia Gilleland**, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Amber Miller**, Permitting Director
 - amiller@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Tom Karas**, Sr. Project Developer
 - tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com



Brooten Community Solar

About National Grid Renewables



Expertise as Top U.S. Renewable Energy Company

- National Grid Renewables is a leading North American independent developer and operator of utility-scale renewable energy and battery storage projects
- National Grid Renewables includes the renewable energy development company formerly known as Geronimo Energy, whose team has successfully developed over 2,800 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar projects that are currently in operation or under construction
- We are experts in renewable energy project development, construction and operations
- The robust National Grid Renewables pipeline stretches across the United States, including projects in advanced development phases



Brooten Community Solar

Introduction



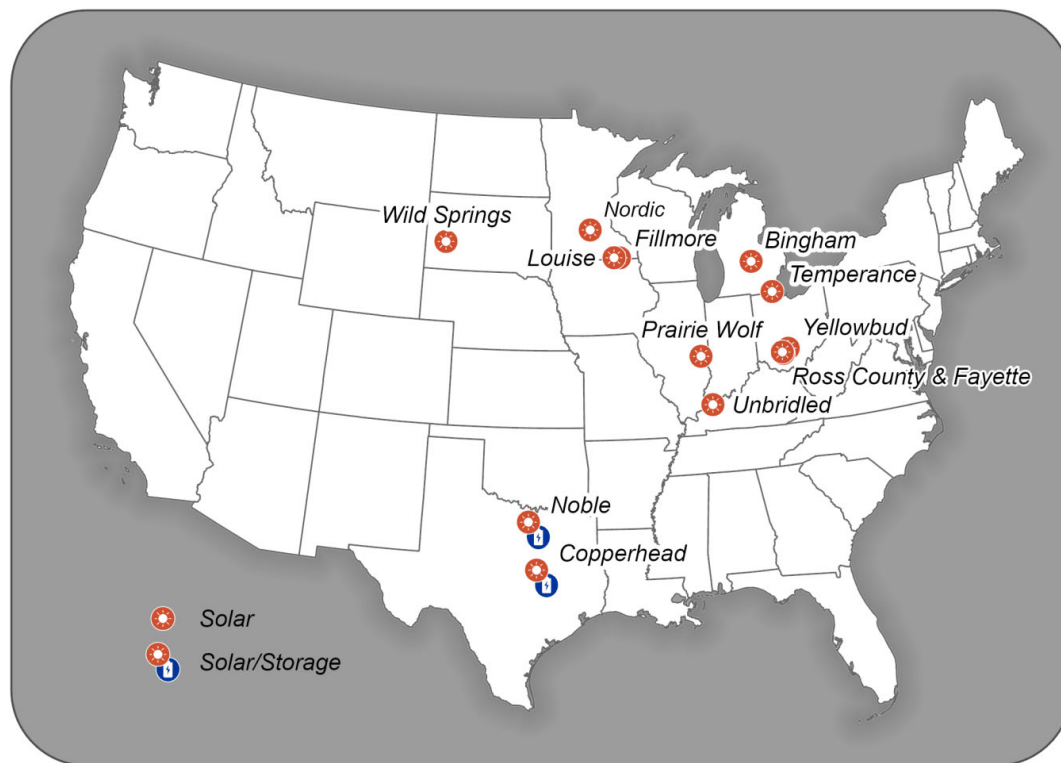
- **National Presence**

- NGR operates 14 individual Projects or Portfolios that amount to over 50 individual solar sites

- **MN Presence**

- Fillmore Solar (45 MW)
 - Fillmore County, MN
- Louise Solar (50 MW)
 - Mower County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
 - Rock County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
 - Community solar throughout MN

National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities



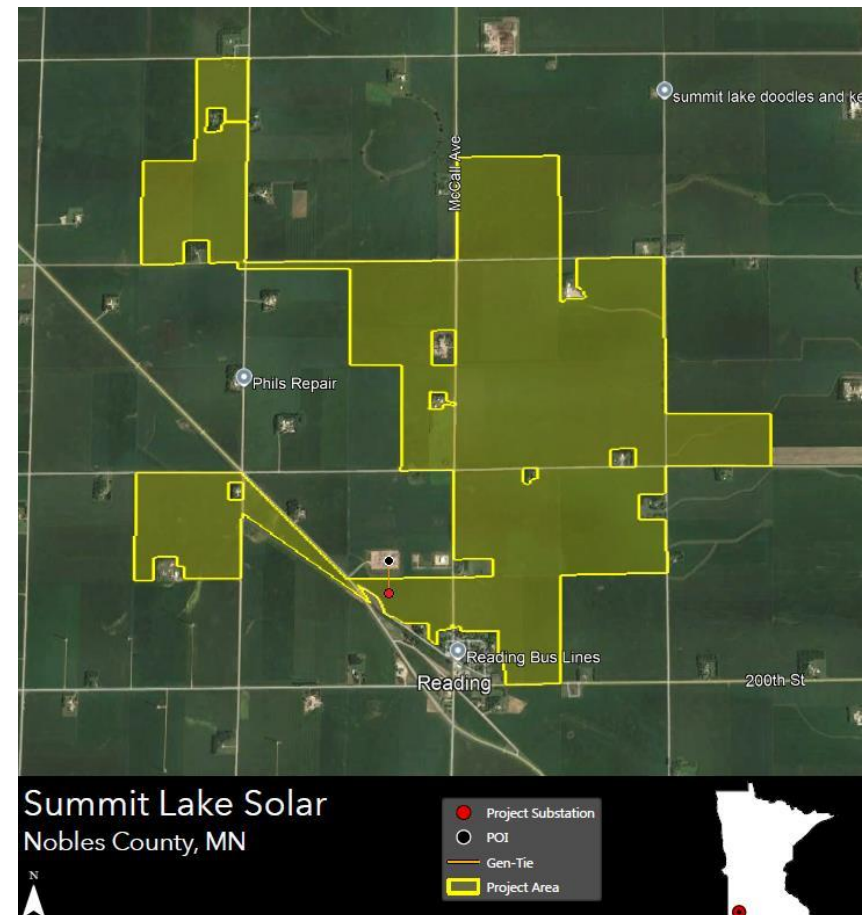
Additional details found here:

<https://nationalgridrenewables.com/project-technologies/solar/>

Summit Lake Solar Details



- **200 MW Solar Facility with BESS**
- **Location: North of Reading, MN**
 - Nobles County
 - Elk and Summit Lake Townships
- **Interconnection:** GIA executed 7/18/24
- **Expected COD:** Q4 2027



Permitting Timeline



- **Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources):** Currently Underway
- **Draft Application for EERA Review:** Early December 2024
- **Application Submittal to PUC:** Mid-January 2025
- **Target Permit Date:** ~September 2025
- **Construction Start:** Q3 2026
- **Project Operation Start:** Q4 2027

MnDOT Coordination

- **Proposed Routes/Alternatives**

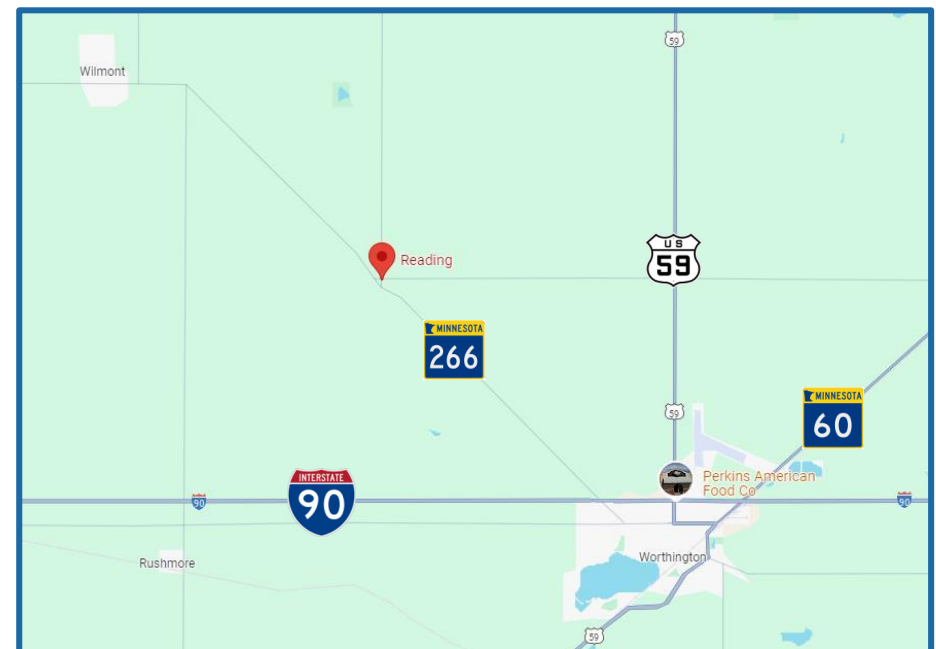
- Not finalized yet, but likely I-90 to State Highway 266

- **Summary of Public Outreach**

- Currently reaching out to agencies and LGUs
- Meeting with Nobles County on 11/14 and Elk and Summit Lake Townships in the coming weeks

- **MnDOT Trunk Highway and Scenic Byways**

- Collection line crossing State Highway 266 – likely an underground crossing that will require a Utility Crossing Permit



From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Jeremy Duehr](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:44:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[Shapefiles \(3\).zip](#)
[2024-12-10 Summit Lake Solar Concept Layout - Rev B \(1\).kmz](#)

Hi Stacy,

Please find attached our preliminary design shapefiles/kmz for Summit Lake Solar.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Jeremy Duehr <JDuehr@fredlaw.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Stacy,

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss our Summit Lake Solar project. Please find attached the pdf version of our PowerPoint presentation. As discussed earlier, we will provide shapefiles and figures of our design and show any impacts to the Right of Way once we have them available. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 1:05 PM
To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Stacy,

Thanks for your response! I think an informal meeting for now is fine and then we can bring in everyone else once we figure out what would be helpful for us to share. I'll send you an invite for 11/13 at 1pm.

Marc



Marc Morandi
Sr. Permitting Specialist
P
M 937.554.4504

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: [External] RE: MN DOT - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello Marc and Team,

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Thank you again and I look forward to coordinating with you and your team,

Stacy Kotch Egstad
Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management
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395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678
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952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437



December 18, 2024

Environmental Review Program
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
Administration Building #203
50 Sherburne Ave
Saint Paul MN 55155

RE: Proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

To Whom It May Concern:

Summit Lake Solar, LLC ("Summit Lake"), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) formerly known as Geronimo Energy, is gathering information and requesting agency comments for proposed utility-scale solar-energy and battery storage projects in Nobles County, Minnesota.

Summit Lake will be submitting a Joint Site Permit Application for a solar project and battery storage project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"). The planned output for the solar project is up to 200 MW of alternating current nameplate solar-energy capacity. The planned nameplate capacity of the 4-hour battery storage project is 200 MW and approximately 800 MWh. The combined permanent facilities for the two projects will include:

- Solar modules, inverters, and racking;
- Fencing;
- Access roads as required;
- Laydown areas;
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) building;
- Substation facility;
- On-site underground electrical collection lines;
- Up to two weather stations (up to 20 feet tall); and
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Summit Lake will interconnect to a 345-kV substation within the Project via a 345-kV transmission generation tie-line. The transmission line route has not yet been determined. Summit Lake does not anticipate a route permit at this time but will re-evaluate once the transmission line design is complete.

The racking layout, access roads, and electrical connections have not been finalized at this time. Table 1 provides the sections of land Summit Lake is evaluating for siting the solar energy project. Land use within the project area is predominantly agricultural land.

Table 1: Sections within the Summit Lake Project Boundary

State	County	Civil Township	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Nobles	Elk Township	103N	40W	18, 19
MN	Nobles	Summit Lake Township	103N	41W	10-15 and 22-24

The battery storage project is proposed to be located in Section 23 in Summit Lake Township.

To facilitate your review, we have enclosed a map of the location and the associated project boundary of the combined solar and battery storage project, which will be co-located.

Summit Lake will seek site permits from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the solar project and battery storage project. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as Q2 of 2026 with intended completion by Q4 of 2027.

The purpose of this letter is to inform your organization of the proposed Project, seek your input regarding any permits and approvals that may be required, and identify interests your organization may have in the Project site or associated study area. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

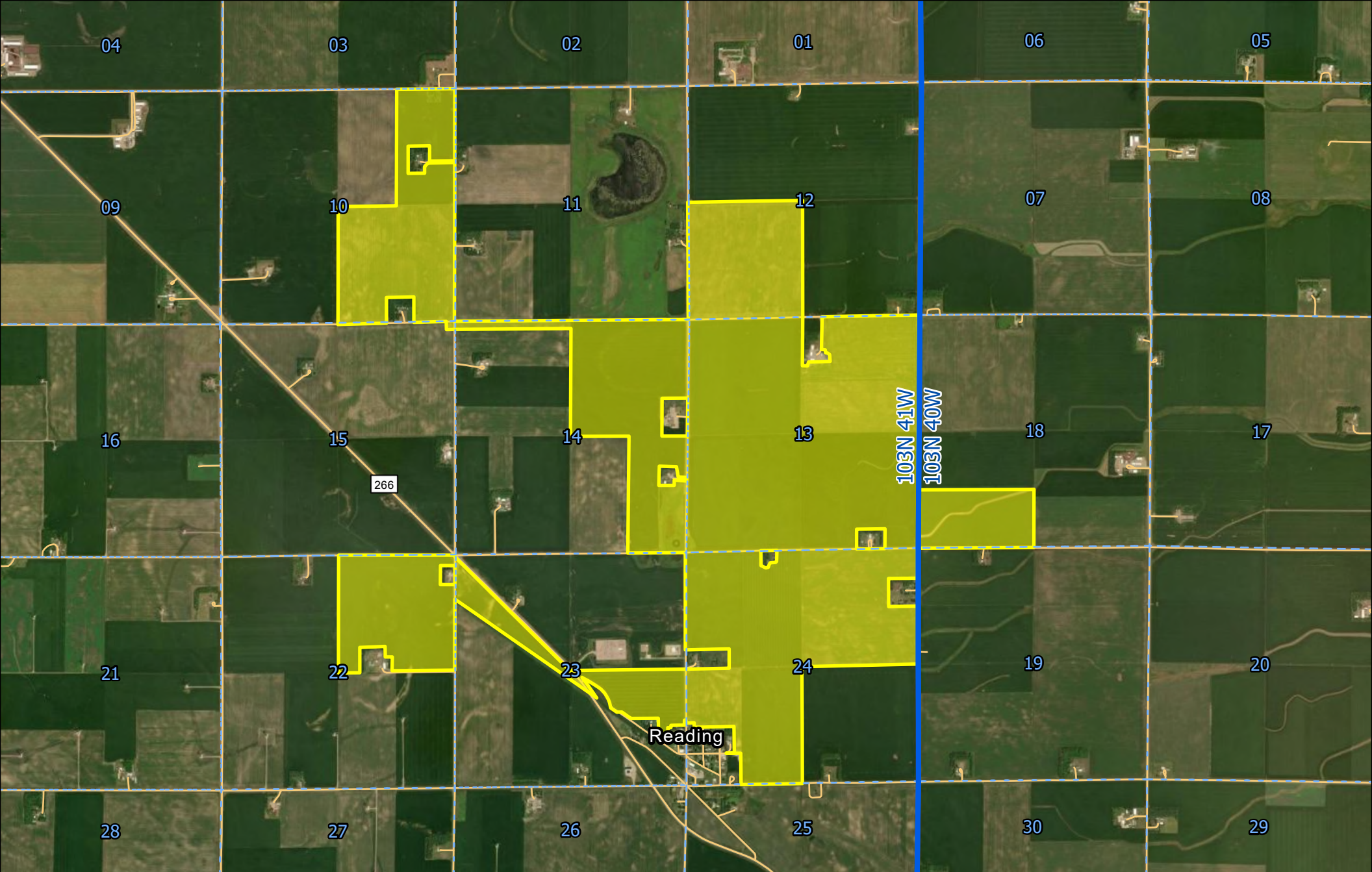
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alia Mohammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alia" and last name "Mohammad" clearly distinguishable.

Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

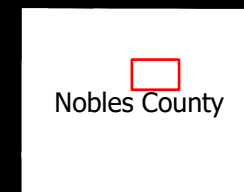
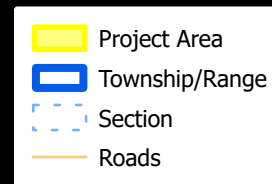
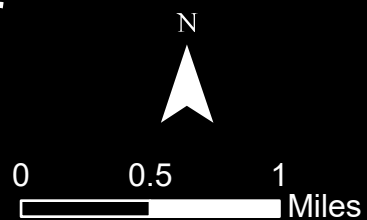
Attachment:
Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project Location Map



Summit Lake Solar

Nobles County, MN

43.72344, -95.71231





December 18, 2024

Dan Card
Environmental Review
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

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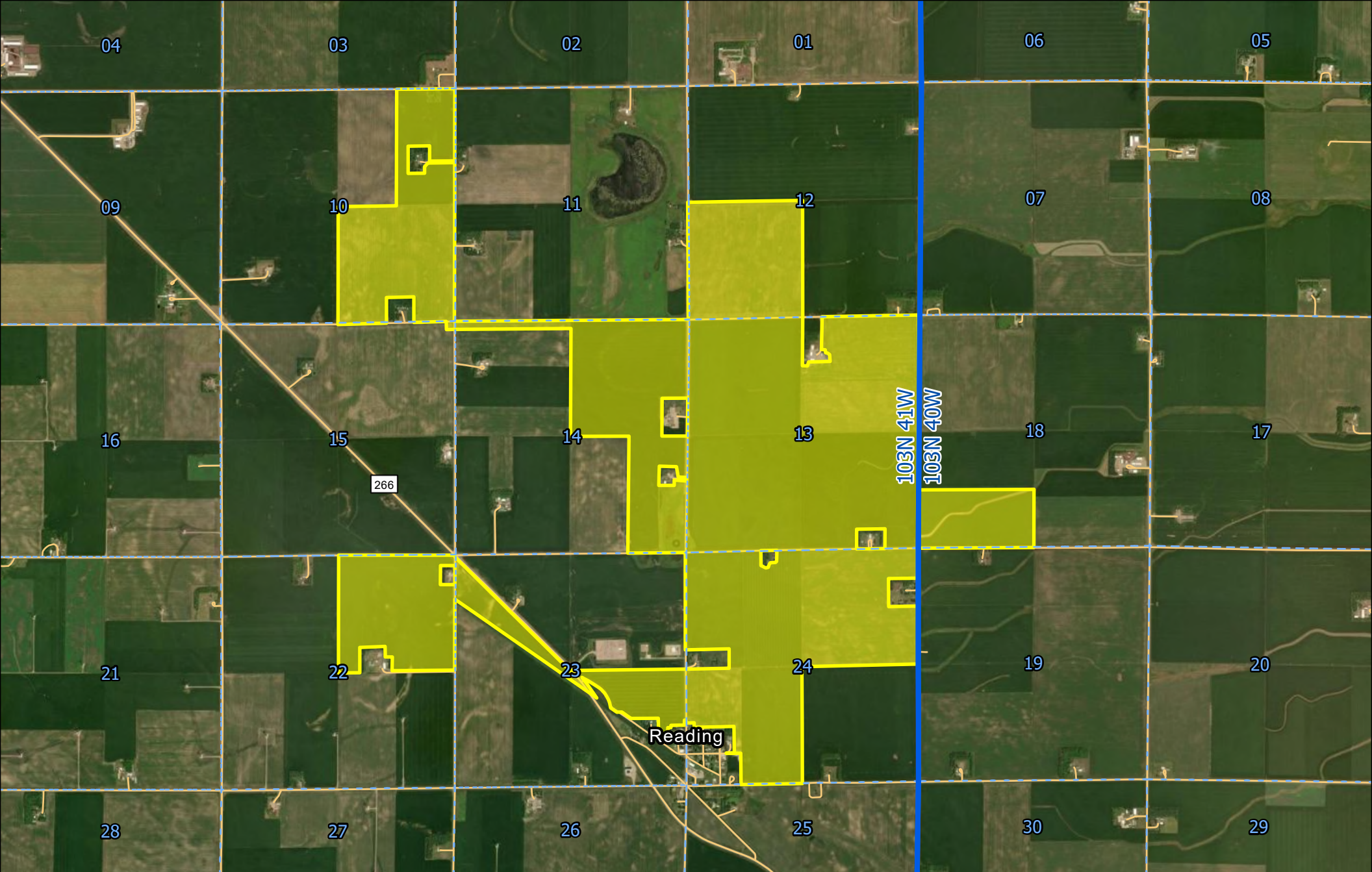
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Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

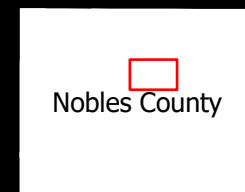
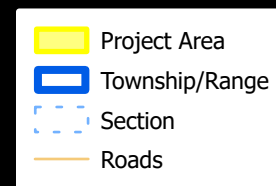
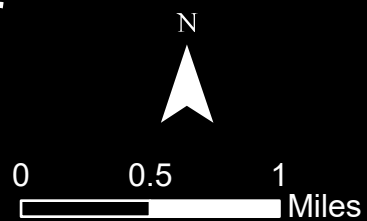
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Summit Lake Solar

Nobles County, MN

43.72344, -95.71231



December 18, 2024



Amanda Gronhovd, Minnesota State Archaeologist
Office of the State Archaeologist
Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review
328 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102

RE: Proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Gronhovd,

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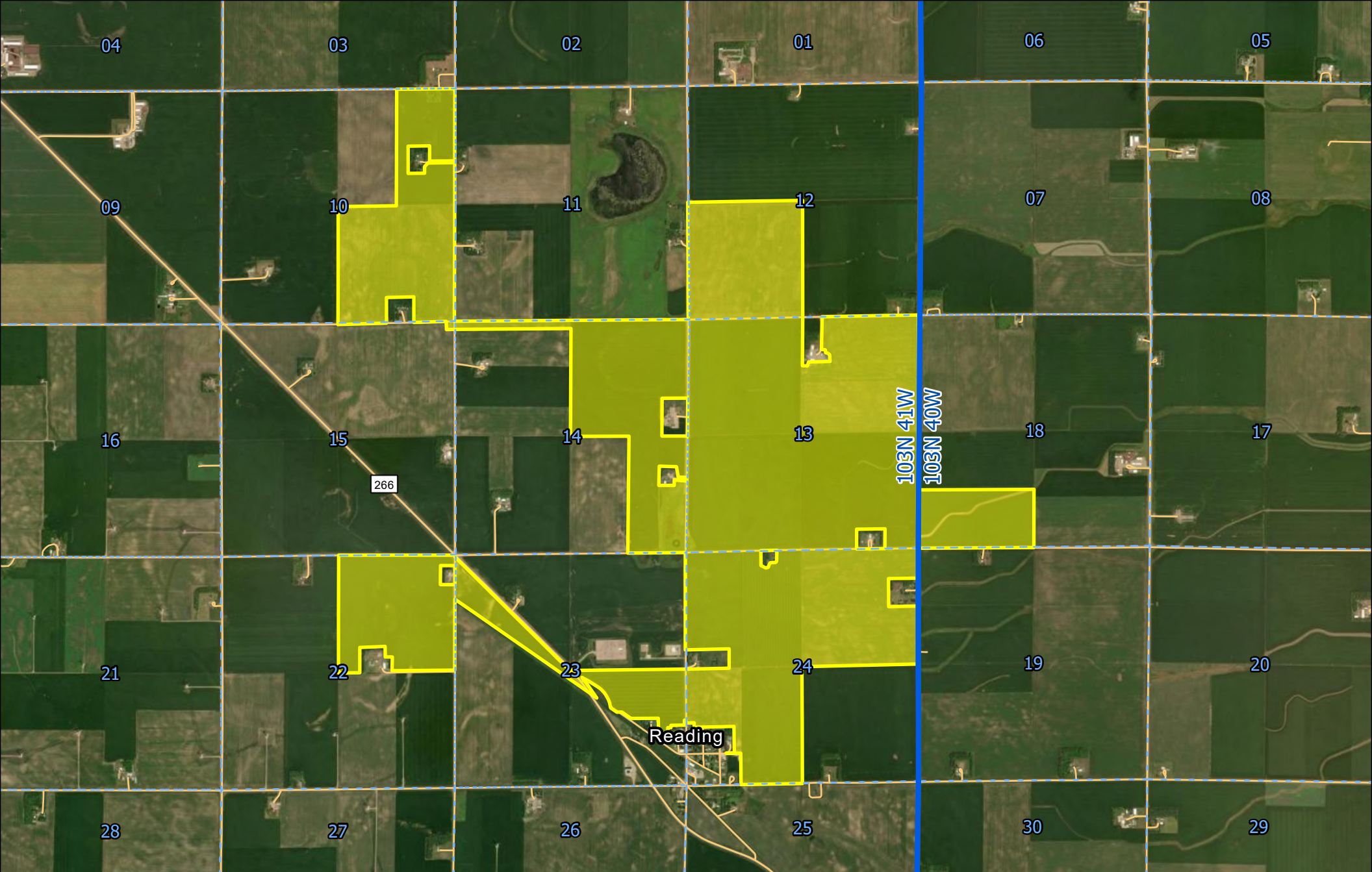
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-988-9000 or at amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alia Mohammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alia" and last name "Mohammad" clearly distinguishable.

Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

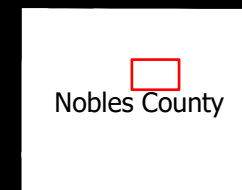
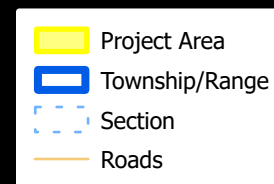
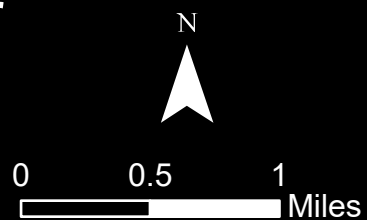
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Summit Lake Solar

Nobles County, MN

43.72344, -95.71231



From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: ["Roos, Stephan \(MDA\)"](#)
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Jeremy Duehr](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 11:09:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

Hi Steve,

Thanks so much for the review and quick turnaround. We will be sure to notify you once our permit application is submitted, and when it's time to select an Environmental Monitor.

Thanks again for your time, and have a great holiday.

Alia

From: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 10:30 AM
To: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Jeremy Duehr <JDuehr@fredlaw.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Some people who received this message don't often get email from stephan.roos@state.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Alia,

I've finished reviewing the draft AIMP for Summit Lake Solar and don't have any edits to request. My only comment is that this AIMP is very well done. I will submit a comment letter to the project docket once it'd been established after your draft site permit has been submitted – I do ask that you reach out and remind me at that point since it's easy to miss the notification.

Whenever you're ready to have me help select an Environmental Monitor for the project reach out to me. I don't normally weigh in on final selection for the position but I will point out any candidates that seem to have inadequate qualifications. The final decision is yours to make.

Thanks again for the opportunity to review the AIMP.
Steve

Steve Roos
Environmental Planner
Agricultural Marketing and Development Division
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538
O: 651-201-6631
C: 612-968-7208



From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 5:49 PM
To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Jeremy Duehr <JDuehr@fredlaw.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

You don't often get email from amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening Steve,

As promised, please find attached Summit Lake Solar's AIMP, and draft figures for your review.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. We appreciate your feedback and coordination.

Thank you!



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Cc: Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Steve,

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss our Summit Lake Solar project. We will make sure to send over the AIMP to you for review in early December and it will include both solar and BESS. Also, thank you for bringing up the topic of irrigation and aerial spraying on transmission and wind projects. Although it may not be an issue for our solar project, we will keep it in mind for future conversations and check-in with our neighbors.

Attached is a pdf of our powerpoint presentation. If you have any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:47 PM

To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Thanks, Steve! I'll send an invite for 11/12 at 1pm.



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

From: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 5:52 PM

To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: [External] RE: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hi Marc,

Sorry for the late response – I was out most of today at a site visit. I'm glad that you've reached out to me and would be happy to meet.

I am available:

- Tomorrow
 - between 9-10:30 am
 - between 12-2pm
 - after 3:30pm
- Tuesday the 12th
 - between 9-10am
 - between 12-3pm
- Wednesday the 13th
 - anytime
- Thursday the 14th
 - between 9am-12pm
 - after 3:30pm

Let me know what works for you all.

Steve

Steve Roos

Environmental Planner

Agricultural Marketing and Development Division

625 Robert Street North

Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538

O: 651-201-6631

C: 612-968-7208



From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM

To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: MN Dept. of Ag. - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

This message may be from an external email source.

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

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February 2025 as our submittal date. As one of the main stakeholders on the project, I'm hoping to schedule a meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

County and Local Agencies

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Bruce Heitkamp](#); [Marc Morandi](#); [Kathy Henderschiedt](#); [Justin Ahlers](#); [Aaron Holmbeck](#); [Administration](#); [Mark Koster](#); [Sophia Gilleland](#)
Cc: [Tom Karas](#); [Amber Miller](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Summit Lake Solar - MN PUC Pre-Application Meeting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 5:06:24 PM
Attachments: [RE Elk Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting.msg](#)
[RE Summit Lake Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting.msg](#)
[Summit Lake Solar - Nobles County - Pre-Application Meeting Powerpoint 11.14.24.pdf](#)
[NG_Renewables_Logo_Primary_RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

Hi Bruce,

Thank you for sending over the contact list. I was able to get a hold of one of the supervisors in Elk Township (Karl Dekker) – he said that he will invite the other supervisors to the meeting on Tuesday. I was also able to get a hold of the Chair at Summit Lake Township (Curt Luing) and he will plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday. I've attached our email correspondences with everyone as well.

Thank you all for your time and meeting with us today. Please find attached our Powerpoint presentation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. My contact information is below and I'm including my colleagues Tom Karas and Sophia Gilleland well.

Tom Karas

Sr. Developer

P 952.300.9481

M 763-333-5200

Sophia Gilleland

Permitting Associate

P 612.504.3307

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Bruce Heitkamp <bheitkamp@co.nobles.mn.us>

Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 2:26 PM

To: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>; Justin Ahlers <jahlers@co.nobles.mn.us>; Aaron Holmbeck <aholmbeck@co.nobles.mn.us>; Administration <Administration@co.nobles.mn.us>; Mark Koster <mkoster@co.nobles.mn.us>; Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Amber Miller <amiller@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: [External] RE: Summit Lake Solar - MN PUC Pre-Application Meeting

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bheitkamp@co.nobles.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Everyone,

I referenced our county-wide official contact list. It is the link below:

<https://www.co.nobles.mn.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Nobles-County-Townships-Cities-Officials-Guide-1.pdf>

Sincerely,

Bruce

Bruce A. Heitkamp

Nobles County Administrator

315 10th St. PO Box 757

Worthington, MN 56187

Phone: 507-295-5201

Fax: 507-372-8363

www.co.nobles.mn.us

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:50 PM

To: Kathy Henderschiedt; Justin Ahlers; Aaron Holmbeck; Administration; Mark Koster; Alia Mohammad; Sophia Gilleland

Cc: Tom Karas; Amber Miller

Subject: Summit Lake Solar - MN PUC Pre-Application Meeting

When: Thursday, November 14, 2024 3:00 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Alert: This email originated from an external sender. Exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 220 458 987 633

Passcode: gjpBB7

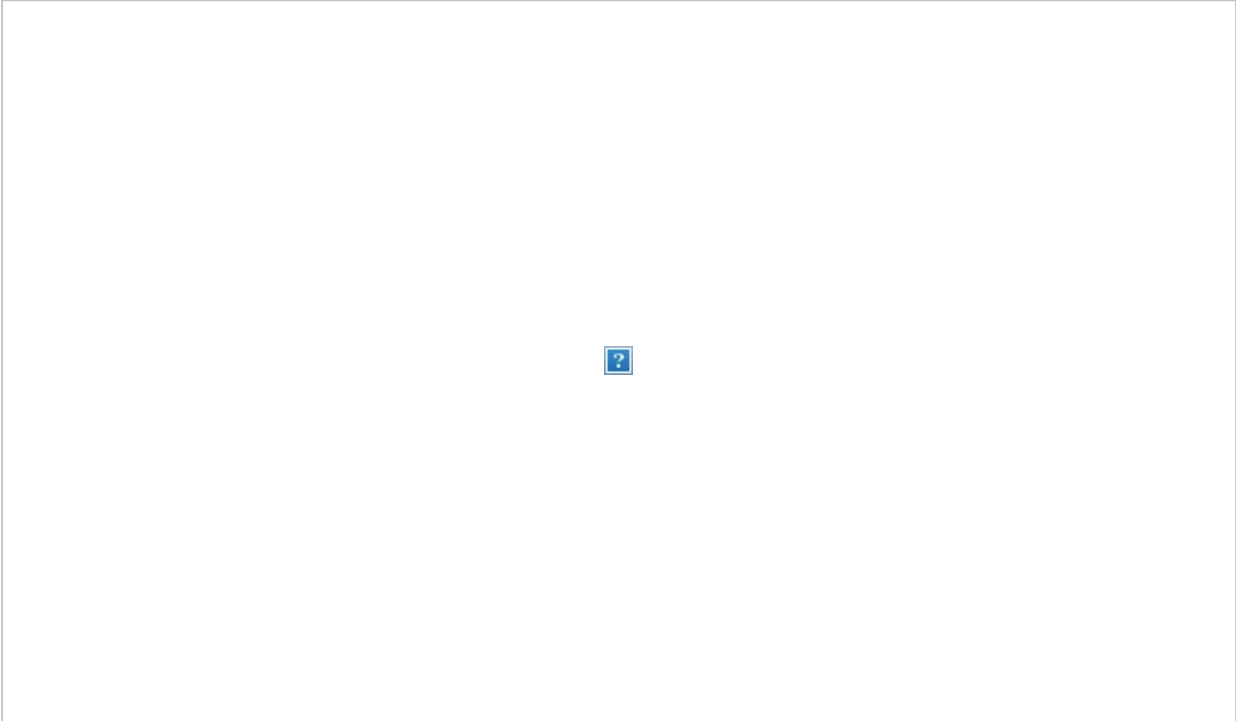
Dial in by phone

[+1 469-998-7639,,919506794#](#) United States, Dallas

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 919 506 794#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)



[Org help](#)

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: clerkelktownship@gmail.com; andrew.dierks@plantpioneer.com; farmboy8592@hotmail.com
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Marc Morandi](#)
Subject: RE: Elk Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:20:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[NG Renewables Logo Primary RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

Hello,

My name is Alia Mohammad and I'm a Permitting Specialist with National Grid Renewables. I'd like to follow up on our email below. I spoke with Karl Dekker on the phone this afternoon and let him know that we plan to present our Summit Lake Solar Project at the regularly scheduled Nobles County Board meeting on **Tuesday 11/19 at 9:00am**. The address is Nobles County Government Center, 315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187. We'd like to extend the invite to you all and open any dialogue in case you have questions.

We would still like to plan a meeting with you all if you're available next week to discuss more – let us know if a date or time works best for you.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions in the meantime.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM
To: clerkelktownship@gmail.com; andrew.dierks@plantpioneer.com
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: Elk Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February 2025 as our submittal date. As one of the main stakeholders on the project, I'm hoping to schedule a

meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: cluing58@gmail.com
Cc: [Marc Morandi](#); [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); srog21@hotmail.com; rjburkard@hotmail.com; harlanklein0@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Summit Lake Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:48:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[NG_Renewables_Logo_Primary_RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

Hi Curt,

Thank you for speaking with me today. I wanted to follow up and let you know that we plan to present our Summit Lake Solar Project at the regularly scheduled Nobles County Board meeting on **Tuesday 11/19 at 9:00am**. The address is Nobles County Government Center, 315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187. We'd like to extend the invite to you all and open any dialogue in case you have questions.

We would still like to plan a meeting with everyone if you're available next week to discuss more. If you have any questions in the meantime, my contact information is below. I have also copied my colleagues Tom Karas and Sophia Gilleland to assist with questions as well.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM

To: rjburkard@hotmail.com; dprogers6163@yahoo.com; harlanklein0@gmail.com; cluing58@gmail.com; srog21@hotmail.com

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: Summit Lake Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February

2025 as our submittal date. As one of the main stakeholders on the project, I'm hoping to schedule a meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437



Pre-Application Meeting Nobles County

November 14, 2024

About National Grid Renewables



Permitting/Development Team

- **Marc Morandi**, Sr. Permitting Specialist
 - mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Alia Mohammad**, Permitting Specialist
 - amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Sophia Gilleland**, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Amber Miller**, Permitting Director
 - amiller@nationalgridrenewables.com
- **Tom Karas**, Sr. Project Developer
 - tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com



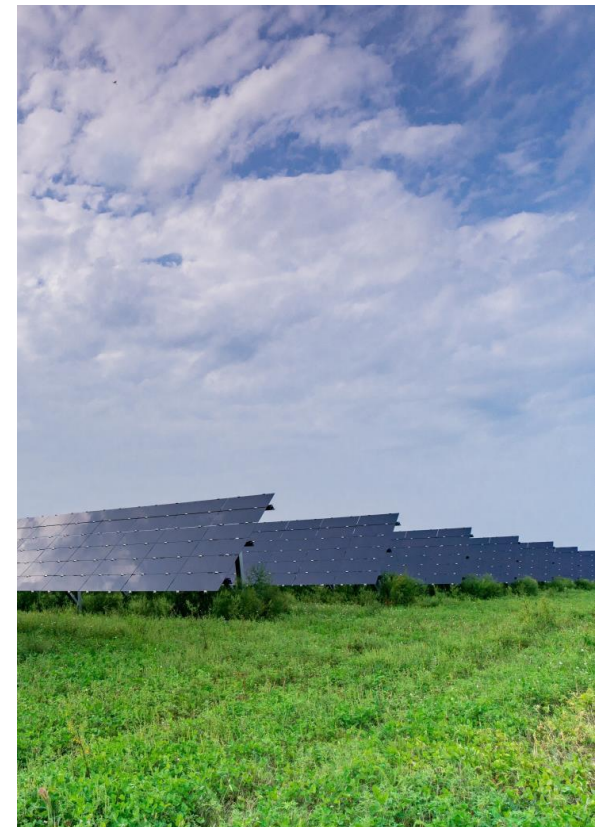
Brooten Community Solar

About National Grid Renewables



Expertise as Top U.S. Renewable Energy Company

- National Grid Renewables is a leading North American independent developer and operator of utility-scale renewable energy and battery storage projects
- National Grid Renewables includes the renewable energy development company formerly known as Geronimo Energy, whose team has successfully developed over 2,800 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar projects that are currently in operation or under construction
- We are experts in renewable energy project development, construction and operations
- The robust National Grid Renewables pipeline stretches across the United States, including projects in advanced development phases



Brooten Community Solar

Introduction



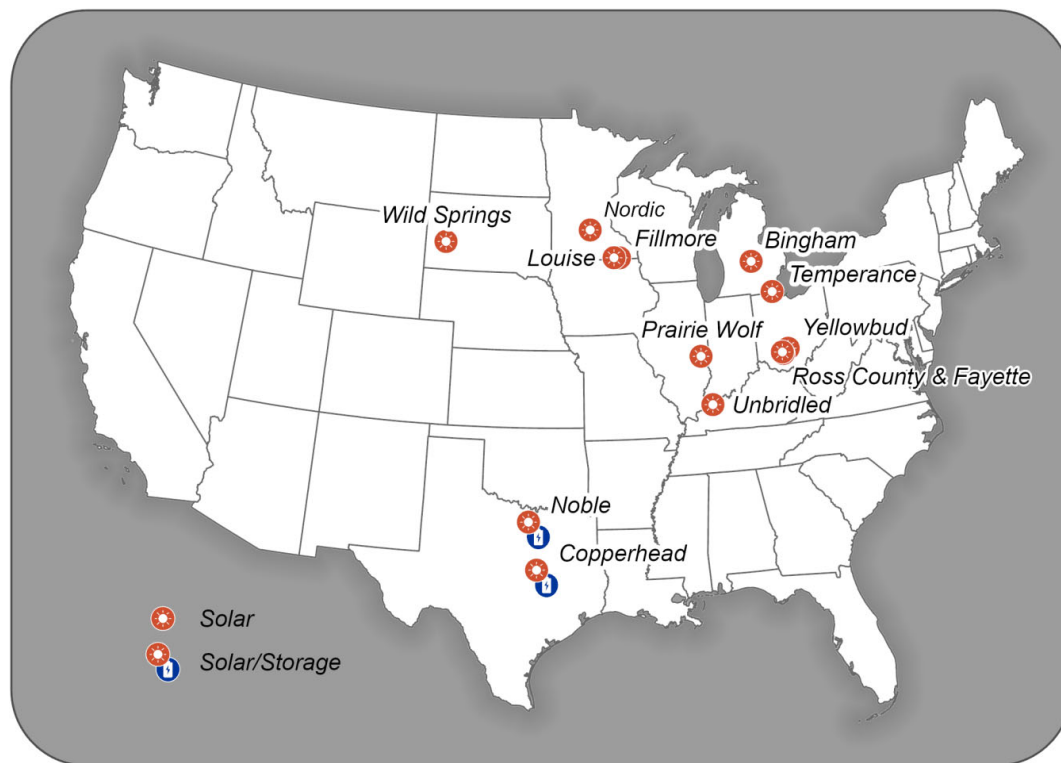
- **National Presence**

- NGR operates 14 individual Projects or Portfolios that amount to over 50 individual solar sites

- **MN Presence**

- Fillmore Solar (45 MW)
 - Fillmore County, MN
- Louise Solar (50 MW)
 - Mower County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
 - Rock County, MN
 - Permitted through PUC
- Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
 - Community solar throughout MN

National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities



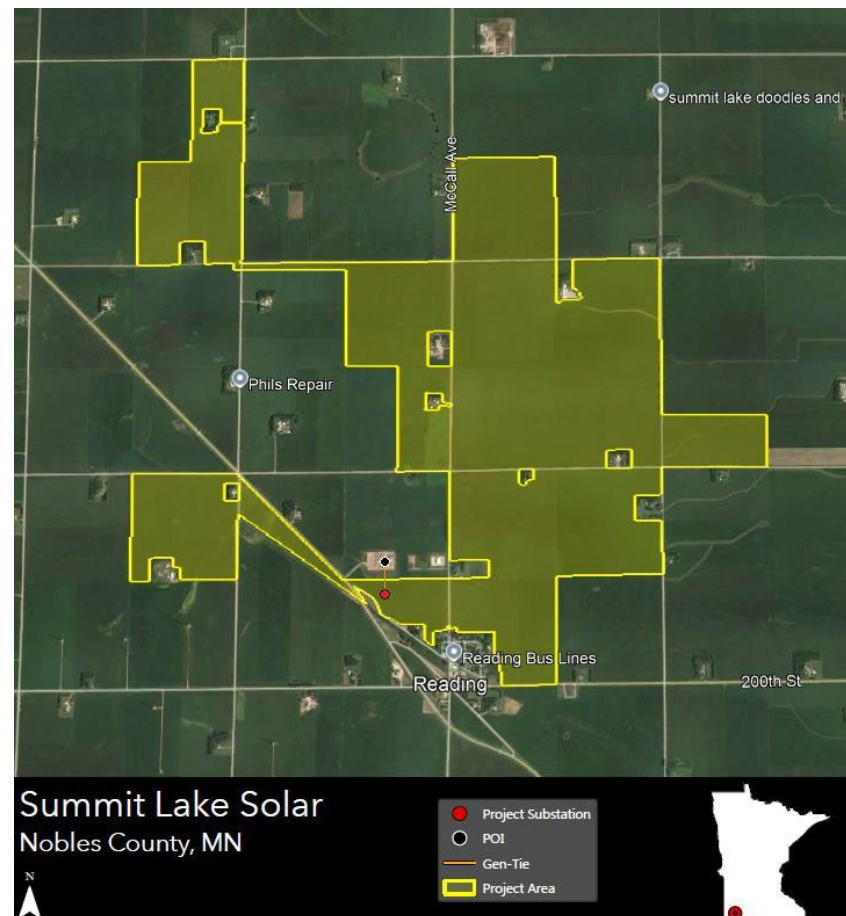
Additional details found here:

<https://nationalgridrenewables.com/project-technologies/solar/>

Summit Lake Solar Details



- **200 MW Solar Facility with BESS**
- **Location: North of Reading, MN**
 - Nobles County
 - Elk and Summit Lake Townships
- **Interconnection:** GIA executed 7/18/24
- **Expected COD:** Q4 2027



Permitting Timeline



- **Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources):** Currently Underway
- **Draft Application for EERA Review:** Early December 2024
- **Application Submittal to PUC:** Mid-January 2025
- **Target Permit Date:** ~September 2025
- **Construction Start:** Q3 2026
- **Project Operation Start:** Q4 2027

Nobles County Coordination



- **Contacts**

- What is the best method of communication with the County? What are the key contact points?

- **Public Outreach**

- What are the main concerns of the County and community?
- What is appropriate venue/timing for our outreach? Open house? Public meetings?

- **Site-specific Information**

- Are there any specific issues that we should be aware of as we develop the project? Drainage, access points, road use, emergency response, etc.

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Loretta Halbur](#); [Tom Karas](#)
Cc: [Justin Ahlers](#); [Gene Metz](#); [Zach Reker](#); [Aaron Holmbeck](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Nobles County Public Drainage/Summit Lake Solar
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 4:30:22 PM
Attachments: [Summit Lake Boundary.shp](#)
[Summit Lake Boundary \(1\).kml](#)
[NG Renewables Logo Primary RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

Hi Loretta,

Thank you for sharing the pdf attachment and it was nice meeting you today. Please find attached the shapefile and KMZ file of our Summit Lake Solar project boundary. If you can provide a shapefile and/or KMZ file of the county drainage systems of concern, it would be much appreciated. We will then share it with our Engineering teams.

A preliminary 10% design of the Project's solar array is still in the works, but we hope to have something soon by early December. I can send that over to you once we have more details. For a project timeframe, we're targeting a construction timeline as early as Q3 of 2026. There will be quite a few other design iterations up until then, but we will make sure to keep drainage in mind as we further develop this project.

I can also reach out to our Construction teams and get answers to your construction related questions in the meantime. If you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out.

We appreciate your time today and look forward to working with you.

Thank you!



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Loretta Halbur <lhalbur@co.nobles.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 12:31 PM

To: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Justin Ahlers <jahlers@co.nobles.mn.us>; Gene Metz <gmetz@co.nobles.mn.us>; Zach Reker <zreker@co.nobles.mn.us>; Aaron Holmbeck <aholmbeck@co.nobles.mn.us>

Subject: [External] Nobles County Public Drainage/Summit Lake Solar

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lhalbur@co.nobles.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Tom and Alia,

It was great to meet you today! Thank you for answering my questions during the board meeting. There is a

lot to consider when we start merging the old (drainage systems) with the new (solar energy). I'm looking forward to working with you and figuring out the best solutions.

Our biggest concern with the drainage systems is protecting our right of way and access for inspection and maintenance. This could mean creating a path, possibly 200' wide, over the county tile so we can properly maintain or repair the system per statute. The other option is to petition to reroute (MN Statute 103E.227) or petition for partial abandonment (MN Statute 103E.806). The handbook "Understanding Minnesota Public Drainage Law" is a good introductory document into MN public drainage.
<https://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2020-08/UMPD%20Handbook.pdf> Reroutes and Partial Abandonments are under Section 5.6 and 5.18 respectively. You asked about the timeline for these types of petitions: in my experience these petitions take about 60-90 days from petition submission to public hearing, if the engineering/plans are included. It can also depend on the time of year too. Typically, we don't plan public hearings in the spring or fall to accommodate our landowner's planting and harvesting schedules.

Additionally, we want to make sure the systems are protected during the construction process. Heavy equipment traffic, installation of the panels and transmission lines, etc. can damage tile in the field and under roads. In the past, developers have been responsible for repairs to tile damaged during construction and for a period of time after construction. I'm interested in learning more how the solar panels are constructed/installed, especially how deep the panel foundations and transmission lines go.

Would you be willing to share your shapefile with us to continue to learn more and figure out the next steps? I'm curious to see what your panel array looks like with the tile lines. I can have our GIS person, Katie Purdham, send the county ditch shapefile to you as well in you're interested.

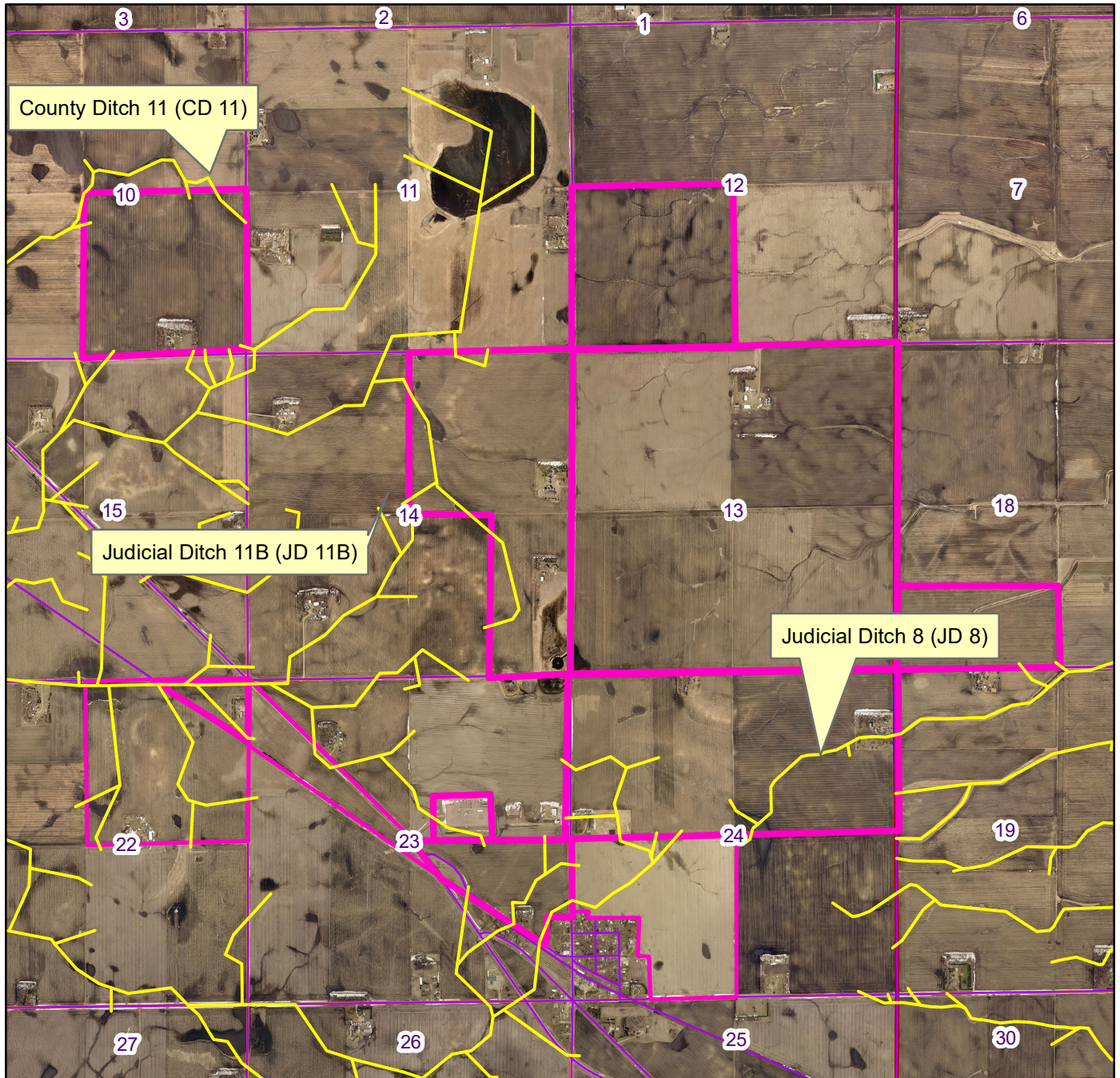
Please let me know what questions, comments, or concerns you may have as we move forward. You're always welcome to visit at our Public Works office at the address below.
Thank you so much!

Loretta Halbur
Drainage System Coordinator

Nobles County Public Works
960 Diagonal Road | PO Box 187
Worthington, MN 56187
E: lhilbur@co.nobles.mn.us
P: 507-295-5322 | C: 507-360-6487

Nobles County Public Drainage Summit Lake and Elk Townships

Summit Lake Solar Project Area Would affect CD 11, JD 11B, JD 8



County Ditch System

- Open Ditch
- Tile Line
- Water Shed Boundary

- Summit-Lake-Solar
- County Roads



From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Bruce Heitkamp](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Nobles County - Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 4:41:59 PM
Attachments: [NG Renewables Logo Primary RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)
[Megapack 2_XL_Datasheet.pdf](#)

Hi Bruce,

Thank you for reaching out to us. We are currently assuming a TESLA Megapack model for the energy storage system. I have attached a datasheet of what the system looks like. According to the specification, the maximum sound level would be 75dBA at a 10-meter distance from any side surface of the enclosure, at maximum thermal system operation. With our current layout, we do not have any residences this close to the modules.

This model could change as we continue to design, but I want to provide you with the latest information that we have.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Bruce Heitkamp <bheitkamp@co.nobles.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 4:49 PM
To: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: [External] Nobles County - Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage Inquiry

You don't often get email from bheitkamp@co.nobles.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Ms. Mohammad,

I'm replying that I did receive the letter sent regarding the Summit Lake Solar Project and Battery Storage. I wanted to ask about the battery storage. We're heard of other projects where energy banks were located in townships. The neighboring landowners had issues with the noise stemming from the energy banks.

Do you have any environmental data regarding the Battery Storage and noise? If so, please reply with that information. Thanks again for offering your letter.

Sincerely,

Bruce

Bruce A. Heitkamp

Nobles County Administrator

315 10th St. PO Box 757

Worthington, MN 56187

Phone: 507-295-5201

Fax: 507-372-8363

www.co.nobles.mn.us

Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision

Local Government Unit: Nobles SWCD	County: Nobles
Applicant Name: Summit Lake Solar, LLC	Applicant Representative: Kathy Bellrichard
Project Name: Summit Lake Solar Expansion	LGU Project No. (if any):
Date Complete Application Received by LGU: 10/24/2024	
Date of LGU Decision: 12/4/2024	
Date this Notice was Sent: 12/4/2024	

WCA Decision Type - check all that apply

☒ Wetland Boundary/Type ☐ Sequencing ☐ Replacement Plan ☐ Bank Plan (not credit purchase)	
☐ No-Loss (8420.0415) ☐ Exemption (8420.0420)	
Part: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ H	Subpart: ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9

Replacement Plan Impacts (replacement plan decisions only)

Total WCA Wetland Impact Area:	
Wetland Replacement Type: ☐ Project Specific Credits:	☐ Bank Credits:
Bank Account Number(s):	

Technical Evaluation Panel Findings and Recommendations (attach if any)

☐ Approve ☐ Approve w/Conditions ☐ Deny ☐ No TEP Recommendation

LGU Decision

☐ Approved with Conditions (specify below) ¹ List Conditions:	☒ Approved ¹ ☐ Denied
Decision-Maker for this Application: ☒ Staff ☐ Governing Board/Council ☐ Other:	
Decision is valid for: ☒ 5 years (default) ☐ Other (specify):	

¹ *Wetland Replacement Plan approval is not valid until BWSR confirms the withdrawal of any required wetland bank credits. For project-specific replacement a financial assurance per MN Rule 8420.0522, Subp. 9 and evidence that all required forms have been recorded on the title of the property on which the replacement wetland is located must be provided to the LGU for the approval to be valid.*

LGU Findings – Attach document(s) and/or insert narrative providing the basis for the LGU decision¹.

☐ Attachment(s) (specify): ☐ Summary:
--

¹ Findings must consider any TEP recommendations.

Attached Project Documents

☒ Site Location Map ☒ Project Plan(s)/Descriptions/Reports (specify):

Appeals of LGU Decisions

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must provide a written request within 30 calendar days of the date you received the notice. All appeals must be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources Executive Director along with a check payable to BWSR for \$500 *unless* the LGU has adopted a local appeal process as identified below. The check must be sent by mail and the written request to appeal can be submitted by mail or e-mail. The appeal should include a copy of this notice, name and contact information of appellant(s) and their representatives (if applicable), a statement clarifying the intent to appeal and supporting information as to why the decision is in error. Send to:

Appeals & Regulatory Compliance Coordinator
Minnesota Board of Water & Soils Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
travis.germundson@state.mn.us

Does the LGU have a local appeal process applicable to this decision?

☐ Yes¹ ☐ No

¹If yes, all appeals must first be considered via the local appeals process.

Local Appeals Submittal Requirements (LGU must describe how to appeal, submittal requirements, fees, etc. as applicable)

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Notice Distribution (include name)

Required on all notices:

☒ SWCD TEP Member: Nathan Schuck	☒ BWSR TEP Member: Devin Ryan
☒ LGU TEP Member (if different than LGU contact): Kathy Heinderschiedt	
☒ DNR Representative: Tom Kresko	
☒ Watershed District or Watershed Mgmt. Org.: Kanaranzi-Little Rock = Scott Runck	
☐ Applicant:	☒ Agent/Consultant: Kathy Bellrichard

Optional or As Applicable:

☐ Corps of Engineers:	
☐ BWSR Wetland Mitigation Coordinator (required for bank plan applications only):	
☐ Members of the Public (notice only):	☐ Other:

Signature: Nathan Schuck	Date: 12/4/2024
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This notice and accompanying application materials may be sent electronically or by mail. The LGU may opt to send a summary of the application to members of the public upon request per 8420.0255, Subp. 3.

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: [Kathy Henderschiedt](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Building Permit Fees
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:13:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[NG_Renewables_Logo_Primary_RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)
[Megapack_2_XL_Datasheet.pdf](#)

Hi Kathy,

In addition to our call last week, I have attached a data sheet for the proposed battery storage (BESS) spec.

50 feet from the BESS, sound levels will be at a 65 dBA. And at an approx. distance of 292 feet, the BESS will be at 50dBA. Here is a chart with common noise sources that this can be compared to:

Table 5.2.7-1 Common Noise Sources	
Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Common Noise Source
110	Rock band at 5 meters
100	Jet flyover at 300 meters
90	Gas lawn mower at 1 meter
85	Food blender at 1 meter
75	Shouting at 1 meter
70	Vacuum cleaner at 3 meters
60	Normal speech at 1 meter
55	Large business office
50	Dishwasher in next room, quiet urban daytime
40	Library, quiet urban nighttime
30	Bedroom at night
20	Quite rural nighttime
0	Threshold of hearing
Source: MPCA, 2015	

Also I made a note that the BESS will not require a CUP (since it will be filed under the state permit), but we will need a CUP for the O&M building and possible laydown yards.

If you have any other questions that come up, please let me know. I hope this helps!

Thank you!



Alia Mohammad
Permitting Specialist
P 612.474.2681
M 315.706.4145

From: Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 10:53 AM

Alia –

Sorry for the delayed response, I have been out of the office.

Please provide me with a site plans showing placement of all structures and sizes so that I can determine what County permits/fees will be necessary.

Kathy Henderschiedt
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Nobles County Environmental Services
PO Box 187
960 Diagonal Road
Worthington MN 56187
PH: 507-295-5322
Fax: 507-372-8348
khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 11:08 AM

To: Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>

Cc: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Building Permit Fees

Alert: This email originated from an external sender. Exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Kathy,

I left a voicemail – but please see this link to the fee schedule: [NOBLES COUNTY](#) It looks like it was adopted in January 2023. Has there been changes since then? Snip it of the solar portion from page 5, here:

PUBLIC WORKS- Environmental	Solar Projects Commercial Residential		\$750.00 0.05 per sq. foot (\$50.00 minimum)
--	--	--	--

The BESS/energy storage will be within the parameters of the solar facility. Please let me know if you need any additional project details.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

From: Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 7:51 AM

To: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: [External] RE: Building Permit Fees

Alia –

There is not a link for permit fees. Fees are determined based on the project. I will need more information on the proposed project to determine fees.

Kathy Henderschiedt
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Nobles County Environmental Services
PO Box 187
960 Diagonal Road
Worthington MN 56187
PH: 507-295-5322
Fax: 507-372-8348
khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Monday, December 09, 2024 1:51 PM

To: Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>

Cc: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: Building Permit Fees

Alert: This email originated from an external sender. Exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Kathy,

I hope that you are doing well and had a nice Thanksgiving with family.

I wanted to check-in regarding Nobles County building permit fees – We are currently looking at our budgets for Summit Lake Solar, and I could not find a building permit fee for solar facilities on the county's website. Is there a fee schedule available for solar/energy storage and if so, can you provide us with a copy or the link?

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

To: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Building Permit Fees

Alia –

Minimum would be a Conditional Use Permit for the Operation and Maintenance building, battery storage area and possible laydown yard. Current fees are \$750.00 for a CUP, \$46.00 for recording. Land Use Permit fee is based on size of O & M building and battery storage square footage and size of laydown yard.

Time line is 45-60 days after we receive a completed application. You will need to have PUC approval before you can apply for CUP permit.

*Kathy Henderschiedt
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Nobles County Environmental Services
PO Box 187
960 Diagonal Road
Worthington MN 56187
PH: 507-295-5322
Fax: 507-372-8348
khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us*

From: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 8:53 AM

To: Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>

Cc: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Building Permit Fees

Alert: This email originated from an external sender. Exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Kathy,

No worries – attached is our preliminary layout. All our facilities are within the solar project boundary. We do not have a full permitting plan set yet, but it is in the works – are you able to estimate based on the layout? Also, what is the timeline for any applicable permit applications?

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

From: Kathy Henderschiedt <khenderschiedt@co.nobles.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 8:13 AM

To: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Building Permit Fees

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: clerkelktownship@gmail.com; andrew.dierks@plantpioneer.com; farmboy8592@hotmail.com
Cc: [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); [Marc Morandi](#)
Subject: RE: Elk Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:20:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[NG_Renewables_Logo_Primary_RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

Hello,

My name is Alia Mohammad and I'm a Permitting Specialist with National Grid Renewables. I'd like to follow up on our email below. I spoke with Karl Dekker on the phone this afternoon and let him know that we plan to present our Summit Lake Solar Project at the regularly scheduled Nobles County Board meeting on **Tuesday 11/19 at 9:00am**. The address is Nobles County Government Center, 315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187. We'd like to extend the invite to you all and open any dialogue in case you have questions.

We would still like to plan a meeting with you all if you're available next week to discuss more – let us know if a date or time works best for you.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions in the meantime.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM
To: clerkelktownship@gmail.com; andrew.dierks@plantpioneer.com
Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: Elk Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February 2025 as our submittal date. As one of the main stakeholders on the project, I'm hoping to schedule a

meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: [Alia Mohammad](#)
To: cluing58@gmail.com
Cc: [Marc Morandi](#); [Sophia Gilleland](#); [Tom Karas](#); srog21@hotmail.com; rjburkard@hotmail.com; harlanklein0@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Summit Lake Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:48:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[NG_Renewables_Logo_Primary_RGB_small_b3464f9a-abea-443c-8d43-87fd96c8afec.png](#)
[LinkedInIcon_8e0cea1f-d234-405f-8a61-4afe010bf11b.png](#)
[TwitterIcon_ff6acde5-6940-4a01-92b6-0ef9db8c446d.png](#)
[WebIcon_e1c44bce-dc58-4738-94a6-8941e49d8897.png](#)

Hi Curt,

Thank you for speaking with me today. I wanted to follow up and let you know that we plan to present our Summit Lake Solar Project at the regularly scheduled Nobles County Board meeting on **Tuesday 11/19 at 9:00am**. The address is Nobles County Government Center, 315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187. We'd like to extend the invite to you all and open any dialogue in case you have questions.

We would still like to plan a meeting with everyone if you're available next week to discuss more. If you have any questions in the meantime, my contact information is below. I have also copied my colleagues Tom Karas and Sophia Gilleland to assist with questions as well.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Thank you,



952.988.9000



Alia Mohammad

Permitting Specialist

P 612.474.2681

M 315.706.4145

E amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:16 PM

To: rjburkard@hotmail.com; dprogers6163@yahoo.com; harlanklein0@gmail.com; cluing58@gmail.com; srog21@hotmail.com

Cc: Alia Mohammad <amohammad@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Sophia Gilleland <sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com>; Tom Karas <tkaras@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: Summit Lake Twp - Summit Lake Solar PUC Permitting

Hello,

I'm Marc Morandi, Sr. Permitting Specialist from National Grid Renewables. We are a renewable energy developer aiming to build a 200 MW solar project in Nobles County near Reading, MN. We are gearing up to apply for our site permit through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process, targeting February

2025 as our submittal date. As one of the main stakeholders on the project, I'm hoping to schedule a meeting to discuss the project and ongoing coordination as we move towards permitting. Would you be available for a 15-to-30-minute call either this week or next week between Tuesday and Thursday?

I've included my colleagues Alia Mohammad, Sophia Gilleland, and Tom Karas who will also be involved in the permitting process. Please reply all to this message with your availability to keep them in the loop as well. Thank you!

Marc Morandi



952.988.9000



Marc Morandi

Sr. Permitting Specialist

P

M 937.554.4504

E mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200 | Bloomington, MN 55437