



Batch E-Filing for Docket 25-126 - 8 comments

1. Kenneth Everson
2. Kenneth Everson
3. Mike Keefe
4. Kevin Hammel
5. Tracy Huffman-Krizo
6. Michael Jones
7. Owen Ziemer
8. Bill Schmidt

From: [Ken Everson](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: e-docket 25-125 - Lemonhill solar project
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 7:54:01 PM

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To Minnesota Public Utilities Members in Reference to the Ranger Power Lemon Hills Solar Docket #25-126.

Ken Everson here -

I previously submitted a letter as well as an Opposition Petition that included 224 signatures of area residents. At the time we felt that the language (Extremely Opposed) was strong and would get desired attention from the PUC, not realizing at the time to outright ask for an individual Task Force or that something like that was even an option.

That being said, I would like to amend our Petition Letter. 1st paragraph 2nd line currently reads - (This affects us all as farm families and area residents) After this sentence I would like to add (We the signers of this Petition Formally ask that a Task Force Committee be assigned to this Project as well as new and updated studies be conducted on all Items in this Petition.)

If the PUC doesn't feel this would be a correct thing to grant as we are changing language that has already been signed, then I would ask to be allowed 10 days to amend the Petition and have it re-signed by residents and resubmitted to the PUC. 10 day period would start when we had confirmation from the PUC that it was allowed.

I personally do not see either option as a big ask at all as Ranger Power/ Lemon Hills asked for PUC permit approval before public comment closes or there have been any hearings. It has also come to my attention that Ranger Power / Lemon hills Solar, still have no regard for private property or property rights as seen in photos submitted by Lemon Hills Solar in Document ID # 20258-221667-07 Photograph #pp

291,pp292,pp293,pp294,pp295,pp296,pp297,pp298,pp299,pp300,pp301,pp302,pp303,pp and pp304. This is Wendy's and my property and we gave NO ONE permission to be sneaking around it taking pictures. Olmsted County Case # 25-920217. Wendy and I are asking that the PUC force Ranger Power / Lemon Hills Solar to not only turn over the trespassers' information but also the person that gave the order to do so. As other residents and land renters are going through the photos and seeing their property rights violated, they are adding to this Olmsted County Case # 25-920217 as well.

I, Kenneth Everson, am formally asking that a Task Force Committee be assigned to this project and that each of the below items be addressed:

- * Loss of corn production. (Used for feeding animals from chickens to large livestock and production of ethanol).
- * Loss of soybean production. (Used for protein for feeding livestock, production of soy diesel, soy ink and soy oils).
- * Loss of alfalfa and small grain production used to feed livestock.
- * Loss of vegetable production for local canning companies.
- * Displacement/loss of wildlife.
- * Destructions of waterways, terraces and tile lines, much of which was paid for with tax

dollars, to save valuable topsoil.

- * Cutting and filling high and low areas to level solar sites therefore destroying ever being used as farmland in the future.
- * Destruction of all tree growth on the leased land.
- * Proven drop in home values next to solar farms.
- * EMF and possible stray voltage.
- * Decrease in population due to people not wanting to live around solar farms and the impact on local school enrollment and funding.
- * Loss of farmland impacting other businesses such as seed dealers, equipment dealers, fuel companies, etc.
- * Toxins leaking from damaged panels into groundwater and streams, potential private well contamination. .
- * Noise pollution from panels, substations and inverters.
- * Blinding glare from panels near homes and roadways.
- * The snapping turtle has been taken off the endangered species list recently, but with all the water/marsh areas being drained by this project, will the snapping turtle become an endangered species again?

Sincerely,

Kenneth Everson
3105 County Road 102 NE
Eyota, MN 55934
507-206-9857

From: [Ken Everson](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: e-docket 25-126 Lemonhill Solar Project
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 7:59:30 PM

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Sincerely,

Kenneth Everson
3105 County Road 102 NE
Eyota, MN 55934
507-206-9857



From: [Mike Keefe](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Lemon Hill 25-126
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 7:19:09 PM
Attachments: [Formal Objection Letter Mayo Distance Corrected.pdf](#)

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Sent from my iPhone

Mike Keefe

1601 County Road 7 N.E.

Dover, MN 55929

July 30, 2025

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place E, Suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Formal Objection to the Lemon Hill Solar Project - Legal, Environmental, and Public Health Risks

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of southeastern Minnesota, I am writing to formally object to the proposed Lemon Hill Solar Project. This project raises grave legal, environmental, and public health concerns that I believe the Commission must take seriously.

This project would install thousands of cadmium telluride solar panels over highly fractured bedrock and shallow karst aquifers-conditions that significantly increase the risk of groundwater contamination. Southeastern Minnesota's unique geology makes our drinking water especially vulnerable to any surface-level pollutants or leaks. Once toxic materials penetrate this landscape, they can move rapidly through subterranean fissures and contaminate wells, streams, and drinking water supplies across large distances.

Moreover, the manufacturer's own data classifies cadmium telluride as hazardous. The Minnesota Department of Health and the MPCA have both raised warnings about the risks posed by toxic substances in the karst region. Despite this, no independent third-party hydrogeologic or toxicological studies have been conducted at

the Lemon Hill site. This lack of due diligence puts public health, property values, and environmental integrity at risk.

Addendum: The 3M PFAS Groundwater Contamination Case - Legal and Environmental Implications for the Lemon Hill Solar Project

As a critical supplement to my objection, I urge the Commission to consider the recent landmark settlement between 3M Company and the United States over widespread groundwater contamination caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals."

In 2023, 3M agreed to pay \$10.3 billion to resolve claims from public water suppliers across the country. This litigation stemmed from the company's decades-long discharge of toxic PFAS compounds-chemicals that are highly persistent in the environment and extremely mobile in groundwater systems. Like Viola Township and the surrounding areas, many of the affected regions contained karst terrain and shallow aquifers, which allowed PFAS to rapidly infiltrate drinking water sources.

This historic case highlights three urgent realities:

1. Groundwater contamination is often irreversible. Once toxic compounds enter fractured karst bedrock, they can travel for miles within hours and persist for decades.
2. The financial consequences of environmental negligence are staggering. The \$10 billion settlement-one of the largest of its kind-underscores the extraordinary liabilities facing both corporations and public agencies that ignore well-documented scientific risks.
3. Regulatory inaction can lead to lawsuits. Courts have shown a willingness to hold permitting authorities accountable when oversight fails.

The Lemon Hill Solar Project proposes to install cadmium telluride solar panels-classified as hazardous

materials-above one of Minnesota's most hydrogeologically sensitive areas. The 3M case illustrates how even

cutting-edge technologies can have devastating consequences when introduced into fragile ecosystems without

stringent safeguards.

Your decision on this project is not just procedural-it will set a lasting precedent. I urge the Commission to

reflect on the lessons of the 3M litigation and take meaningful, protective action to prevent a future

environmental crisis.

It is also critical to recognize the close proximity of the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, located just a few miles from Viola Township. As one of the foremost medical institutions in the world, Mayo Clinic treats patients from across the globe and plays a vital role in public health, medical research, and emergency preparedness. The integrity of the region's groundwater is essential not only for local residents but also for the broader healthcare infrastructure. A catastrophic contamination event—such as the potential leaching of cadmium telluride into the aquifers—could severely impact Mayo Clinic's water sources, laboratory facilities, and overall operations. The reputational, public health, and economic consequences of such an outcome would be profound and far-reaching.

Respectfully,

Mike Keefe

1601 County Road 7 N.E.

Dover, MN 55929

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 8:23:31 PM

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Name *	Kevin Hammel
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 1426 100th Ave NE Eyota, MN 55934 United States
Phone Number	(507) 259-0537
Email	hammelkc74@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number.	25-126

Leave a comment on the docket. *

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
12L7th Place E. Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55L01-
Regarding the Lemon Hill Solar Project
Docket # 25-126

I have commented before but this matter is so urgent and important that it deserves more consideration. I request a citizens advisory task force be appointed to study this proposed Lemon Hill solar project. The letter signed by the Viola Township Supervisors with the five points listed at the end of the letter expressed the concerns and fears of the people affected by this project. I urge the the commission give these ponts some attention.

Kevin Hammel

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 5:22:19 PM

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Name *	Tracy Huffman-Krizo
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 8541 Viola Rd NE Eyota, MN 55934 United States
Phone Number	(507) 269-2693
Email	tracyhuffman11@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number.	25-126

Leave a comment on the docket. *

As a resident of Viola Township I, Tracy Huffman-Krizo, formally request that an Advisory Task Force be appointed to aid in the environmental review process for the Lemon Hill Solar Project. As outlined by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission this is my right to request as a citizen. The task force shall be comprised of representatives from local government units from the area where the Lemon Hill project is requesting a permit to develop.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Tracy Huffman-Krizo

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 9:45:19 AM

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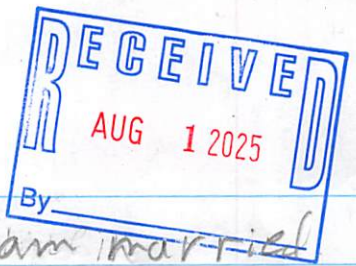
Name *	Michael Jones
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 12701 65th St Ne Eyota , Minnesota 55934 United States
Phone Number	(507) 398-5466
Email	fishinfool9987@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number.	#25-126
Leave a comment on the docket. *	Requesting a citizen advisory task force on this proposed project. Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Signed : Michael Jones

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 8:57:46 PM

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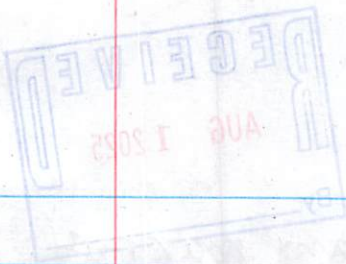
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Name *	Owen Ziemer
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 2300 county road 107 NE Eyota, MN 55934 United States
Phone Number	(507) 990-5185
Email	cdpziemer@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number.	#25-126
Leave a comment on the docket. *	I would like to request a citizen advisory task force to review this project, docket #25-126.



Hi My name is Bill Schmidt I am married to my wife Tammy Schmidt we have Three Son's Jacob Josh and John. My Family has lived in Havenhill Township for 39 years. We retired from farming in 2014 and now rent our land to another farmer. My son's had no interest in farming but live on my farm's in Havenhill twp. section 23+11 along with my wife and I. We also own 2 farms in Viola Twp.

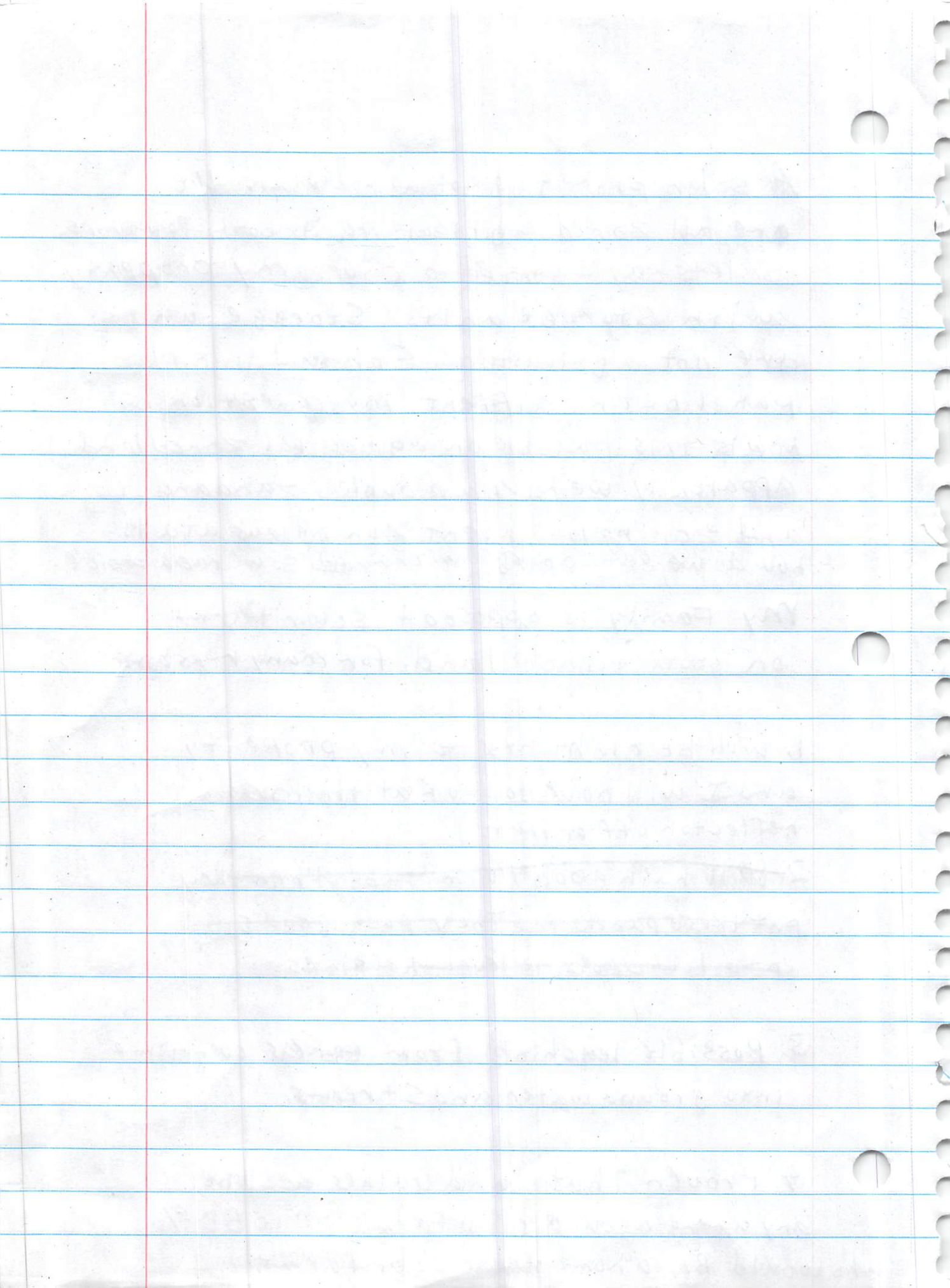
I can't believe that life long farmers with next generation children who want to farm are taking good tillable farmland out of production. It must be all about the money. When I wanted to build my hog barns there had to be a public hearing at the Havenhill town hall. I am zoned A-1 agricultural. Anyone within 5 miles was sent a notice to voice their opinion. I also had to public hearing when we put in a modular home on my property. I went through all the proper channels to legally do this. I hear the argument from land owners saying my property I can do anything I want.



A solar project is not agricultural. We are all zoned agriculture in both Townships. So lets say I wanted to cover my property with storage units. Storage units are not agricultural. So how can a solar panel be any different. My question is how is this possible on agricultural zoned land. Apparently we have a double standard and zoning laws aren't zoning laws at all. How do we get zoning laws changed. So we have a choice.

My Family is opposed to solar farms on good tillable land. for many reasons

1. will be right next to my property and I will have to look at them and the reflection off of them.
2. ~~Will ruin good farmland when they put these panels in. They push good soil into low spots to level the sites.~~
3. Possible leaching from panels over time into ground water and streams.
4. Proven That land values decline anywhere around solar farms 30 to 50% who would buy a home next to solar farms.



5. Destruction of waterways terraces tile lines much of what was paid for by tax dollars to save top soil and waterways. Cutting and filling high and low areas in fields to level solar sites, therefore destroying ever being used as farmland in the future. Kenny ~~Ever~~ Everson one of my neighbors has proof of this in Wisconsin. He went and visited a solar farm there. Put in by the same company Rungen Power. The farm was cut and fill as much as twelve feet to level it. There was no attempt to save top soil.

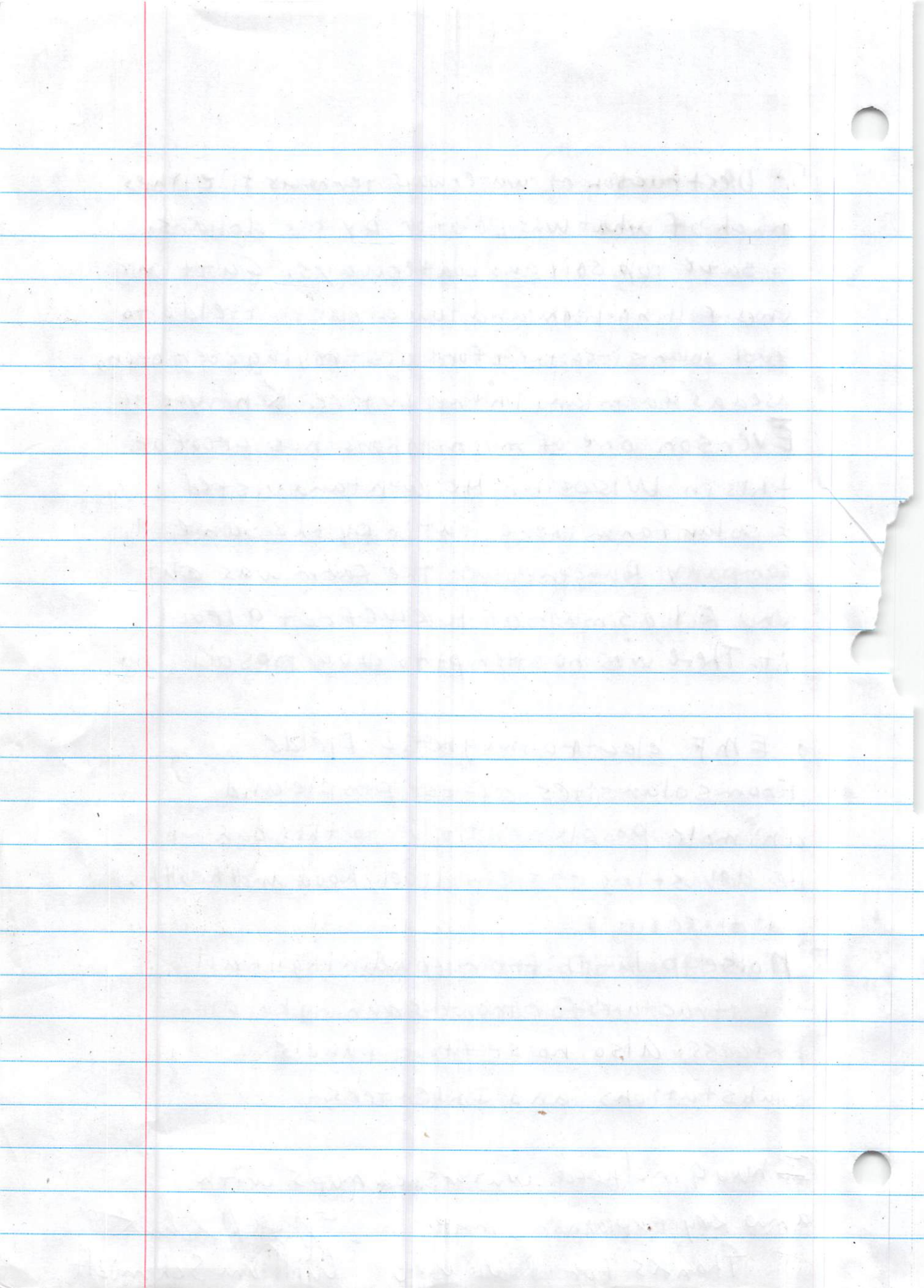
6. EMF electro magnetic fields From solar sites affect people and animals. People sensitive to this can be devastating to their livelihood and health.

7. Noise pollution from pounding in all the structures for months during building process. Also noise from panels. Substations. and Invertors.

I have included watershed maps with a map key explaining map.

Thanks For Reviewing

William Schmidt



Click to set a location



Water Shed Map for Lemon Hill Solar Project

Outline of proposed solar areas

Dividing line for Zumbro

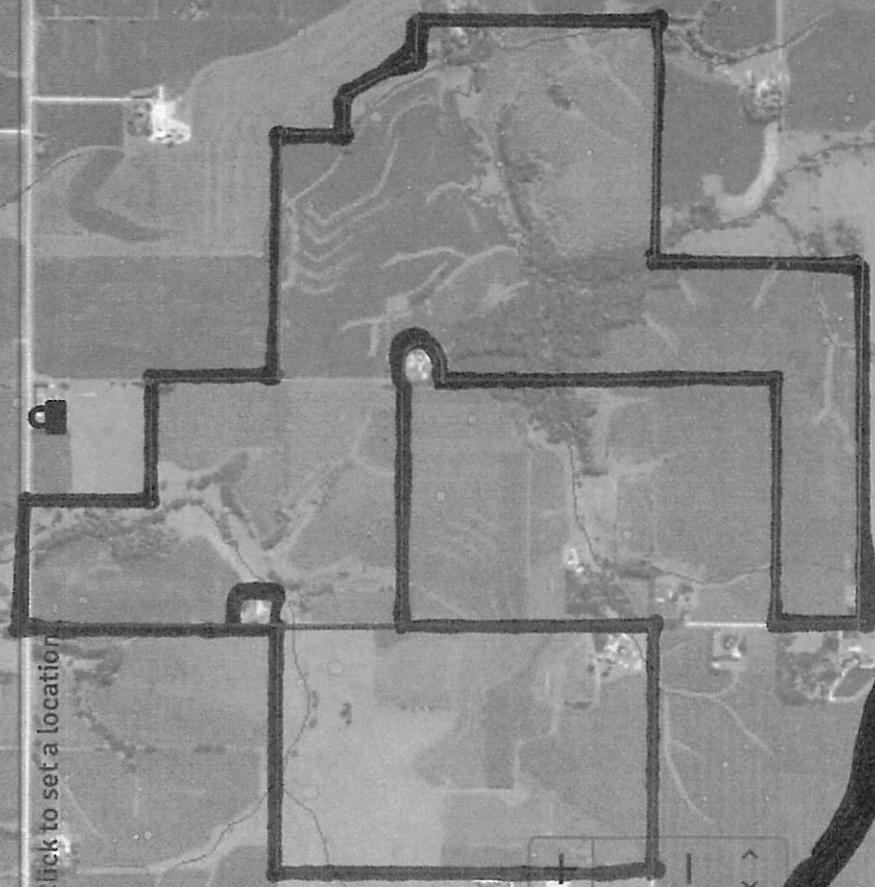
water shed and White water

water shed

Spring streams Tributaries

Terraces water ways

Contours





White water watershed

Zambro watershed



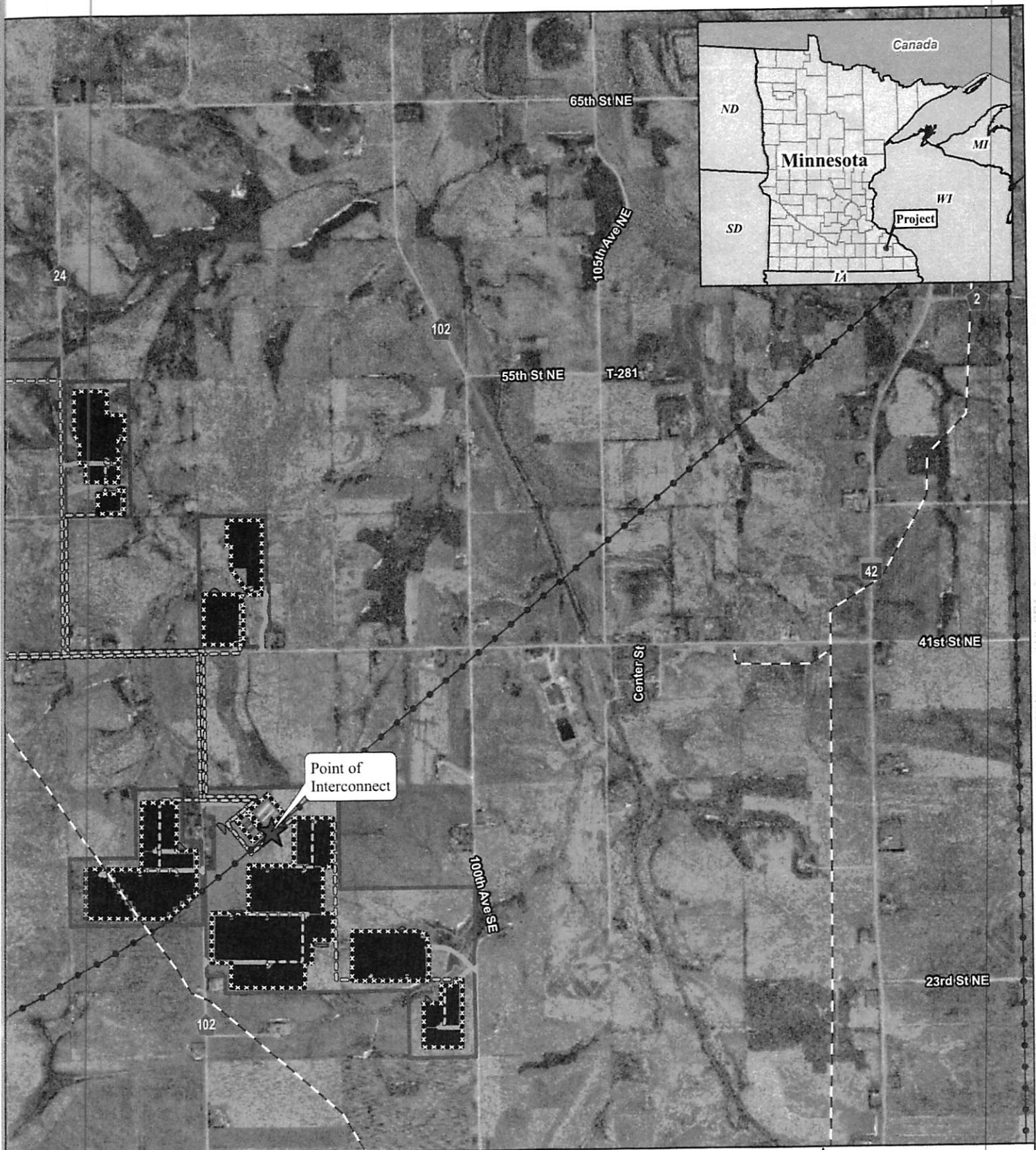

LEMON HILL SOLAR


0 1,500 3,000 Feet
 1:30,000



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

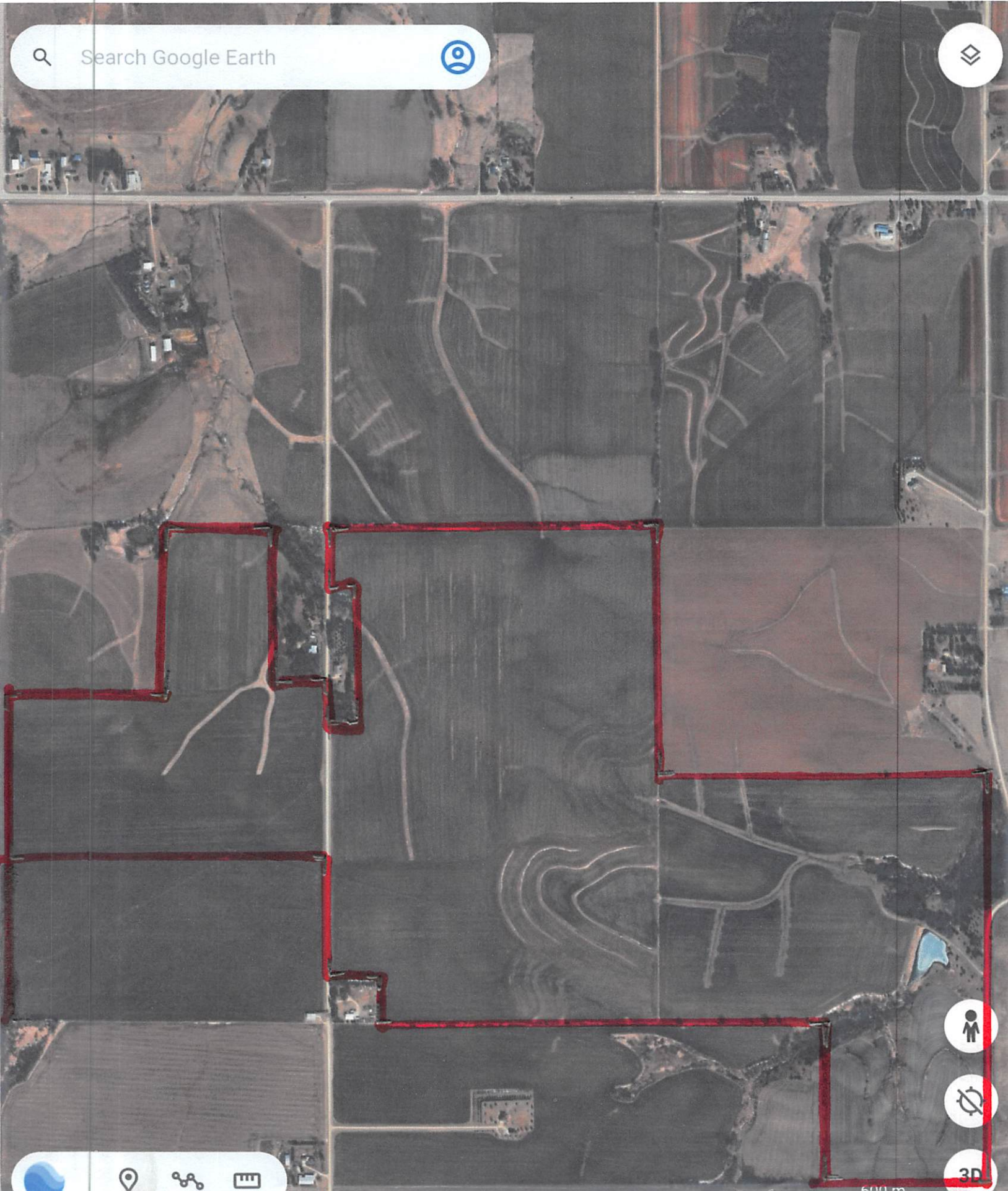
Figure 4 - Preliminary
Lemon Hill Solar
 Lemon Hill Solar
 Olmsted County, MN

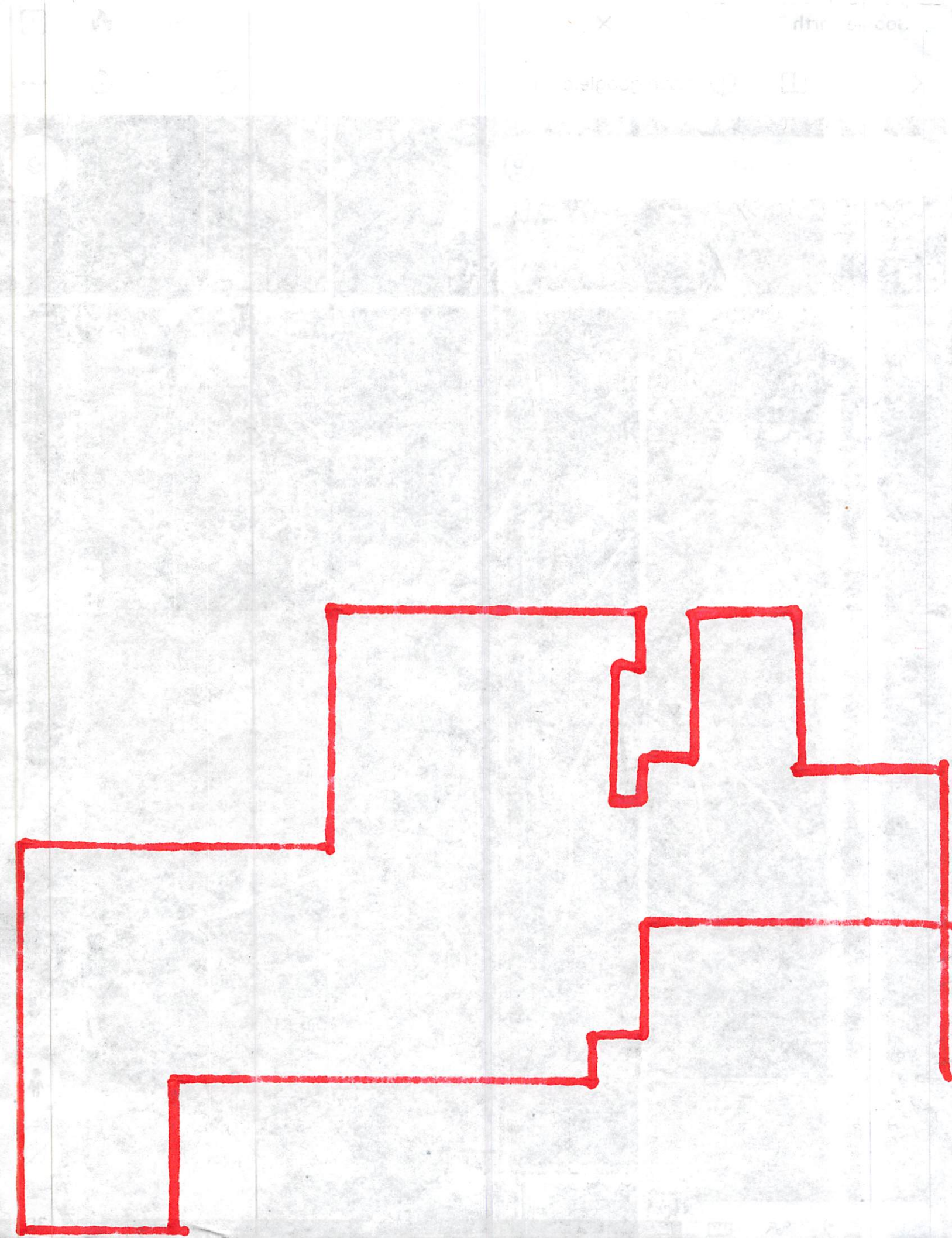


Facility Design
r Project
 r, LLC
 nnesota

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Project Area | Point of Interconnect |
| Proposed Substation | Existing Transmission Line |
| Proposed Solar Panel | Existing Pipeline |
| Proposed Access Road | Delineated Waterway |
| Proposed O&M Building | Desktop Wetland |
| Proposed Stormwater Pond | Delineated Wetland |
| Proposed Collector Line | |
| Proposed Fence Line | |

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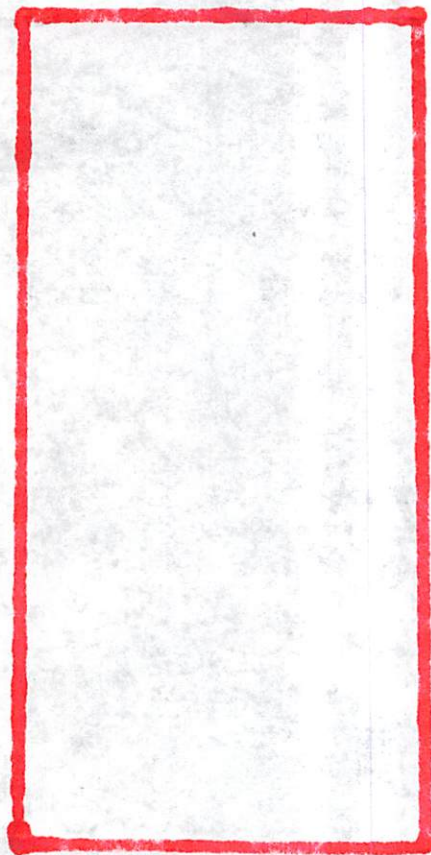
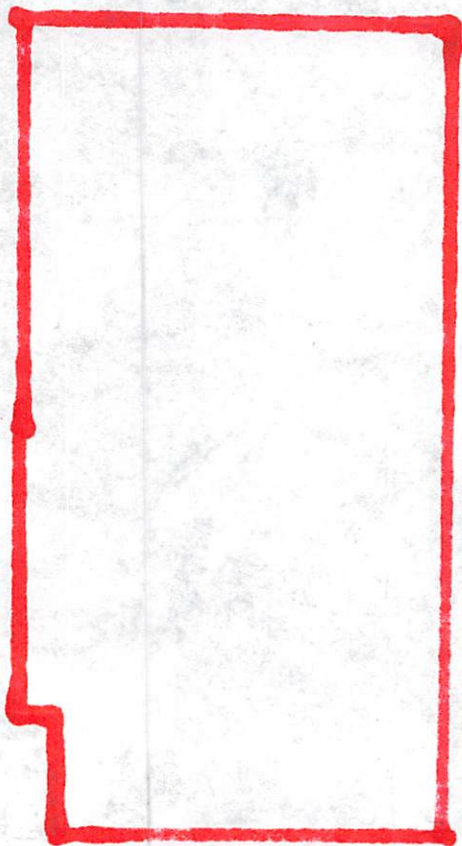




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400 m

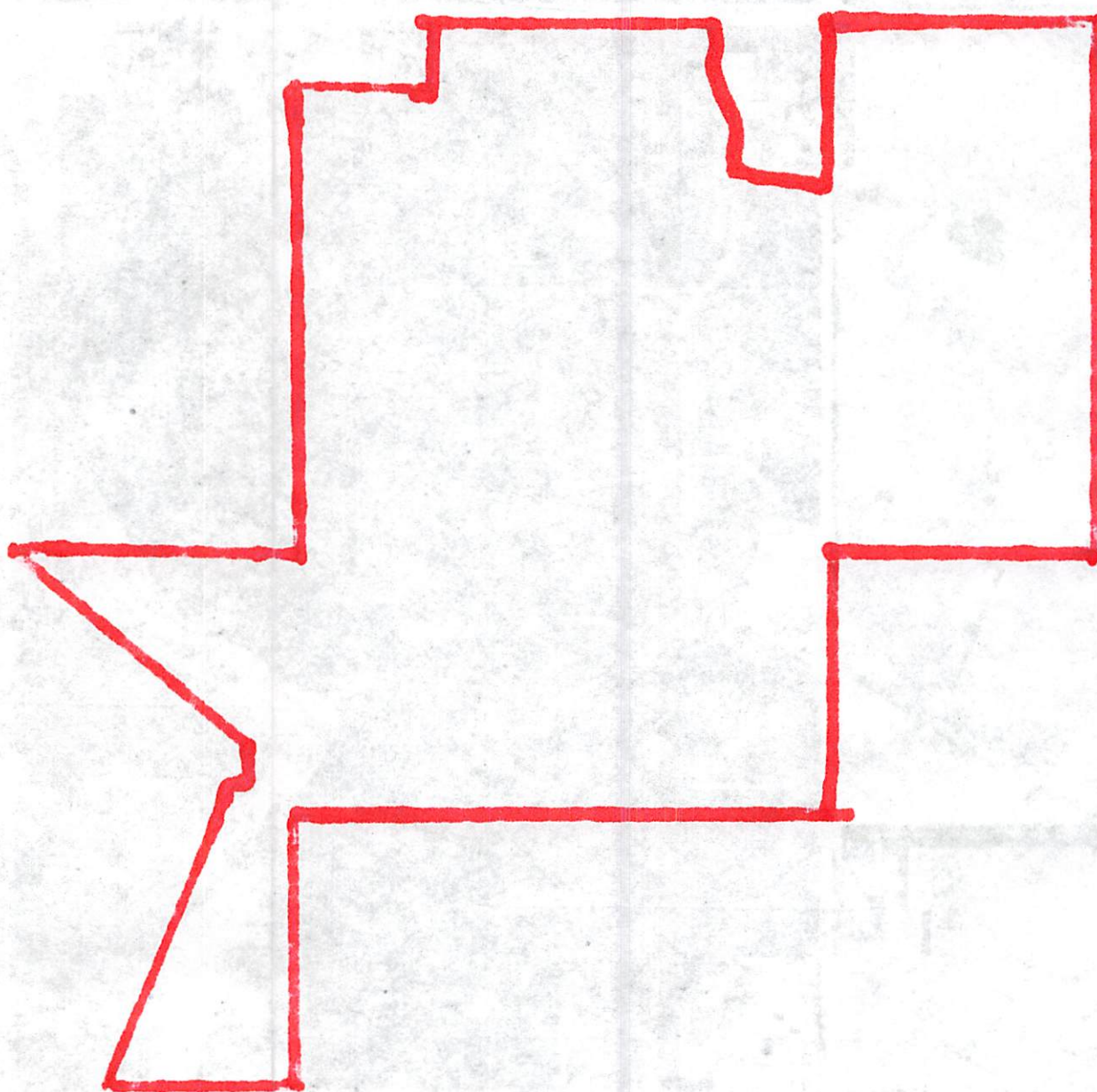


Southwest map

🔍 Search Google Earth



500 m



🔍 Search Google Earth



Haverhill Town Hall



