



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

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

Issued December 6, 2024

**In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for a Site Permit for the up to 66 MW Solway Solar Project in Beltrami County, Minnesota**

**Docket Number:** E017/GS-24-309

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold public information and environmental assessment scoping meetings on Otter Tail Power Company's site permit application for the construction and operation of the Solway Solar Project. The proposed project is a new solar energy conversion facility with an up to 66-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity in Lammers Township in Beltrami County, Minnesota.

The proposed project would consist of approximately 100,000 solar panels located on approximately 267 acres within a 487-acre site. The applicant proposes to interconnect the proposed project using existing interconnection rights at the Solway Combustion Turbine Generating Station, which would require an additional transformer and less than 500 feet of overhead transmission line. The applicant plans to construct the project on a schedule that facilitates an in-service date by the end of 2026. A map is attached.

**In-Person Meetings**

**Date:** December 19, 2024 (Thursday)  
**Time:** 6:15 PM (public meeting)  
**Location:** Solway Elementary School  
159 Lomen Avenue SE Solway, MN 56678  
[Link to Google Map](#)

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

Doors will open one hour prior to the meeting to provide attendees an opportunity to review the application, project maps, and other materials for the proposed project and ask questions of state staff and the applicant. ***During this time, comments made by attendees will become a part of the record for Commission consideration only if the attendee submits the comment in writing.*** Forms will be available for this purpose.

State staff and the applicant will both make presentations during the meeting. State staff will explain the permitting and environmental review processes, and the applicant will provide an overview of the proposed project. Following the presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to offer oral and written comments for the record. The meetings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment, and all other business has been concluded. The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online meetings.

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

### **Online Meeting via WebEx**

**Date:** December 18, 2024 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 6:00 PM

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

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m0e62be034324dbdc3a0dcef0c9d62a5b>

**Webinar Number:** 2493 470 5832

**Webinar Password:** Energy2024 (7822024 from phones)

**Join by Phone:** 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free      **Access Code:** 2493 470 5832

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

Additional information and instructions are available at:

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

### **Comment Period**

Written comments will be accepted through **January 8<sup>th</sup>, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number (24-309) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

**Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:**

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

**Submit Comments**

**Online:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>  
**Email:** [logan.m.hicks@state.mn.us](mailto:logan.m.hicks@state.mn.us)  
**U.S. Mail:** Logan Hicks  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 280  
St. Paul, MN 55101

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

**Additional Information**

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules.** This project is being reviewed under the alternative permitting process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. Rule Chapter 7850. The rules and statutes are available for review at: [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov)

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

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

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc/edockets](http://mn.gov/puc/edockets), select *Go to eDockets*, under "Docket #s" enter "24-309", and select *Search*.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/subscriptions/verify>, enter your email address and follow the prompts sent via email.

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (24-309), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Department of Commerce Website:**  
<https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15909>

**Route Permit Application.** Copies of the site permit application are available at:  
Bemidji Public Library, 509 America Ave. N.W. Bemidji, MN 56601

### **Contacts**

#### **Public Utilities Commission**

Trevor Culbertson, Energy Facilities Planner, [trevor.culbertson@state.mn.us](mailto:trevor.culbertson@state.mn.us) or 651.201.2203  
Cezar Panait, Public Advisor, [cezar.panait@state.mn.us](mailto:cezar.panait@state.mn.us) or 651.201.2207

#### **Department of Commerce**

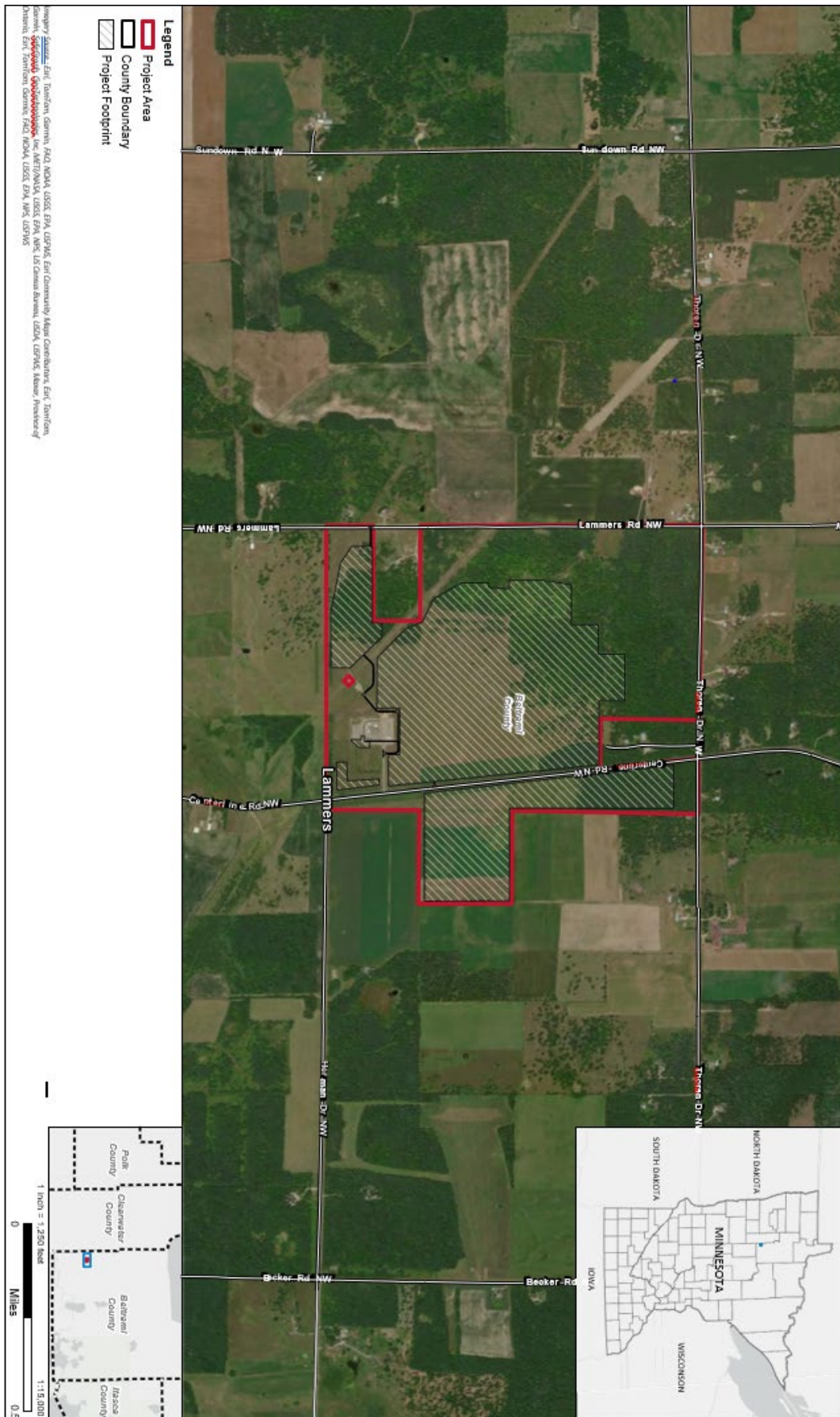
Logan Hicks, Environmental Review Manager, [logan.m.hicks@state.mn.us](mailto:logan.m.hicks@state.mn.us) or 651.539.2712

#### **Otter Tail Power Company**

Preston Riewer, Project Manager, [priewer@otpc.com](mailto:priewer@otpc.com) or 218.739.8582

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

# Project Overview Map



## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS**

Docket Number **E017/GS-24-309**

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024

/s/ Mai Choua Xiong

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron		60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
2	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-309Official
3	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
4	Molly	Leisen	mleisen@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron P.A.		60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
5	Matthew	Olsen	molsen@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 South Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
6	Kevin	Pranis	kpranis@liunagroc.com	Laborers' District Council of MN and ND		81 E Little Canada Road St. Paul MN, 55117 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
7	Generic Notice	Regulatory	regulatory_filing_coordinators@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 S. Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
8	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-309Official
9	Michael	Riewer	mriewer@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		PO Box 4496 Fergus Falls MN, 56538-0496 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
10	Preston	Riewer	priewer@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 South Cascade St. Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official
11	Nathaniel	Runke	nrunke@local49.org			611 28th St. NW Rochester MN, 55901	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official



#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
						United States				
12	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-309Official
13	Kim	Ward	kaward@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 South Cascade Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-309Official





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