

Appendix A

Agency Correspondence

Representative Project Notification Letter

Lake Charlotte Solar Facility and Battery Energy Storage System
Joint Site Permits Application
June 2025
MPUC Docket Nos. IP-7159/GS-25-206 and IP-7159/ESS-25-205



January 23, 2025

[Name], [Title]
[Agency]
[Address 1]
[Address 2]

RE: Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and Battery Storage Project in Martin County, Minnesota

Dear [Name],

Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC and Lake Charlotte Storage, LLC, together the Lake Charlotte Project, wholly owned subsidiaries of National Grid Renewables Development, LLC (NG Renewables) are gathering information and requesting agency comments for proposed utility-scale solar-energy and battery storage projects in Martin County, Minnesota.

Lake Charlotte will be submitting a Joint Site Permit Application for a solar project and battery storage project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). The planned nameplate capacity for the solar project is up to 150 MWs. The planned nameplate capacity of the battery storage project is 150 MW with a 4-hr duration, approximately 600 MWh. The combined facilities for the solar and battery storage projects will include:

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

Lake Charlotte will interconnect to the existing Rutland substation located within the project boundary. Lake Charlotte does not anticipate a route permit at this time.

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

Table 1: Sections within the Lake Charlotte Project Boundary

Township	Range	Section
103N	30W	8, 16, 17, 21

The battery storage project is proposed to be located in Section 17 in Rutland Township.

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



Lake Charlotte will seek site permits from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the solar and battery storage project. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as Q3 of 2027 with intended completion of Q1 2029.

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

If you require further information or have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 612-259-3093 or at mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Marta Lasch".

Marta Lasch
Permitting Lead
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

Enclosure:
Lake Charlotte Solar and Storage Project Location Map

Federal Agencies

From: [Bellrichard, Kathy](#)
To: [Parker, Kaecey R CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Marc Morandi](#); [Gorman, Kim](#)
Subject: [External] RE: Lake Charlotte Delineation Request
Date: Friday, August 25, 2023 3:17:37 PM

Kaecey,

At this time, delineation concurrence from USACE is not needed for the Lake Charlotte Solar project in Martin County, MN. We have requested delineation review from Martin County under the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and will rely on their decision regarding the delineated wetlands for site design including wetland avoidance and calculation of impacts where avoidance is not feasible.

Thank you,

Kathy Bellrichard | Wetland Specialist | Tetra Tech
Direct +1 (612) 643-2233 | kathy.bellrichard@tetratech.com

This message, including any attachments, may include privileged, confidential and/or inside information. Any distribution or use of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system.

From: Parker, Kaecey R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kaecey.R.Parker@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 7:56 AM
To: Bellrichard, Kathy <kathy.bellrichard@tetratech.com>
Cc: Marc Morandi <mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: Lake Charlotte 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 Lake Charlotte Delineation located in Martin 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.

Respectfully,

Kaecey Parker
Environmental Protection Technician
Regulatory Division, La Crescent Field Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Marta Lasch

From: Marta Lasch
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 1:42 PM
To: Coungeris, Samantha S CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)
Subject: RE: [External] Lake Charlotte Solar and Storage Project

Hello Samantha,

Thank you for the call this afternoon. As we discussed, there are delineated wetlands within the project area for which the project has received concurrence from the Martin County SWCD. Currently, we have designed the project to avoid impacting these resources. At this time, the USACE and NGR feel there is no need for further coordination.

Appreciate your follow up and time Samantha. Have a good week,
Marta

From: Coungeris, Samantha S CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Samantha.S.Coungeris@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 7:23 AM
To: Marta Lasch <mlassch@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Subject: [External] Lake Charlotte Solar and Storage Project

You don't often get email from samantha.s.coungeris@usace.army.mil. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Hi Marta,

I left a voicemail for you but wanted to follow up via email as well. I am reaching out regarding the Lake Charlotte Solar and Storage Project letter that was sent into the Corps of Engineers. I wanted to know if you would like to set up a pre-application meeting to discuss the project or if there is a particular question you are wanting to discuss regarding the project. Please give me a call when you are able.

Thank you,

Samantha Coungeris
Project Manager
Army Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
Office: 651-290-5268
Mobile: 651-724-1999

Information on the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program can be found at: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory>

In Minnesota and Wisconsin, requests for action (pre-application consultations, permit applications, requests for jurisdictional determinations, and mitigation bank proposals) should be sent directly to the following email: (in MN) usace_requests_mn@usace.army.mil (in WI) usace_requests_wi@usace.army.mil. Please include the county name in the subject line of the email (e.g. Washington County). These changes will improve efficiency,

reduce costs and reduce the environmental footprint. Additional information can be found in our public notice located here: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>



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: 2025-0014617
Project Name: North Star BESS Project

01/06/2025 20:42:21 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: 2025-0014617
Project Name: North Star BESS Project
Project Type: Power Gen - Other
Project Description: Battery Storage
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@45.471782250000004,-92.91354553560686,14z>



Counties: Chisago County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 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.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> Population: MN There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Threatened

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Salamander Mussel <i>Simpsonaias ambigua</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6208	Proposed Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

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 (■)

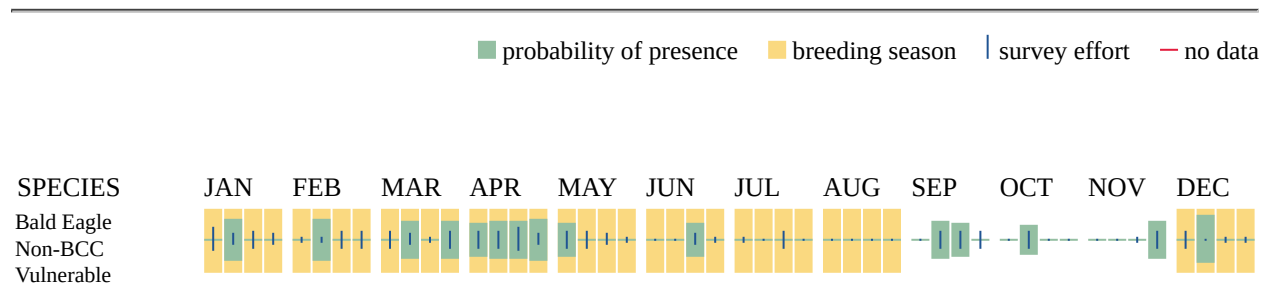
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

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.



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>

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
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger surinamenis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</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/8329	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 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 (■)

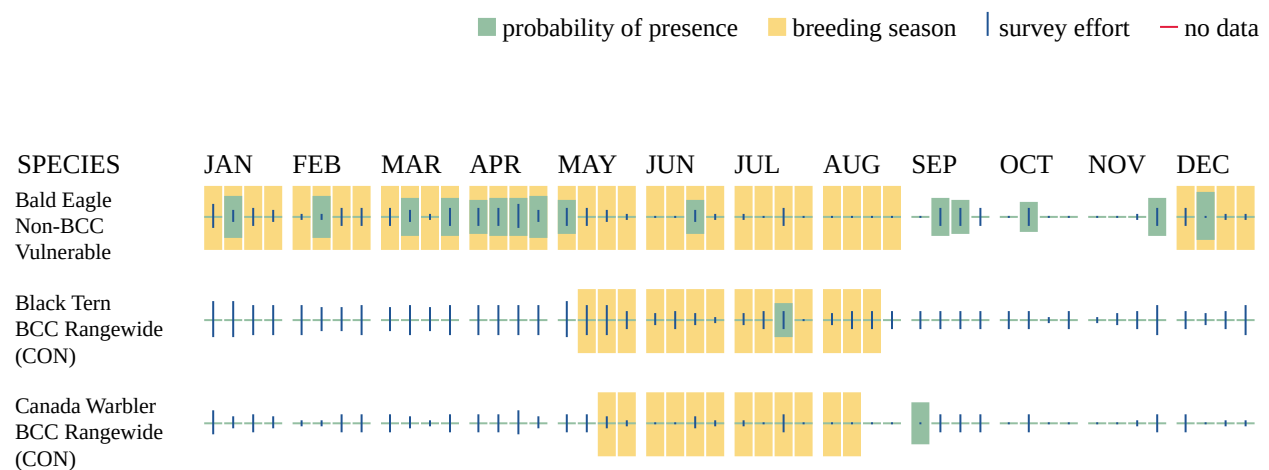
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

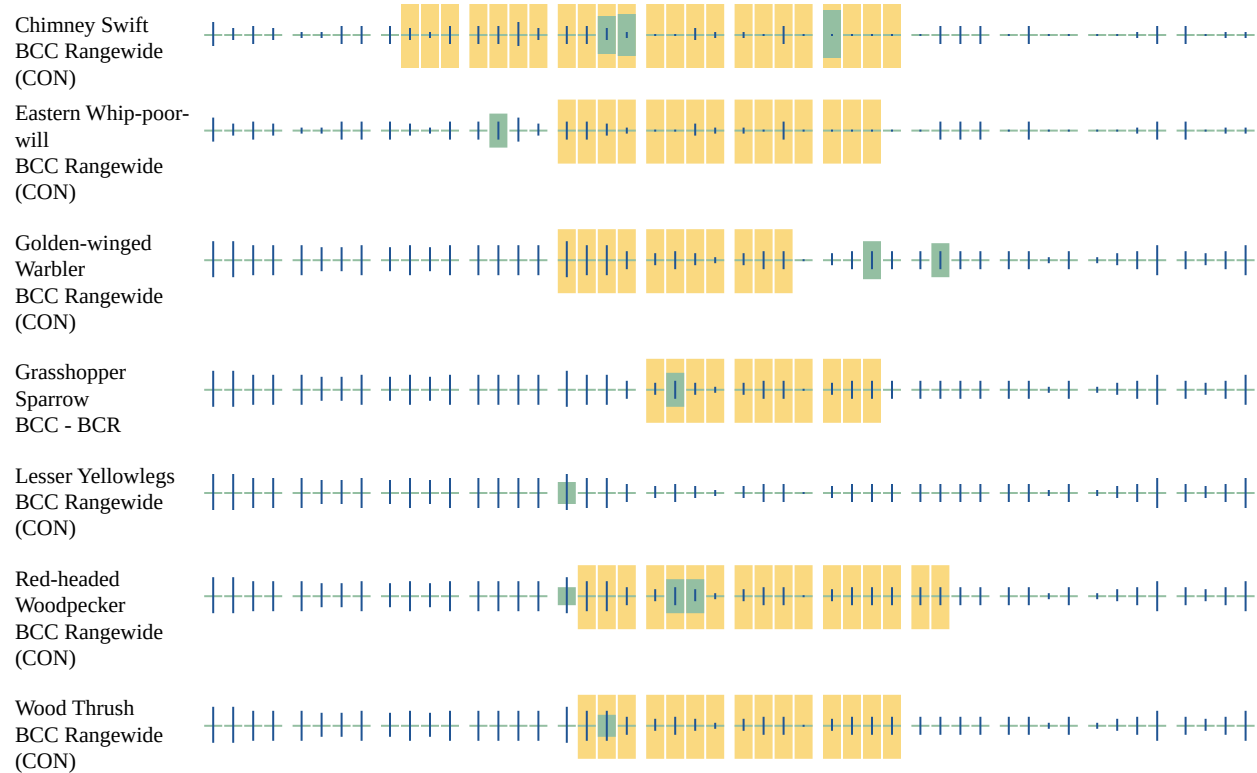
Survey Effort (|)

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.





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>

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 FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1/EM1A
- PSS1/EM1A

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1C

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Merjent Inc.
Name: Mandy Bohnenblust
Address: 1 Main St SE, Suite 300
City: Minneapolis
State: MN
Zip: 55414
Email: mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com
Phone: 6127463677



Notice Criteria Tool

[Notice Criteria Tool - Desk Reference Guide V_2018.2.0](#)

The requirements for filing with the Federal Aviation Administration for proposed structures vary based on a number of factors: height, proximity to an airport, location, and frequencies emitted from the structure, etc. For more details, please reference [CFR Title 14 Part 77.9](#).

You must file with the FAA at least 45 days prior to construction if:

- your structure will exceed 200ft above ground level
- your structure will be in proximity to an airport and will exceed the slope ratio
- your structure involves construction of a traverseway (i.e. highway, railroad, waterway etc...) and once adjusted upward with the appropriate vertical distance would exceed a standard of 77.9(a) or (b)
- your structure will emit frequencies, and does not meet the conditions of the [FAA Co-location Policy](#)
- your structure will be in an instrument approach area and might exceed part 77 Subpart C
- your proposed structure will be in proximity to a navigation facility and may impact the assurance of navigation signal reception
- your structure will be on an airport or heliport
- filing has been requested by the FAA

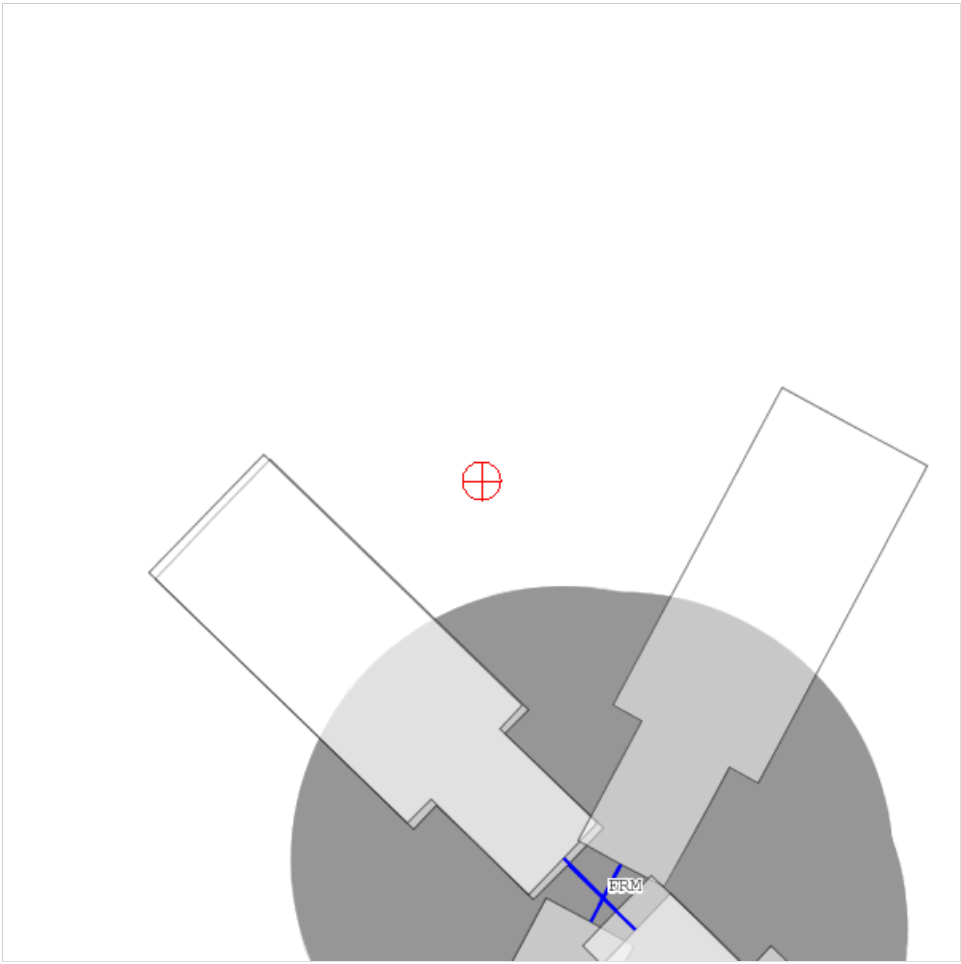
If you require additional information regarding the filing requirements for your structure, please identify and contact the appropriate FAA representative using the [Air Traffic Areas of Responsibility map](#) for Off Airport construction, or contact the [FAA Airports Region / District Office](#) for On Airport construction.

The tool below will assist in applying Part 77 Notice Criteria.

* Structure Type:	SOLAR Solar Panel ▼			
Please select structure type and complete location point information.				
Latitude:	43	Deg	43	M 31 S N ▼
Longitude:	94	Deg	26	M 52 S W ▼
Horizontal Datum:	NAD83 ▼			
Site Elevation (SE):	1160	(nearest foot)		
Structure Height :	150	(nearest foot)		
Is structure on airport:	☒ No ☐ Yes			

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.



Tribal Nations

Lake Charlotte Solar Facility and Battery Energy Storage System
Joint Site Permits Application
June 2025
MPUC Docket Nos. IP-7159/GS-25-206 and IP-7159/ESS-25-205

From: [Bill Rudnicki \(TO\)](#)
To: [Marta Lasch](#)
Cc: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
Subject: [External] Lake Charlotte solar
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:05:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

I saw your letter yesterday. If Leonard Wabasha is aware, that is all that you should expect from SMSC. Martin County is closer to the Lower and Upper Sioux Communities, and I believe those tribal nations may be the ones that would have an interest.



BILL RUDNICKI
Tribal Administrator • Tribal Administration
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
d: 952.496.6145
ShakopeeDakota.org
bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

~~~~~  
The information contained in this message is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, dissemination or copying of this information is prohibited.  
If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete the message from your system. Thank you!  
~~~~~

From: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
To: [Marta Lasch](#)
Subject: [External] Lake Charlotte Solar Project
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 3:08:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from leonard.wabasha@shakoopedakota.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Marta Lasch

Thank you for the opportunity to consult with you regarding the Lake Charlotte Solar Project, Martin County Minnesota. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community will leave direct consultation to the Lower Sioux Community THPO as they are much closer to the proposed project. If you have questions feel free to contact me, Have a Great Day!

Respectfully,



LEONARD WABASHA

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer • Cultural Resources
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
d: 952.496.6120
shakoopedakota.org
Leonard.Wabasha@shakoopedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

~~~~~  
The information contained in this message is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, dissemination or copying of this information is prohibited.  
If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete the message from your system. Thank you!  
~~~~~

Marta Lasch

From: Upper Sioux THPO <thpo@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 12:44 PM
To: Marta Lasch
Subject: [External] Martin County Interest Response

You don't often get email from thpo@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Upper Sioux Community
5722 Travers Lane
Post Office Box 147
Granite Falls, MN 56241
320.564.3853
thpo@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov

Date of Review Response: Tuesday October 8th 2024

This is an area where the Dakota lived, prayed, hunted, gathered, battled, and buried our relatives. After reviewing the project our office has determined the following:

- ☐ No Concerns or further comments on the activities of this proposed project
- ☒ Concerns with the proposed projects activities towards documented and potential undocumented cultural deposits

Section 106 Consultation Preference

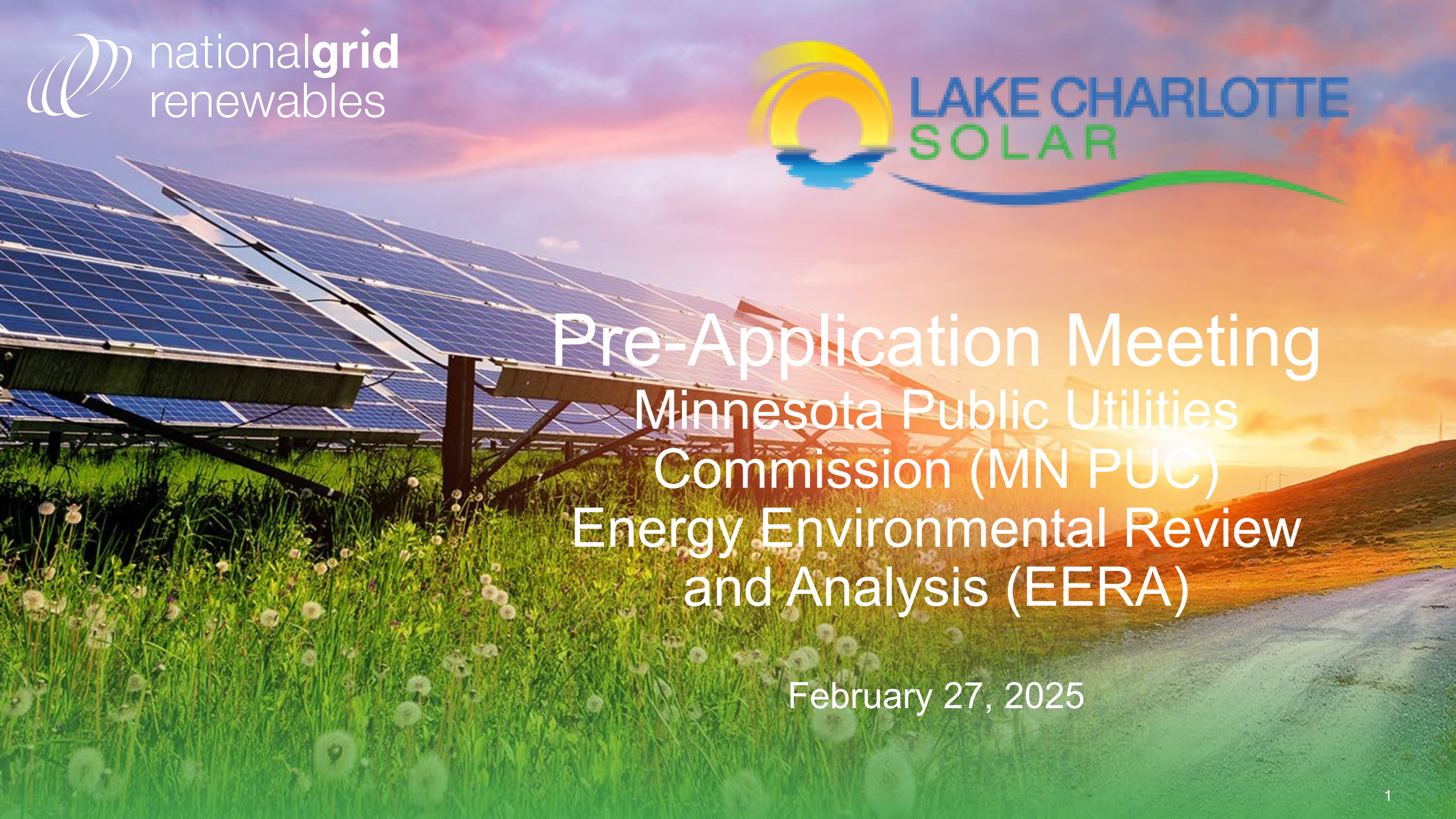
- ☐ Request to be a consulting party in the Section 106 Review
- ☒ Notification of rediscovered cultural resources and human remains
- ☐ Request further project information
- ☐ Other:

However, if ground disturbance from this project inadvertently uncovers any human remains, funerary objects or artifacts; ongoing work must stop and the SHPO and the USC-THPO should be contacted as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project

Pidamaya,
Per:
Samantha Odegard
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Upper Sioux Community

State Agencies



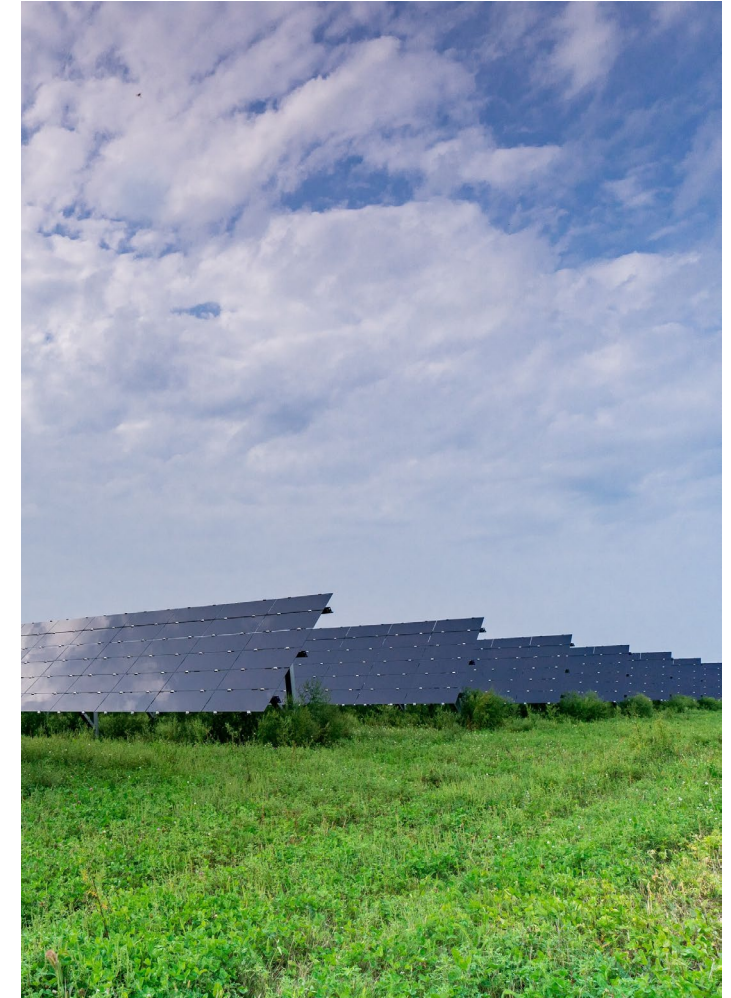
Pre-Application Meeting Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)

February 27, 2025

Project Team and Introductions

Lake Charlotte Solar Permitting & Development Team

- Marta Lasch, Permitting Lead
 - mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com
- Sophia Gilleland, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- Jeremy Duehr, Attorney at Frederikson & Byron
- Monika Davis, Senior Project Manager at Merjent, Inc.
- Michelle Cohen, Project Manager / Senior Scientist at Merjent, Inc.



Brooten Community Solar

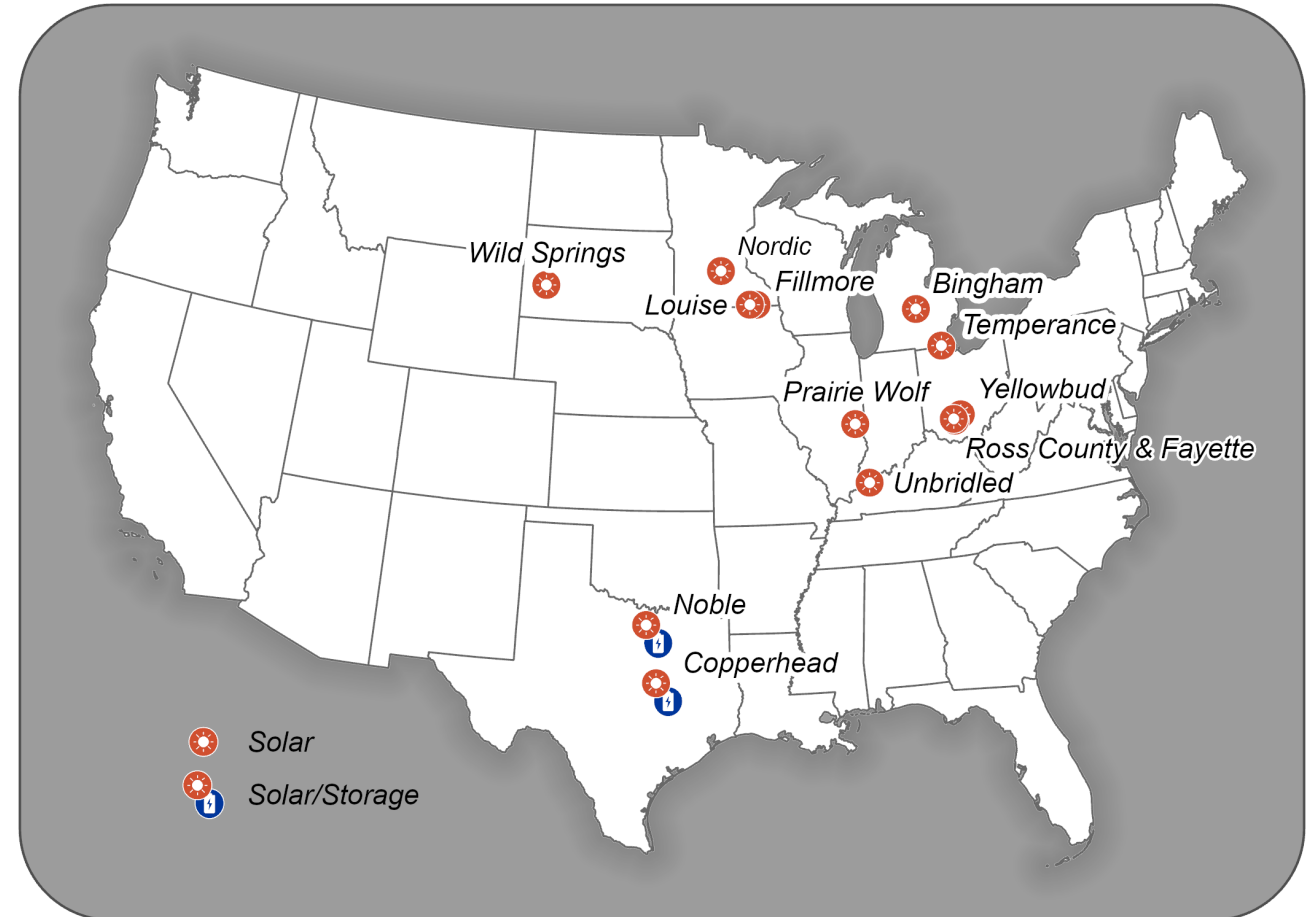
National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities

National Presence

Operation of 14 Projects or Portfolios totaling over 50 individual solar sites

Minnesota Presence

- ☀ Summit Lake Solar
- ☀ Fillmore Solar
- ☀ Louise Solar
- ☀ Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
- ☀ Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
- ☀ Community solar throughout MN



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

Lake Charlotte Solar - Project Details



**150-megawatt (MW)
solar energy generation facility
with battery energy storage system (BESS) component**

~ 1,300 acres

**Located in Martin County MN
Adjacent to Northrop
Near Fairmont and Granada**

**Expected construction start Q3 2027
Anticipated commercial operation date Q1 2029**

Permitting Timeline



Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources): Complete



Draft Application for EERA Review: April 2025



Application Submittal to PUC: as early as May 2025



Construction Start: Q3 2027



Project Operation Start: Q1 2029

- **Surveys, Studies, and Reports**

- Wetland delineation surveys were completed in June 2023
- An NOD from the LGU (Martin County) was received in September 2023
- USACE No Review Response received in August 2023
- Biological resource surveys were completed in October 2022 and March 2023
- Based on the absence of suitable habitat, identified federally-listed and protected species, as well as state-listed species, have a low likelihood of occurrence within the Project Area.
- Notifications were sent to tribal nations with relevant interest in the Project Area in Sept. 2024
- Cultural resource surveys completed in May 2024
- Potential cultural avoidance areas identified
- Recommendation for shovel testing and SHPO submittal

- **Site Specific Information**

- Are there any specific issues that we should be aware of as we develop the project?



Meeting: Lake Charlotte Solar & Storage Projects EERA and MnPUC Pre-Application Meeting

Date/Time: February 27, 2025 3:00 pm CST

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Marta Lasch, Sophia Gilleland (NG Renewables)
Michelle Cohen, Monika Davis (Merjent)
Jeremy Duehr (Fredrikson)
Ray Kirsch (EERA)
Bret Eknes, Sam Lobby (MnPUC Staff)

Meeting with EERA and MnPUC staff to introduce Lake Charlotte Solar & Storage Project, provide overview of project information pertaining to Joint Site Permit Application requirements.

Project Overview:

- Lake Charlotte Solar & Storage is located in Martin County, MN. The Town of Northrop is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project.
- The solar project is proposed to be 150 MWs. The storage project is proposed to be 150 MW 4-hr duration battery system amounting to 600 MWhs of capacity.
- The Project encompasses approximately 1,300 acres of predominantly agricultural land. It is bordered by a chain of lakes along its western boundary.

EERA/PUC:

- Permit reform process guidelines are being drafted by EERA/MnPUC staff currently. Guidelines are anticipated to be made public in April. EERA/MnPUC plan to host webinars to solicit feedback from stakeholders such as other agencies and developers.
- Consider that if a JSPA goes through completeness review prior to July 1 but ultimately submits to the PUC after July 1, the application will still be required to undergo a completeness review under the new permit reform (i.e., a second round of review).

Project Discussion:

- Land cover is predominantly agricultural land. No tree clearing is anticipated.
- Submittal to EERA for a preliminary completeness review is anticipated in April.
- The Project then expects to submit a JSPA to the MnPUC as early as May.
- The permit reform goes into effect July 1. This is factoring into submittal timing but with the process in flux we are hesitant to be one of the first projects under consideration of the new process.



- Lake Charlotte notified Tribes in September 2024 and received responses from the Upper Sioux Community and the Shakopee Mdewakaton Sioux Community.
- Pre-application notifications to agencies were sent in January 2025.
- Local governments and neighbors to Lake Charlotte have been notified and are generally supportive.
- The JSPA will address project safety and BESS augmentation.
- Lake Charlotte is actively being marketed to potential off-takers.



Pre-Application Meeting

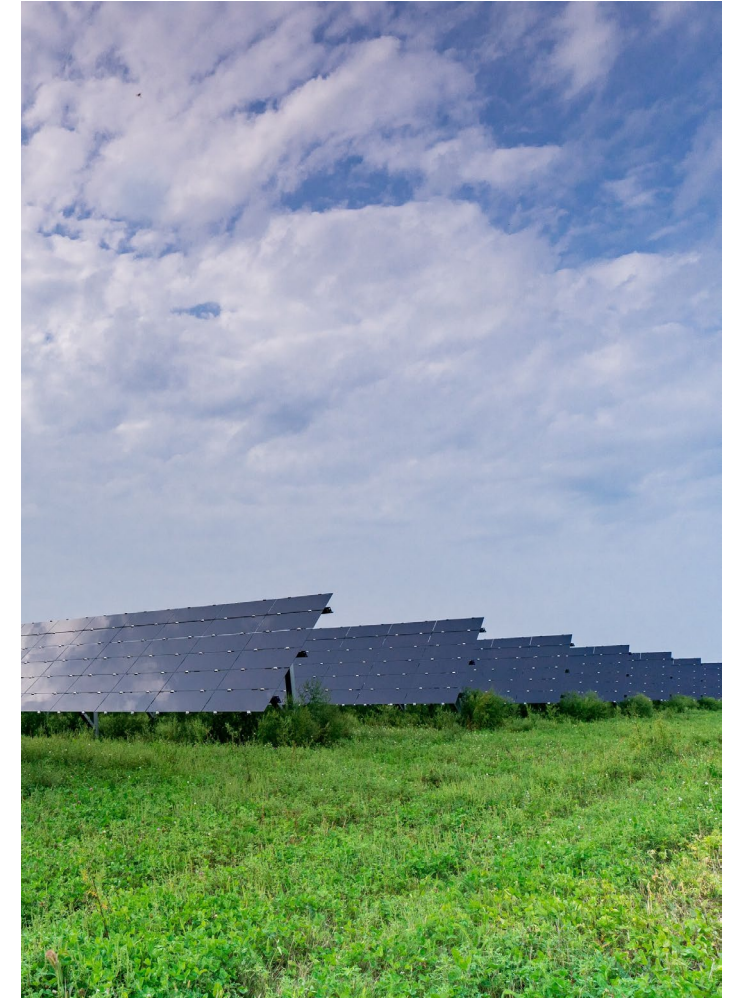
MN Dept of Agriculture

March 13, 2025

Project Team & Introductions

Lake Charlotte Solar Permitting & Development Team

- Marta Lasch, Permitting Lead
mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com
- Sophia Gilleland, Permitting Associate
sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- Jeremy Duehr, Attorney at Frederikson & Byron
- Monika Davis, Senior Project Manager at Merjent, Inc.
- Michelle Cohen, Project Manager / Senior Scientist at Merjent, Inc.



Brooten Community Solar

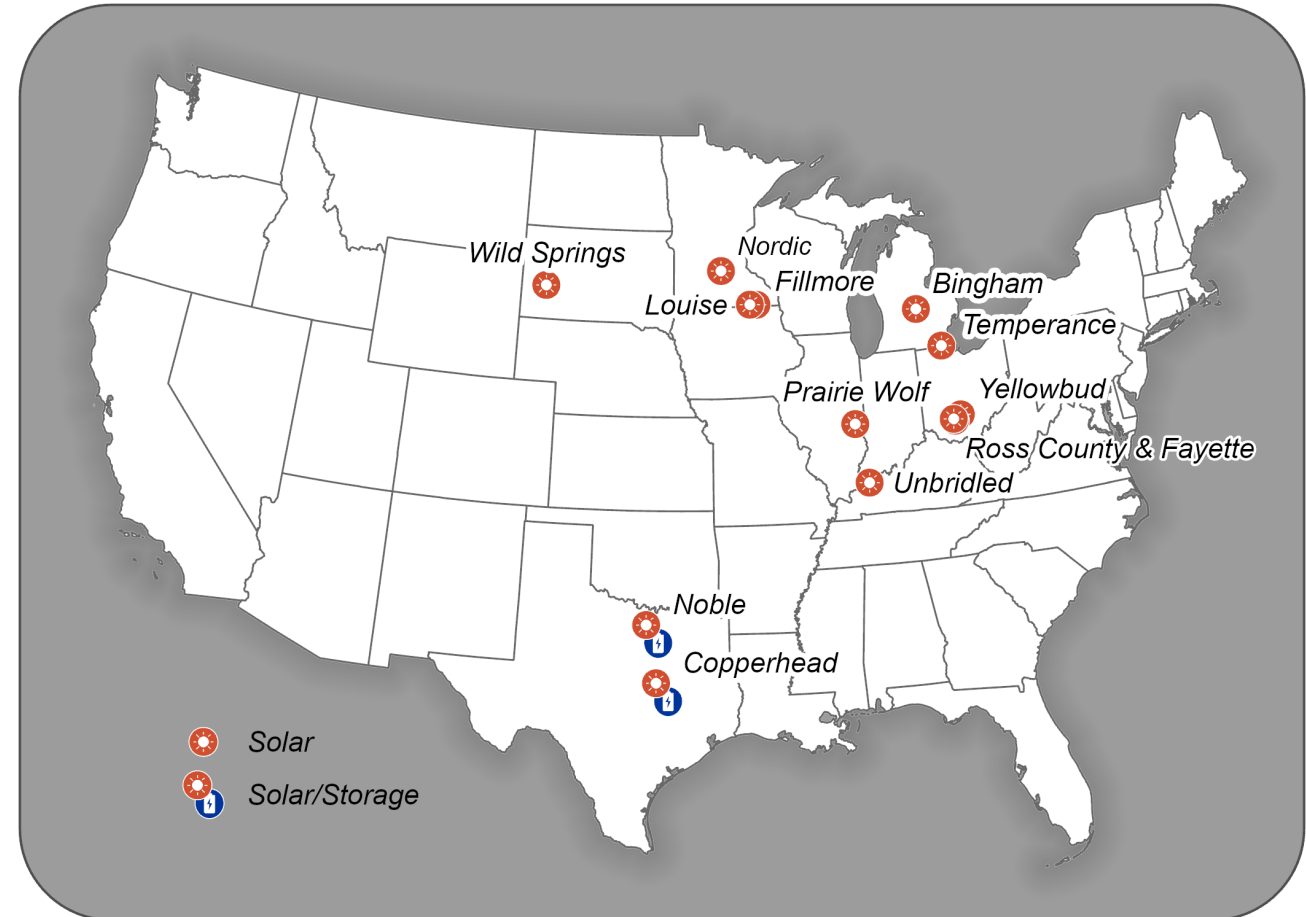
National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities

National Presence

Operation of 14 Projects or Portfolios totaling over 50 individual solar sites

Minnesota Presence

- Summit Lake Solar
- Fillmore Solar
- Louise Solar
- Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
- Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
- Community solar throughout MN

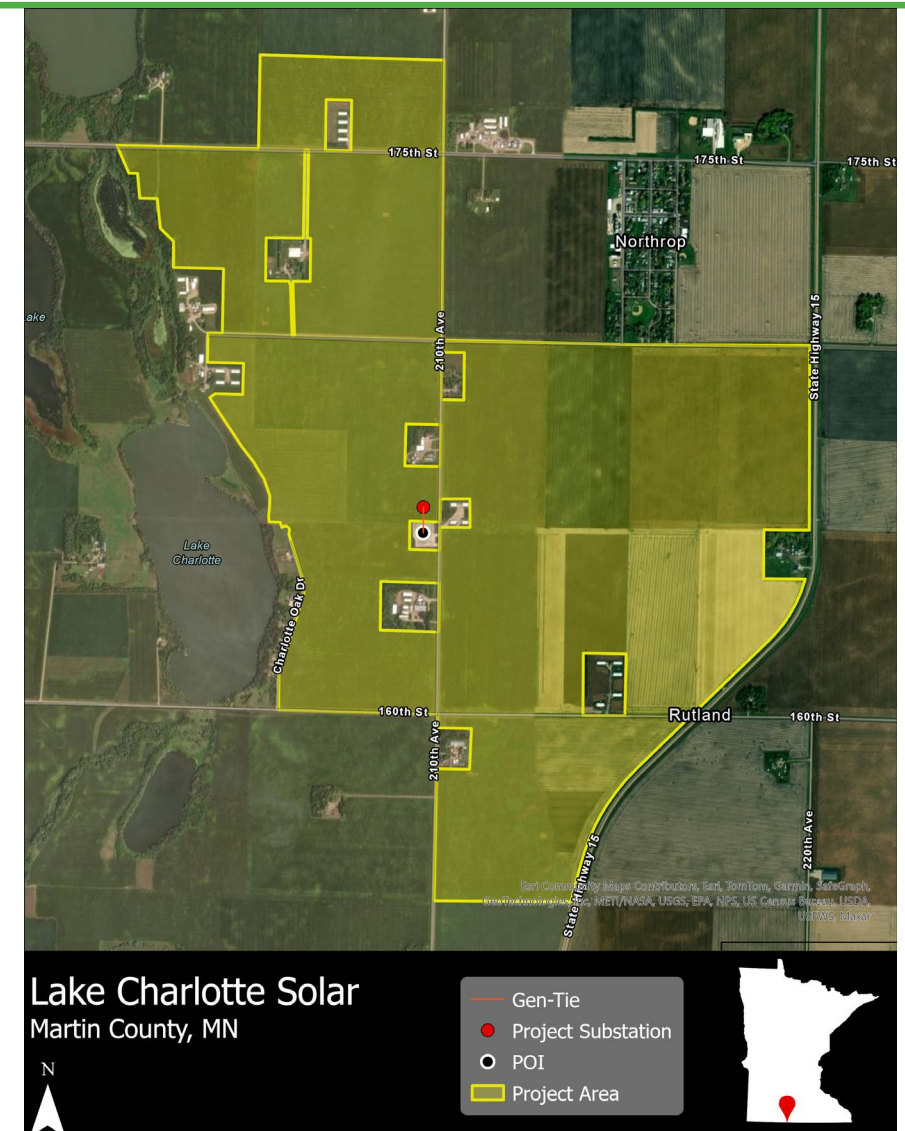


Additional details found here:

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

Lake Charlotte Solar – Project Details

- **150-megawatt (MW) solar energy generation facility**
 - 150 MW co-located BESS
- **Approximately 1,300 acres**
- **Located in Martin County MN**
 - Adjacent to Northrop
- **Expected construction start Q3 2027**
- **Anticipated commercial operation date Q1 2029**



Permitting Timeline



Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources): Complete



Draft Application for EERA Review: April 2025



Application Submittal to PUC: as early as May 2025



Construction Start: Q3 2027



Project Operation Start: Q1 2029

- **Surveys, Studies, and Reports**

- Wetland delineation surveys were completed in June 2023
- An NOD from the LGU (Martin County) was received in September 2023
- USACE No Review Response received in August 2023
- Biological resource surveys were completed in October 2022 and March 2023
- Based on the absence of suitable habitat, identified federally-listed and protected species, as well as state-listed species, have a low likelihood of occurrence within the Project Area.
- Notifications were sent to tribal nations with relevant interest in the Project Area in Sept. 2024
- Cultural resource surveys completed in May 2024
- Potential cultural avoidance areas identified
- Recommendation for shovel testing and SHPO submittal

- **Site Specific Information**

- Are there any specific issues that we should be aware of as we develop the project?

Marta Lasch

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 3:40 PM
To: Marta Lasch
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT)
Subject: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

You don't often get email from stacy.kotch@state.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Marta,

MnDOT is in receipt of your early project review request letter, dated January 23rd, 2025, for the above-mentioned project.

The proposed project has the potential to impact State Trunk Highway (TH) 15. Specific project impacts to TH 15 are currently unknown. To provide useful input, MnDOT requires specific information that has not yet been made available.

MnDOT invites you to host a project introduction meeting to discuss the following:

1. Scope of work
2. Project timeline
3. Available
 - a. GIS/Non-GIS mapping (shapefiles/.kmz files)
 - b. Detailed facility layout
 - c. Proposed points of access
 - d. Electrical component/system location(s)
4. Anticipated effects on the state trunk highway system (access/hydraulics/required permits)
5. Other state/federal agency coordination to-date
6. An overview of MnDOT's early coordination expectations (Utility Early Notification Memo process) – by MnDOT staff

Please see the link in my signature below, specifically the MnDOT Utility Project Guidance for Large Energy Facility Project Proposals document, for insight on MnDOT's expected coordination for your project proposal.

Please view the current MnDOT construction projects website at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/construction/index.html> and click on the district where your project is located (Southern Minnesota – D7). Also, MnDOT's 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) may be useful for project planning purposes: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/district-chip.html>

MnDOT maps ([Right of Way Mapping and Monitoring - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)) for the (perceived) affected portions of TH 15 are:

[Map # 35-60](#) and [Map # 3-25](#)

These maps will be useful should you require any downstream project permits from MnDOT.

If the offer to host a meeting is of interest to you, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

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/mndot/)



Marta Lasch

From: Marta Lasch
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9:46 AM
To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT)
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT)
Subject: RE: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

Hello Stacy,

Thank you for your response to the Project's notification letter. Currently the project's preliminary design does not contemplate points of access from TH 15. All entrances have been sited on Martin County roads. Additionally, project infrastructure will be setback from TH 15 ROW. I expect to have a layout that I can share early to mid-March. I'd be happy to host a meeting at that time if you think it would be valuable for MnDOT.

Thank you,
Marta



952.988.9000



Marta Lasch
Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093
E mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com

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

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 3:40 PM
To: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT) <Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us>
Subject: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

You don't often get email from stacy.kotch@state.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Marta,

MnDOT is in receipt of your early project review request letter, dated January 23rd, 2025, for the above-mentioned project.

The proposed project has the potential to impact State Trunk Highway (TH) 15. Specific project impacts to TH 15 are currently unknown. To provide useful input, MnDOT requires specific information that has not yet been made available.

MnDOT invites you to host a project introduction meeting to discuss the following:

1. Scope of work
2. Project timeline

3. Available
 - a. GIS/Non-GIS mapping (shapefiles/.kmz files)
 - b. Detailed facility layout
 - c. Proposed points of access
 - d. Electrical component/system location(s)
4. Anticipated effects on the state trunk highway system (access/hydraulics/required permits)
5. Other state/federal agency coordination to-date
6. An overview of MnDOT's early coordination expectations (Utility Early Notification Memo process) – by MnDOT staff

Please see the link in my signature below, specifically the MnDOT Utility Project Guidance for Large Energy Facility Project Proposals document, for insight on MnDOT's expected coordination for your project proposal.

Please view the current MnDOT construction projects website at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/construction/index.html> and click on the district where your project is located (Southern Minnesota – D7). Also, MnDOT's 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) may be useful for project planning purposes: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/district-chip.html>

MnDOT maps ([Right of Way Mapping and Monitoring - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)) for the (perceived) affected portions of TH 15 are:

[Map # 35-60](#) and [Map # 3-25](#)

These maps will be useful should you require any downstream project permits from MnDOT.

If the offer to host a meeting is of interest to you, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

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 \(state.mn.us\)](#)



Marta Lasch

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Marta Lasch
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT)
Subject: RE: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Thank you for providing the Project Layout map, Marta.

Based on our initial desktop review, the proposed Project does not appear to directly impact MnDOT trunk highway (TH) right-of-way (ROW). Please advise if you believe we are incorrect in this assessment.

While no TH access points or areas of collection line/Gen-Tie colocation are currently proposed, please notify MnDOT should this change as we would like to opportunity to review/conduct the appropriate district and resource group staff coordination for any potential change to TH impacts.

Additionally, we note that there are a number of water basins in close proximity to the TH ROW. These locations may warrant a (modeling) review by our District 7 Hydraulics Engineer to ensure your proposed work will not change the peak runoff rates to the TH ROW and to determine if a drainage permit from MnDOT would be required.

Our ArcGIS mapping system indicates the “ ex. archaeological location” at the corner of TH 15 and 170th St does overlap into MnDOT ROW. If any work is planned in this area that affects MnDOT ROW, a permit will be required and will need to be reviewed by our Office of Environmental Stewardship Cultural Resources Unit.

As is likely well known, should you utilize TH 15 for hauling of Project equipment, an OSOW permit may be required: [Minnesota Oversize/Overweight Permits - MnDOT](#)

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require further clarification.

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 \(state.mn.us\)](#)



From: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:43 AM
To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT) <Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

Hello Stacy,

Attached is an overall layout of the Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS project. Fencing is setback 150-200' from TH15 centerline. No access points are proposed from TH 15.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the layout.
Thank you,
Marta



Marta Lasch
Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093

952.988.9000



From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 3:22 PM
To: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT) <Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

You don't often get email from stacy.kotch@state.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Thank you for your reply, Marta.

Once you send/share the proposed project layout, I can do a quick cross-check with our mapping systems to see if an intro meeting or further coordination (via an ENM or otherwise) would be beneficial for us.

Thanks again,

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 \(state.mn.us\)](#)



From: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9:46 AM
To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT) <Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

This message may be from an external email source.

Hello Stacy,

Thank you for your response to the Project's notification letter. Currently the project's preliminary design does not contemplate points of access from TH 15. All entrances have been sited on Martin County roads. Additionally, project infrastructure will be setback from TH 15 ROW. I expect to have a layout that I can share early to mid-March. I'd be happy to host a meeting at that time if you think it would be valuable for MnDOT.

Thank you,
Marta



952.988.9000



Marta Lasch

Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093

E mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com

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

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

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 3:40 PM

To: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Cc: Hogan, Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT) <Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us>

Subject: [External] MnDOT - Proposed Lake Charlotte Solar and BESS Project in Martin County

You don't often get email from stacy.kotch@state.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Marta,

MnDOT is in receipt of your early project review request letter, dated January 23rd, 2025, for the above-mentioned project.

The proposed project has the potential to impact State Trunk Highway (TH) 15. Specific project impacts to TH 15 are currently unknown. To provide useful input, MnDOT requires specific information that has not yet been made available.

MnDOT invites you to host a project introduction meeting to discuss the following:

1. Scope of work
2. Project timeline
3. Available
 - a. GIS/Non-GIS mapping (shapefiles/.kmz files)
 - b. Detailed facility layout
 - c. Proposed points of access
 - d. Electrical component/system location(s)
4. Anticipated effects on the state trunk highway system (access/hydraulics/required permits)
5. Other state/federal agency coordination to-date

6. An overview of MnDOT's early coordination expectations (Utility Early Notification Memo process) – by MnDOT staff

Please see the link in my signature below, specifically the MnDOT Utility Project Guidance for Large Energy Facility Project Proposals document, for insight on MnDOT's expected coordination for your project proposal.

Please view the current MnDOT construction projects website at

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/construction/index.html> and click on the district where your project is located (Southern Minnesota – D7). Also, MnDOT's 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) may be useful for project planning purposes: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/district-chip.html>

MnDOT maps ([Right of Way Mapping and Monitoring - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)) for the (perceived) affected portions of TH 15 are:

[Map # 35-60](#) and [Map # 3-25](#)

These maps will be useful should you require any downstream project permits from MnDOT.

If the offer to host a meeting is of interest to you, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

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 \(state.mn.us\)](#)



Marta Lasch

From: Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Marta Lasch
Cc: Donovan, Martin (DNR)
Subject: [External] MNDNR Early Coordination - Lake Charlotte Solar

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Hello Marta,

Thank you for contacting the MNDNR to begin early coordination for Lake Charlotte Solar. Has the project been submitted through the [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) platform for a natural heritage review? Whether it has been submitted will help shape the scope of my review. To help facilitate project review, please provide a shapefile of the project boundary.

I look forward to working with you on this project!

Thank you!

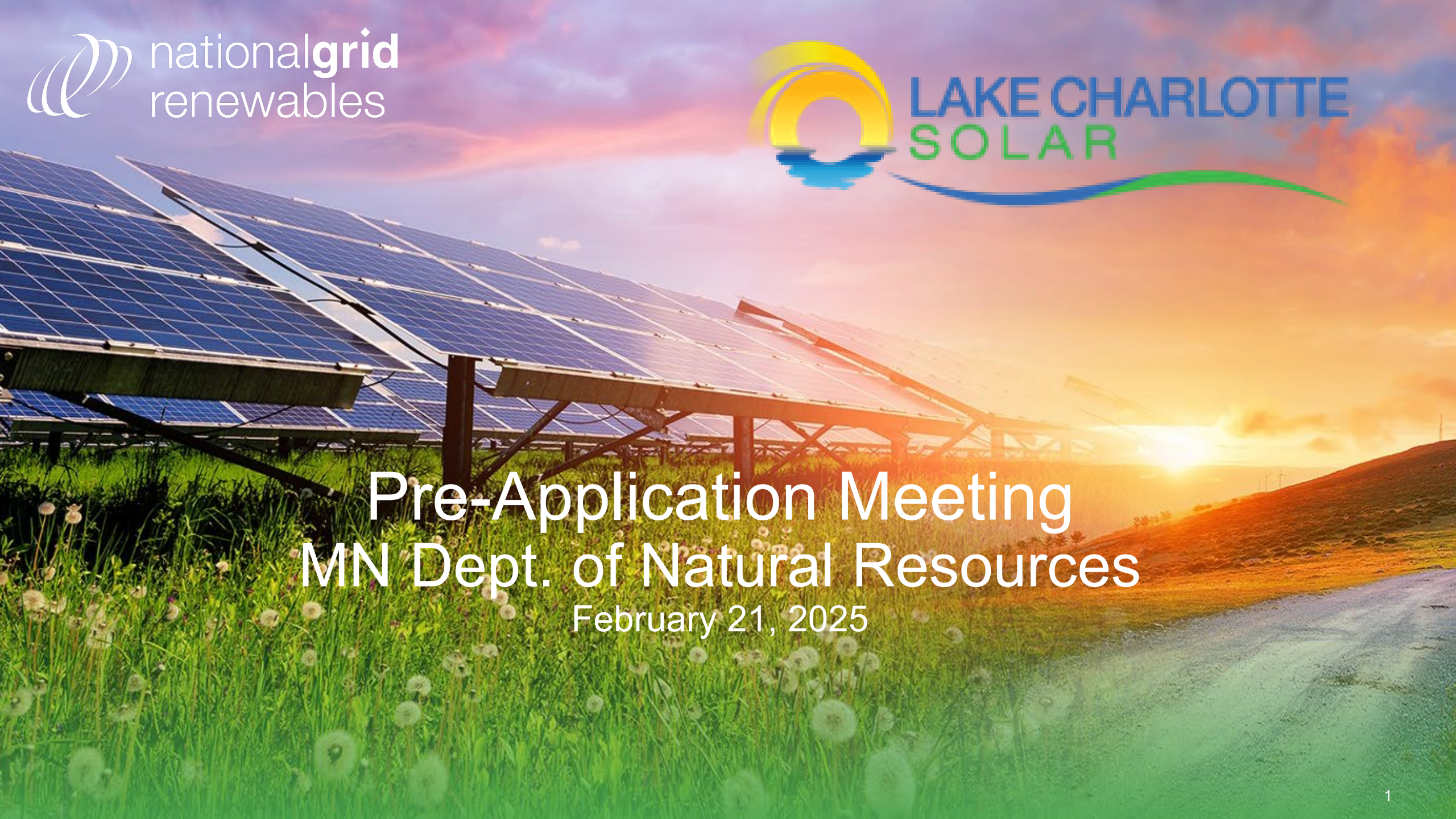
Haley Byron

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



A photograph of a solar farm with rows of solar panels in a field of tall grass and dandelions, with a sunset sky in the background.

Pre-Application Meeting

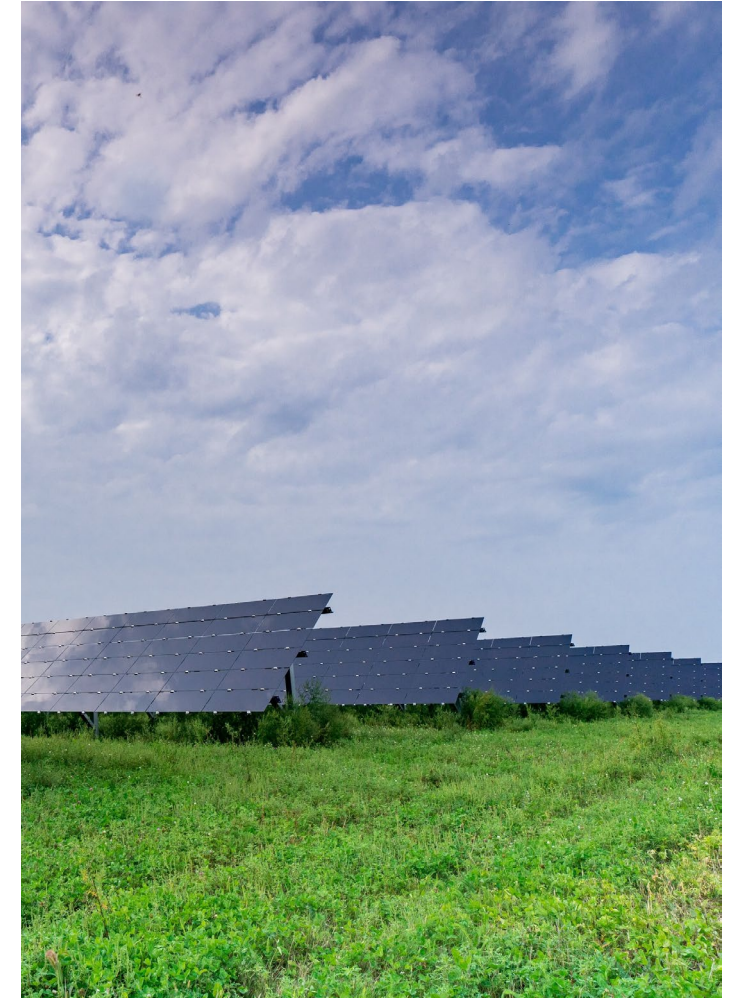
MN Dept. of Natural Resources

February 21, 2025

Project Team and Introductions

Lake Charlotte Solar Permitting & Development Team

- Marta Lasch, Permitting Lead
 - mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com
- Sophia Gilleland, Permitting Associate
 - sgilleland@nationalgridrenewables.com
- Jeremy Duehr, Frederikson & Byron
- Monika Davis, Merjent
- Michelle Cohen, Merjent



Brooten Community Solar

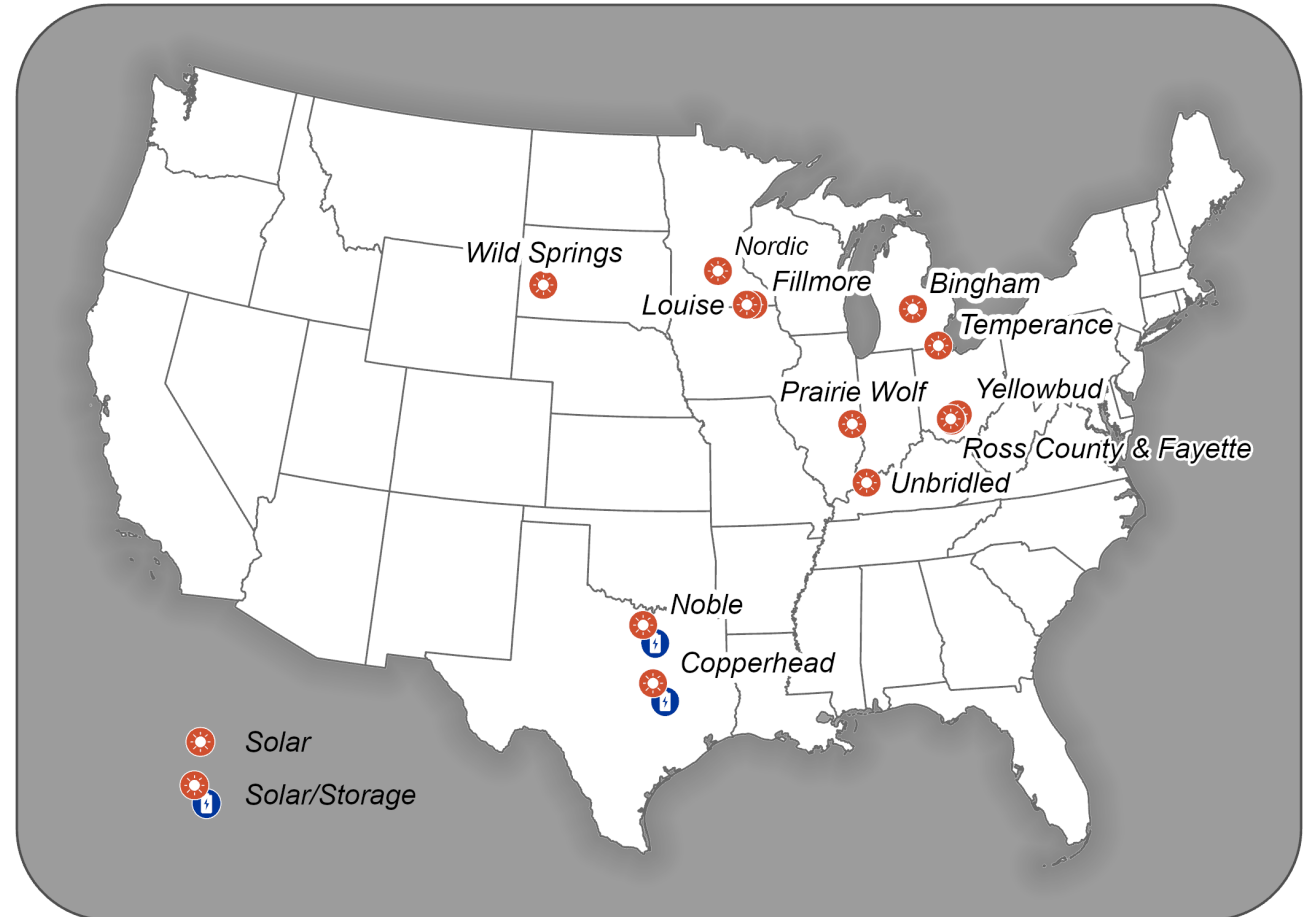
National Grid Renewables Solar Facilities

National Presence

Operation of 14 individual Projects or Portfolios that amount to over 50 individual solar sites

Minnesota Presence

- ☀ Summit Lake Solar
- ☀ Fillmore Solar
- ☀ Louise Solar
- ☀ Elk Creek Solar (160 MW)
- ☀ Nordic Solar Portfolio (70 MW)
- ☀ Community solar throughout MN



Additional details found here:

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

Lake Charlotte Solar - Project Details



**150-megawatt (MW) solar energy generation facility
with battery energy storage system (BESS) component
~1,300 acres**

**Located in Martin County MN
Adjacent to Northrop
Near Fairmont and Granada**

**Expected construction start Q3 2027
Anticipated commercial operation date Q1 2029**

Permitting Timeline



Field Studies (Cultural, Wetlands, Natural Resources): Complete



Draft Application for EERA Review: April 2025



Application Submittal to PUC: as early as May 2025



Construction Start: Q3 2027



Project Operation Start: Q1 2029

- **Surveys, Studies, and Reports**

- Wetland delineation surveys were completed in June 2023
- An NOD from the LGU (Martin County) was received in September 2023
- USACE No Review Response received in August 2023
- Biological resource surveys were completed in October 2022 and March 2023
- Based on the absence of suitable habitat, identified federally-listed and protected species, as well as state-listed species, have a low likelihood of occurrence within the Project Area.
- Notifications were sent to tribal nations with relevant interest in the Project Area in Sept. 2024
- Cultural resource surveys completed in May 2024
- Potential cultural avoidance areas identified
- Recommendation for shovel testing and SHPO submittal

- **Site Specific Information**

- Are there any specific issues that we should be aware of as we develop the project?



Meeting: Lake Charlotte Solar & Storage Projects MNDNR Pre-Application Meeting

Date/Time: February 21, 2025 2:00 pm CST

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Marta Lasch, Sophia Gilleland (NG Renewables)
Michelle Cohen, Monika Davis (Merjent)
Jeremy Duehr (Frederikson)
Haley Byron, Martin Donovan (MN DNR)

Meeting with MN DNR to introduce Lake Charlotte Solar & Storage Project, provide overview of project information pertaining to Joint Site Permit Application requirements and MN DNR interest.

Project Overview:

- Lake Charlotte Solar & Storage is located in Martin County, MN. The Town of Northrop is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project.
- The solar project is proposed to be 150 MWs. The storage project is proposed to be 150 MW 4-hr duration battery system amounting to 600 MWhs of capacity.
- The Project encompasses approximately 1,300 acres of predominantly agricultural land. It is border by a chain of lakes along its eastern boundary.

MN DNR:

- Martin reviews energy projects across the state. He will be the point of contact once the joint site permit application is submitted to the PUC.
- Haley is the regional ecologist covering the area surrounding the project area.

Project Discussion:

- Land cover is predominantly agricultural land. No tree clearing is anticipated.
- Project boundary follows parcel lines for the most part and is in the vicinity of a chain of lakes but not immediately adjacent. Martin County requires structures to be setback 200 ft from the OHWL of lakes.
- Haley noted no species or communities of concern were identified in DNR review of the area.
- New DNR prairie establishment guidance implemented February 2025.
- Project VMP will be reviewed by DNR Energy Planner as part of VMP Working Group upon Joint Site Permit Application to the MnPUC.

Conservation Planning Report: Lake Charlotte Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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

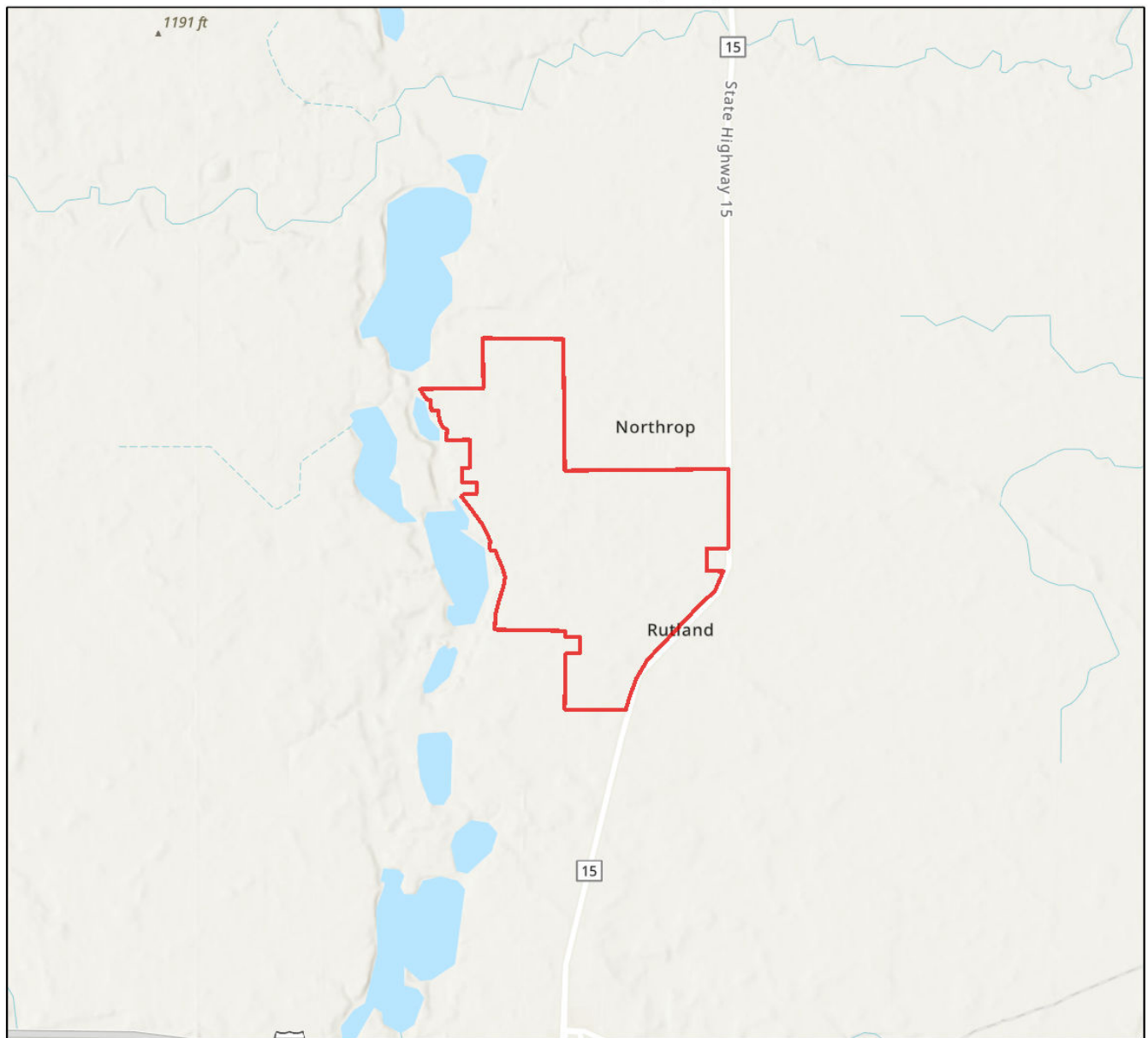
To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#). This report is not a substitution for a Section 7 review.

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.

Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage & Conservation Planning Map



0 0.38 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

 Area of Interest

Size (acres): 1,363.74

County(s): Martin

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: Lake Charlotte Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Project Proposer: Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC

Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Type Activities: Grading

TRS: T103 R30 S15, T103 R30 S16, T103 R30 S17, T103 R30 S20, T103 R30 S21, T103 R30 S8, T103 R30 S9

County(s): Martin

DNR Admin Region(s): South

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

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

Existing Land Uses: Land use is currently primarily agricultural and developed lands

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: Agricultural and developed lands will be impacted by the project. Impacts to wildlife habitat, including avian species, are expected to be minor due to the dominance of agricultural land cover types

Waterbodies Affected: A wetland and waters survey conducted in 2022 did not identify any lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and ditches within the Land Control Area. This survey ...

Groundwater Resources Affected: Impacts to geology and groundwater resources from construction and operation of the Project are not anticipated.

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	No Comments	No Further Review Required
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

March 11, 2025

Project ID: MCE #2025-00257

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

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Lake Charlotte Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
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. Given the project details provided on the cover page, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features. 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](#).

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.

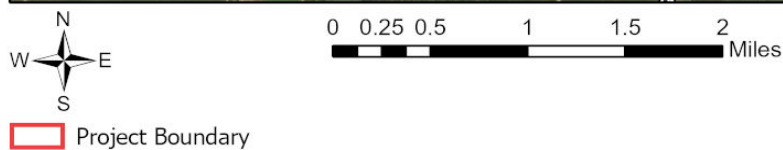
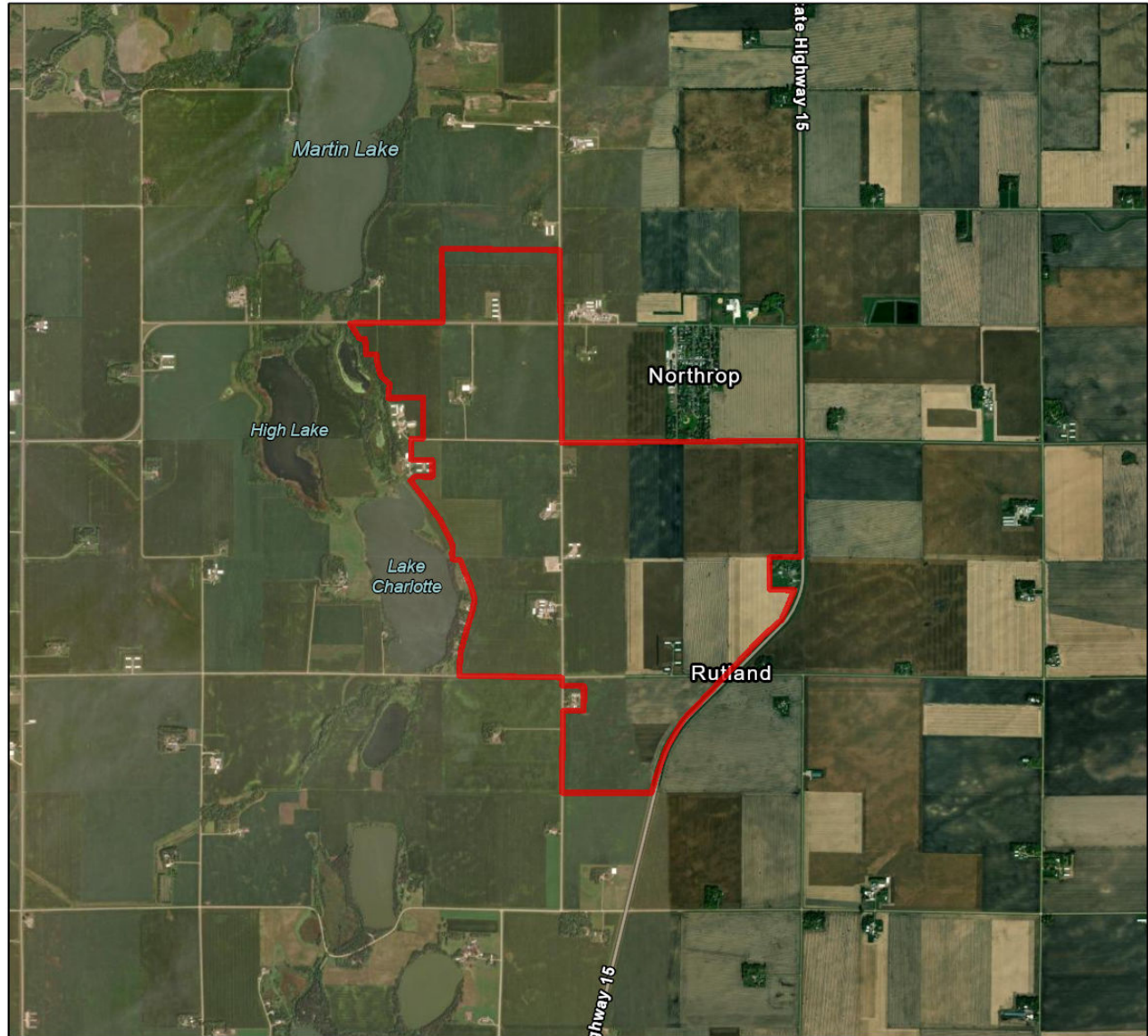
The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource 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, *The Natural Heritage Review Team* [Natural Heritage Review Program](#)
Review.NHIS@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

Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



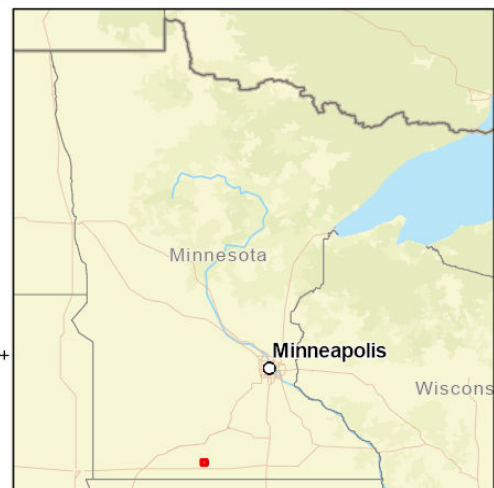
Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Size (acres): 1,363.74

County(s): Martin

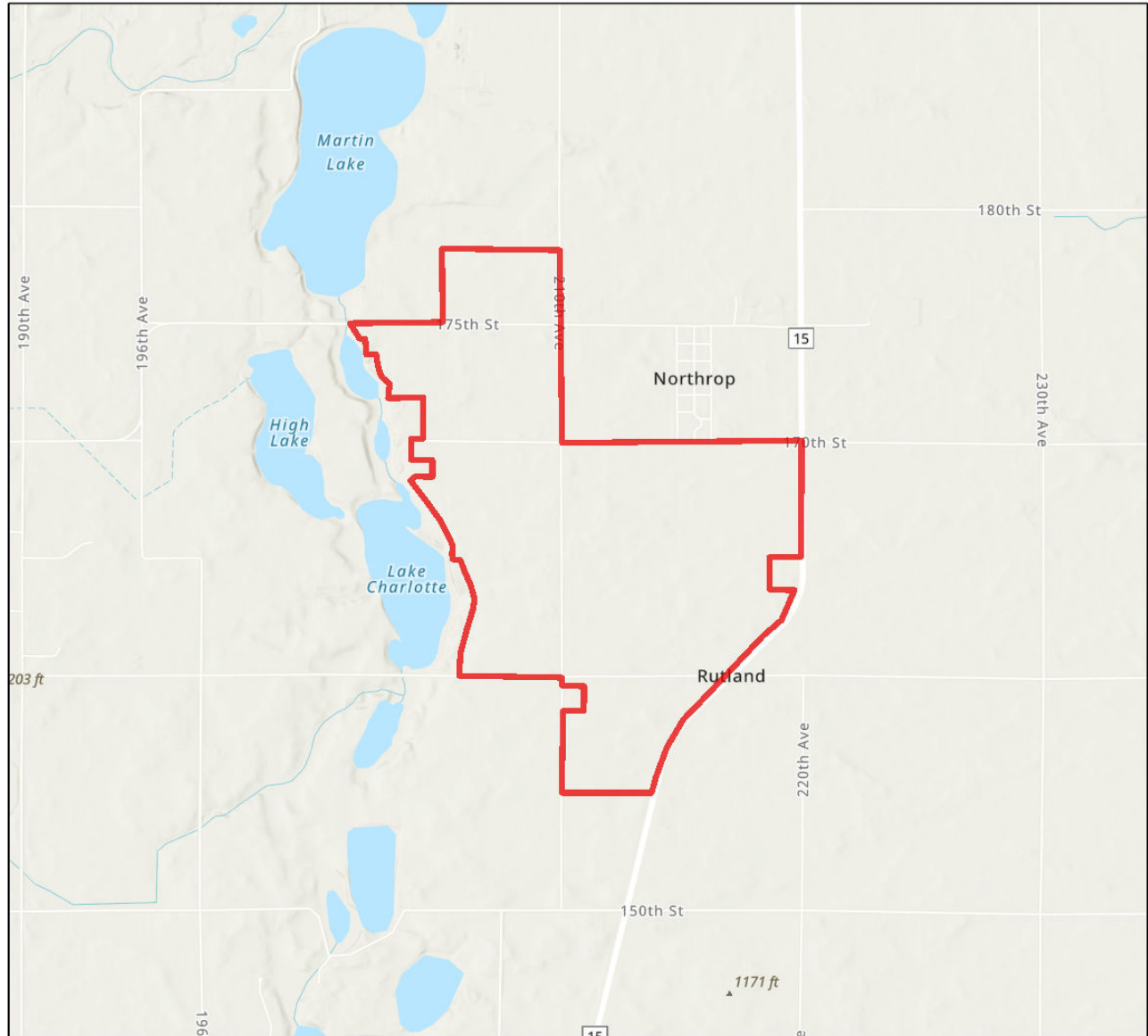
TRS: T103 R30 S15, T103 R30 S16, T103 R30 S17, T103 R30 S20, T103 R30 S21 +

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



Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

 Project Boundary

Project Type: Power, Solar

Project Size (acres): 1,363.74

County(s): Martin

TRS: T103 R30 S15, T103 R30 S16, T103 R30 S17, T103 R30 S20, T103 R30 S21 +

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



Utility Scale Solar - Early Coordination

Date: April 4, 2024

To: Marta Lasch
Permitting Lead
National Grid Renewables
8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

From: Haley Byron
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (South Region)
117 Rogers St.
Mankato, MN 56001

RE: Lake Charlotte Solar Project

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in early coordination for the proposed Lake Charlotte Solar Project. The following is offered for your consideration in addition to the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commercial Solar Siting Guidance](#).

High-Value Resources

Natural Heritage Review

A Natural History Review is required as part of Minnesota's environmental review process. The review will identify rare features, required actions to follow state law, and recommended measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to ecologically significant areas or state-listed species. To obtain a Natural Heritage Review, please submit the project through the [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) online tool.

Public Waters

Charlotte, High, and Martin Lakes and two public water wetlands are adjacent to the proposed project. These areas provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Design Considerations and Impact Minimization

Perimeter Fencing

Fences pose a risk of entanglement, injuries, or death for birds and other animals. To avoid or reduce injuries and fatalities, barbed wire should never be used at the top of the fence. High-visibility markers should be used on the top wire to increase perceptibility. Given the proximity to Charlotte, High, and Martin Lakes, fencing

modifications should be considered to allow the movement of small to medium-sized animals through the fenced-in area. DNR staff are available to discuss permeable fencing options.

To exclude deer, the [DNR's Fencing Handbook for 10ft Woven Wire Deer Exclusion Fence](#) recommends an 8ft woven wire fence topped with two strands of smooth, high-tensile wire. Solar operators are responsible for safely removing any deer that may enter the solar facility. Conservation Officers or DNR wildlife staff will not be deployed to assist a solar operator, and the DNR will not issue a white-tailed deer removal permit for facilities with woven wire fences lower than 10ft.

The DNR may recommend a special permit condition requiring the permittee to develop a fencing plan in consultation with our agency.

Wildlife Interactions with Solar Panels

Fatalities may occur to birds attempting to land on or within the panels. Impacts can be minimized by using less reflective panels or non-polarizing white grids between the panels to break up the polarized reflection of light. This is particularly important given the proximity to Charlotte, High, Martin Lakes, and neighboring wetlands. Solar operators should report unusual wildlife events on their site to the permitting authority and the DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist.

Snowmobile Trails

The Prairieland Snowmobile Trail, maintained by the Blizzard Snowmobile Club, will likely be impacted by the proposed project. Snowmobiling is a popular recreational activity and the DNR administers a cost-sharing program for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails. Coordination with the snowmobile club should occur early in project development to allow time to accommodate any changes to the snowmobile trail route. The [DNR's interactive snowmobile trails map](#) is available online, along with spatial data for download.

Facility Lighting

Security lights, substations, operations, and/or maintenance buildings should use shielded and downward-facing lighting to minimize visual and ecological impacts. The DNR also recommends that LED lighting projects limit the maximum nominal color temperature to 4000K.

Dust Control

The DNR recommends avoiding chemical dust suppressants containing chloride. Chloride products released into the environment do not break down and can accumulate to toxic levels for plants and wildlife.

Water Appropriations, Public Waters Work Permits, and Utility Crossing License

If dewatering is necessary, a [Water Appropriations Permit](#) will be required if more than 10,000 gallons per day or 1.0 million gallons per year are pumped.

If public water courses need to be crossed or altered, the following permits may be required:

- [Utility Crossing License](#) - utility crossings over, under, or across public waters.

- [Public Waters Work Permit](#) - temporary or permanent crossing and impacts to the course, current, or cross-section.

Vegetation Management

Habitat-friendly vegetation establishment and management of native seed plantings at solar sites can provide the following conservation benefits:

- Provide food and habitat for butterflies, bees, and insects that pollinate flowering forbs and some commercial crops.
- Provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for some wildlife species (including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians).
- Significantly reduce wind and surface water erosion.
- Significantly reduce fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide applications, improving water quality.
- Increase organic matter and water-holding capacity of soils. The result is higher quality soils for farming after the site is decommissioned.
- Improve the aesthetic look of the solar facility.

Resources:

- [Guidance for Developing a Vegetation Establishment and Management Plan for Solar Facilities](#)
- [Prairie Establishment and Maintenance Technical Guidance for Solar Projects](#)
- [Minnesota Habitat Friendly Solar Program](#)

Next Steps

Early coordination is an iterative process, and additional feedback will be provided once additional project details (e.g., fencing boundary, solar array locations, water basins, staging areas) become available.

Haley Byron
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (South Region)
haley.byron@state.mn.us
507-389-8813

Attachments

1. Erosion Control and Evasive Species

Standard Erosion Control and Invasive Species Prevention Best Practices

Take precautions when working near waterbodies to prevent sedimentation and erosion:

- Erodible surfaces should not be left exposed for greater than one day. For example, work should not commence late in the week if it will be left unfinished over a weekend.
- Work should not commence if rain is predicted.
- All wheeled or tracked construction equipment should be restricted to work areas above the stream bank.
- Fill material should not be stockpiled in the floodplain.
- Backfill placed below Ordinary High Water (OHW) should consist of clean granular material free of fines, silts, soils, and mud.
- Use [Best Practices for DNR General Public Waters Work Permit GP 2004-0001: Species Protection](#). Refer to pages: 3, 11, 14, 16, 25, 33, and 34 as relevant to a particular project.
- Vegetative “grout” should be incorporated with any installed rip rap (see page 33 of above link).
- [Native species planting/seeding](#) should be used.
- DNR Public Waters Work Permit may be required. Permit requirements must be followed.

Use wildlife friendly erosion control:

- Biodegradable netting should be used, preferably natural materials with short degradation periods.

Erosion control blankets should be limited to bio-netting or natural netting types due to the risk of entanglement and death of small animals.

- Identify acceptable materials in Category 3N or 4N mulches. See [Standard Specifications for Construction - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- Do not use products that require UV-light to degrade (also called “photodegradable”), as they do not degrade properly when covered/shaded.
- Do not use products containing plastic mesh netting or other plastic components.
- Do not use mulch products that contain synthetic (plastic) fiber additives near waterbodies.
- See [Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control](#) for more information.

Take active steps to prevent invasive species introduction and spread:

- Clean all equipment (including but not limited to: vehicles, clothing, and gear) at a site prior to moving to another site. All soil, aggregate material, mulch, vegetation, seeds, animals, etc. need to be removed using a hand tool, brush, compressed air, pressure washer, or otherwise.
- If equipment is not cleaned before arriving to a work site, then clean the equipment in the parking or staging area, ensuring no material is deposited at the new site. Material cleaned from equipment should be disposed of legally.
- All equipment (including but not limited to: waders, tracked vehicles, barges, boats, turbidity curtain, sheet pile, and pumps) used for work in an “infested water” must be adequately decontaminated. See [Watercraft Decontamination Manual](#) for more information.
- See [Come Clean, Leave Clean](#) for more detailed guidance. This guidance is required for those working on DNR lands as part of grant or contract or are working under a permit, your grant, contract, or permit.

Additional Referenced Links

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/gp_2004_0001_chapter1.pdf <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/seed-mixes>

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf>

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/pre-letting/spec/2018/2018-spec-book-final.pdf>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/dnrlands.html>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/dnrlands.html>

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/mndnr_ais_decontamination_handbook.pdf

MPCA Perimeter Control Guidance Factsheet: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-strm2-26.pdf>

MPCA Sediment control practices - Perimeter controls for disturbed areas: https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Sediment_control_practices_-_Perimeter_controls_for_disturbed_areas

From: [Marta Lasch](#)
To: [Monika Davis](#); [Michelle Cohen](#); [Duehr, Jeremy](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: FW: [External] RE: Lake Charlotte Solar AIMP
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:23:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.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](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Apologies I hadn't sent this along after receiving from Steve last week.



Marta Lasch

Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093

952.988.9000



From: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:13 PM

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

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Lake Charlotte Solar AIMP

Hello Steve,

Thank you for the email. I prefer a consolidated approach as well. I think it will provide some efficiencies for projects, the PUC and state agencies. We'll be ready for a change to the standard permit conditions.

Thanks,

Marta



Marta Lasch

Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093

952.988.9000



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

Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 3:15 PM

To: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Lake Charlotte Solar AIMP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Hi Marta,

Sorry for the delay. I had started reviewing your AIMP but got distracted for a bit by some other pressing concerns with projects before the PUC. I did just finish the review and have no issues at all with the draft. It is very well done.

The only comment I have is in regard to the Environmental Monitor. As I may have mentioned, the PUC is developing an Environmental Monitor standard permit condition for its various site permit types. The intention is to consolidate the monitoring requirements for all agencies into a single permit condition. We support this move by the PUC. The Environmental Monitor section within the AIMP can remain as is, I just want to let you know that we do support a consolidated approach and will defer to the PUC's decision on overall environmental monitoring.

Follow up with me once you have submitted your site permit application and have a docket number – I'll submit a comment into the docket that I have reviewed and approved your AIMP.

Get back to me with any questions,
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: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:33 AM

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

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Lake Charlotte Solar AIMP

Hi Steve,

Checking in to see what your thoughts are on Lake Charlotte's AIMP.

Thanks,

Marta



Marta Lasch

Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093

952.988.9000



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

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:17 PM

To: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Subject: [External] RE: Lake Charlotte Solar AIMP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Be cautious of using any link or opening any attachment unless you recognize the sender. If in doubt, report the email using the "Report Phishing" Add-in in Outlook.

Thanks Marta!

I should get it back to you by sometime next week.

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: Marta Lasch <mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 11:32 AM

To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Cc: Monika Hagebak Davis <monika.davis@merjent.com>; Michelle Cohen <michelle.cohen@merjent.com>; Duehr, Jeremy <JDuehr@fredlaw.com>
Subject: Lake Charlotte Solar AIMP

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

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 Stephan,

As we discussed in April here is Lacke Charlotte's draft AIMP for your review. Please let us know if you have any questions during your review. This is built from the AIMP you reviewed for the Summit Lake project.

Thank you,
Marta



952.988.9000



Marta Lasch

Permitting Lead

P 612.259.3093

E mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com

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



Solar Energy Generating System
Size Determination Form

Minnesota Statute § 216E.021 requires combining proposed solar energy generating systems for permitting purposes when certain conditions exist. The Department of Commerce requires the information requested below to determine 1) whether proposed solar energy generating systems meet the definition of a large electric power generating plant and, therefore, are subject to the Public Utilities Commission's siting authority; or 2) whether large electric power generating plants that are solar energy generating systems should be combined for permitting purposes. Based on the information provided, Commerce staff may require additional information to make a determination.

Instructions: Answer each question completely. Each question and answer must be clearly identified. Attach maps and supporting information as necessary. Return the signed and dated information to:

Ray Kirsch

Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 280
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198

Phone: (651) 539-1841

Fax: (651) 539-0109

Email: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Note: This form can be made available electronically, and submitted as an electronic document.

A. Project Description

Briefly describe the proposed project or projects, including name(s); need for the project(s); number of solar energy generating systems; alternating current nameplate capacity of the individual solar energy generating systems identified; and the combined alternating current nameplate capacity.

Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC (Lake Charlotte), a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Grid Renewables, LLC (NG Renewables), proposes to construct the Lake Charlotte Solar Facility (Solar Facility) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (collectively, the Project), in Rutland Township, Martin County, Minnesota. The Project is needed to help meet Minnesota's carbon-free energy standard and will contribute to Minnesota's Renewable Energy Objectives. It is also needed to meet growing demand for renewable and carbon-free sources of energy.

The Solar Facility is proposed as a solar energy conversion facility with a 150-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) nameplate capacity. The BESS will consist of a stand-alone structure with a 150 MW / 600-megawatt hour (MWh) nameplate capacity and ancillary support infrastructure. The BESS will be constructed directly adjacent to the collector substation for the Solar Facility. The Solar Facility and BESS are intended to work independently of each other with the BESS charging and discharging directly from and to the grid, provided; however, the BESS may also be able to receive and store energy directly from the solar facility.

Lake Charlotte executed a Generator Interconnection Agreement on August 15, 2024 with Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) for the 150 MW solar facility. Lake Charlotte is pursuing an additional Generator Interconnection Agreement through MISO's surplus interconnection service for the BESS to allow it to operate independently and receive energy directly from the electric grid and the solar facility. The Project will connect to the

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Rutland Substation via an approximately 365-foot 161 KV transmission generation tie-line. The Solar Facility and BESS will be financed as a single project, and the power generated by the Solar Facility will be marketed for a single off-taker. The Project will be constructed as part of one continuous process.

B. Project Design and Location

Provide the following information regarding each solar energy generating system:

B-1. Describe the 1) solar generating equipment and associated facilities; 2) project boundary location(s) (county, township, and sections); 3) the area within the project boundary (acres); and 4) area within the project boundary that will be developed for the solar project (acres).

Lake Charlotte has obtained lease and purchase options for approximately 1,277 acres of privately owned land in Township 103N, Range 30W, Sections 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20 and 21 in Rutland Township, Martin County. The Preliminary Development Area will cover approximately 1,004 of those acres, and 273 are not currently planned for development. Lake Charlotte has no plans to expand the Project in the future.

The Solar Facility will utilize PV panels with tempered glass that may vary in size but are generally 4 to 7 feet long by 2 to 4 feet wide and 1 to 2 inches thick. The Solar Facility will also include:

- A tracking rack system
- Inverters and transformers
- Electrical collection system (either below-ground or a hybrid of above- and below-ground)

The BESS will be a modular system comprised of lithium-iron batteries encased in standalone enclosures, located within approximately 16 acres in the Preliminary Project Development Area. Each enclosure, or module, will be approximately 40 feet long by 10 feet wide by 9.5 feet high. The Project will initially include approximately 192 containers.

The Project will also include the following facilities:

- Access Roads
- Fencing
- Security lighting and cameras
- Collector substation
- Operations and maintenance building
- Parking
- Stormwater ponds
- Weather stations
- Temporary laydown areas

B-2. Describe the anticipated point of electrical interconnection. Describe interconnection requests and the status of each request. Provide any assigned project or queue interconnection numbers.

The Project will interconnect its collector substation to the Rutland Substation via an approximately 365-foot 161 KV transmission generation tie-line. Transformers in the Project's collector substation will step up the collection system voltage to 161 kV. Per Minn. Stat. § 216E.01 subd. 4, the gen-tie transmission

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

line does not meet the high voltage transmission line definition because the overall length is less than 1,500 feet. As such, a separate route permit from the Commission will not be required for the gen-tie line. Lake Charlotte has secured interconnection approval from MISO for the solar facility portion of the Project, as proposed.

B-3. Provide a map showing the proposed facility boundary, the interconnection site, anticipated solar module layout, and associated facilities. "Associated facilities" includes access roads, operation and maintenance facilities, collector and feeder lines, and substations. Maps should be at 1:24,000 scale using an imagery basemap. The map must include a legend and scale bar.

The attached map shows the Project boundary and point of interconnect. A preliminary design has been completed and is attached to this size determination request.

C. Project Characteristics

Provide the following information regarding each solar energy generating system:

C-1. List and describe the entity responsible for constructing the project.

Lake Charlotte will be the owner and operator of the Project and will be responsible for constructing the Project. Lake Charlotte has not yet selected a construction contractor for the Project.

C-2. List and describe the entity responsible for operating and maintaining the project.

Lake Charlotte will be responsible for operating and maintaining the Project.

C-3. Describe the ownership structure, sales agreement(s), interconnection(s), revenue sharing, debt or equity financing, and any other characteristics of the solar energy generating system. Include a statement indicating whether these characteristics are "independent" or "shared." If shared, indicate with what existing or proposed project.

The Project will be wholly owned and operated by Lake Charlotte, a subsidiary of NG Renewables. There are no current plans to share revenue, debt, or equity financing with another Project.

C-4. Provide the anticipated schedule for completion, including dates for permitting, construction (start and end dates), and commercial operation.

Lake Charlotte plans to file its joint site permit applications for the Solar Facility and BESS in early 2025 in the hopes of receiving Commission approval for the Project by mid-2026. Construction would begin in fall 2027, with commercial operation by early 2029.

D. Applicant Information

D-1. Provide the name, address, email, and telephone number of the applicant and any authorized representative.

Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

Authorized Representative:

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Marta Lasch
National Grid Renewables Development, LLC
Phone: 612-259-3093
Email: mlasch@nationalgridrenewables.com

D-2. Provide the name, address, e-mail, and telephone number of the person or persons who would prepare the application to the Public Utilities Commission or to a Minnesota county or local unit of government, if such an application would be prepared by an agent or consultant of the applicant.

Jeremy P. Duehr
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Direct: 612.492.7413
jduehr@fredlaw.com

Monika H. Davis
Senior Project Manager
Merjent
1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Direct: 612.924.3988
Monika.davis@merjent.com

D-3. Briefly describe the applicant's business entity including its ownership and financial structure.

Lake Charlotte is a wholly owned subsidiary of NG Renewables.

D-4. Provide the Minnesota Secretary of State organizational ID number for the applicant business entity, all subordinate entities, and all solar developer entities involved with the project.

Lake Charlotte's Minnesota Secretary of State organizational identification number is 1165403700043. Lake Charlotte does not have any subordinate entities. Lake Charlotte is a wholly owned subsidiary of NG Renewables.

D-5. Identify and provide contact information for the person or persons who would be the permittees, if different than the applicant, if the solar energy generating systems were permitted by the Public Utilities Commission or a Minnesota county.

The permittee will be the Applicant, Lake Charlotte. See D-1 for contact information.

E. Other Projects in Minnesota

E-1. Identify any planned or existing solar energy generating system(s) in Minnesota in which the applicant, or a principal, partner, or affiliate of the applicant, has an ownership or other financial interest. Describe any facilities identified, including their location, alternating current nameplate capacity, and their interconnection requests.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NONPUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Lake Charlotte does not have any other currently planned or existing solar energy generation systems in Minnesota. However, NG Renewables has constructed and/or owns an interest in other solar energy generation projects in Minnesota. These include:

[NONPUBLIC DATA BEGINS]

Elk Creek Solar, LLC
Rock County, Minnesota
160 MWAC
GIA secured on September 27, 2022 with ITC Midwest, LLC and MISO.

Summit Lake Solar, LLC
Nobles County, Minnesota
200 MWAC
GIA secured on July 18, 2024 with Xcel Energy and MISO.

Pipestone Solar, LLC
Pipestone County, Minnesota
125 MWAC
GIA secured on July 25, 2024 with Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy), and MISO.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The following existing community solar garden projects were developed by NG Renewables and other developers as part of Xcel's Community Solar Garden program. The project entities were purchased by Nordic Solar, LLC, Phase 2 Nordic Holdco, LLC and Phase 3 Nordic Holdco, LLC and were then constructed and are operating. Individuals that have an ownership interest in NG Renewables have ownership interests in Nordic Solar, LLC, Phase 2 Nordic Solar, LLC and Phase 3 Nordic Holdco, LLC.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[NONPUBLIC DATA ENDS]

E-2. Identify any additional solar energy generating system(s) in Minnesota in which the applicant, or principal, partner, or affiliate of the applicant, has an ownership or other financial interest and is currently under construction or construction is planned to begin within 12 months of the proposed project(s) estimated completion date. Describe any facilities identified, including their location, alternating current nameplate capacity, and their interconnection requests.

Elk Creek Solar is permitted by the Commission and is currently being marketed to potential off-takers. Elk Creek Solar is anticipating securing separate financing and offtake agreements independent of the Lake Charlotte Solar project. NG Renewables currently anticipates construction of the Elk Creek Solar project beginning in Q4 2025.

Summit Lake Solar submitted an application for a site permit in February 2025. Summit Lake Solar is anticipating securing separate financing and offtake agreements independent of the Lake Charlotte Solar project. NG Renewables currently anticipates construction of the Summit Lake Solar project beginning in August 2027.

Pipestone Solar plans to submit an application for a site permit in 2026. Pipestone Solar is anticipating securing separate financing and offtake agreements independent of the Lake Charlotte Solar project. NG Renewables currently anticipates construction of the Pipestone Solar project beginning in December 2027.

E-3. Identify any planned or existing solar energy generating system(s) in Minnesota which that shares any of the following with the proposed project: power purchase agreement, interconnection, sales, revenues, debt or equity financing, or other ownership or financial interests. Describe any facilities identified, including their location, alternating current nameplate capacity, and their interconnection requests.

None.

April 15, 2025

Marta Lasch
Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

Dear Ms. Lasch,

Thank you for submitting a solar size determination request for Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC's proposed 150 megawatt (MW) Lake Charlotte solar facility in Martin County.

The Department of Commerce (Department) is responsible for reviewing such requests to determine whether a combination of solar energy generating systems meets the definition of large electric power generating plant such that a proposed project is subject to the siting authority of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

Based on information provided by Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC, and based on criteria established in Minn. Statute 216E.021, the Department has determined that the Lake Charlotte solar facility is not associated with other planned solar projects in a way that would require them to be combined into a single project. However, given that the project on its own has a generating capacity of up to 150 MW, the Department determines that the project is subject to the Commission's siting authority and must submit an application for a site permit under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Statute 216E).

Per Minn. Statute 216E.021, Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC has the right to dispute this determination with the chair of the Commission.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ray Kirsch
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

cc: Bret Eknes, Public Utilities Commission

County and Local Agencies

From: [Dustin Benes](#)
To: [Hansel, John \(BWSR\)](#); [USACE Requests_MN@usace.army.mil](#); [Doorenbos, Ryan D \(DNR\)](#); [Hannah Neusch](#); [Tyler Cowing](#)
Cc: [Bellrichard, Kathy](#); [Marc Morandi](#)
Subject: [External] Martin County, Wetland Notice of Application, Lake Charlotte Solar LLC
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:28:10 PM
Attachments: [Lake Charlotte Solar MN joint appl form 2023-08-14.pdf](#)
[Lake Charlotte Solar LLC WCA NOA.pdf](#)

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

Good afternoon everyone.

I have received a Wetland Conservation Act Joint Application for Delineation concurrence for a potential project in Rutland township in Martin County. The wetland survey file is large, please click the download files below. Then click on the attached files. This option is available until Wednesday September 6, please let me know if you are not able to open the file. I have attached the Joint Application and WCA NOA. Comment period will end on September 15.

Thank you
Dustin Benes
District Technician
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
923 N State St., Suite 110
Fairmont MN 56031
507-235-6680 ext. 105

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bellrichard, Kathy** <donotreply@tetrattech.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 11:40 AM
Subject: Tetra Tech MFT: Lake Charlotte Wetland Survey Report
To: <dustin.martinswcd@gmail.com>

Tetra Tech Managed File Transfer

**New Secure File Package is Available to Download until
Wednesday, 6 September**

Dustin, trying again to send a link to download the Lake Charlotte wetland report. Let me know if you are still having trouble accessing the file.

Kathy Bellrichard

This link will work for anyone. The secure file package is available until: **Wednesday, 6 September**. After this date contact the sender.

Files attached to this message

Filename	Size
Lake Charlotte Solar Tetra Tech Wetlands and Waters Survey 20230616.pdf	69.9 MB

Download Files

Logon to reply to this message

PLEASE NOTE: This message is being sent by a Tetra Tech system (<https://amermft.tetrattech.com>). If you have questions about the legitimacy of this email, please contact the sender directly. This message, including any attachments, may include privileged, confidential and/or inside information. Any distribution or use of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system.

Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Application

Local Government Unit: Martin SWCD	County: Martin County
Applicant Name: Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC	Applicant Representative: Kathy Bellrichard, Tetra Tech
Project Name: Lake Charlotte Solar	LGU Project No. (if any):
Date Complete Application Received by LGU: 8/15/2023	
Date this Notice was Sent by LGU: 8/22/2023	
Date that Comments on this Application Must Be Received By LGU¹: 9/15/2023	

¹ minimum 15 business day comment period for Boundary & Type, Sequencing, Replacement Plan and Bank Plan Applications

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 Impact Area Proposed:
--

Application Materials

☒ Attached ☐ Other ¹ (specify):

¹ Link to ftp or other accessible file sharing sites is acceptable.

Comments on this application should be sent to:

LGU Contact Person: Dustin Benes
E-Mail Address: dustin.martinswcd@gmail.com
Address and Phone Number:
Decision-Maker for this Application:
☒ Staff ☐ Governing Board/Council ☐ Other (specify):

Notice Distribution (include name)

Required on all notices:

☒ SWCD TEP Member: Dustin Benes	☒ BWSR TEP Member: John Hansel
☒ LGU TEP Member (if different than LGU contact): Tyler Cowing & Hannah Neusch	
☒ DNR Representative: Ryan Doorenbos	
☐ Watershed District or Watershed Mgmt. Org.:	
☒ Applicant (notice only): Marc Morandi	☒ Agent/Consultant (notice only): Tetra Tech, Kathy Bellrichard

Optional or As Applicable:

☒ Corps of Engineers: USACE_Requests_MN@usace.army.mil	
☐ BWSR Wetland Mitigation Coordinator (required for bank plan applications only):	
☐ Members of the Public (notice only):	☐ Other:

Signature: 	Date: 8/22/2023
--	---------------------------

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.

Joint Application Form for Activities Affecting Water Resources in Minnesota

This joint application form is the accepted means for initiating review of proposals that may affect a water resource (wetland, tributary, lake, etc.) in the State of Minnesota under state and federal regulatory programs. Applicants for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Public Waters permits **MUST** use the MPARS online permitting system for submitting applications to the DNR. Applicants can use the information entered into MPARS to substitute for completing parts of this joint application form (see the paragraph on MPARS at the end of the joint application form instructions for additional information). This form is only applicable to the water resource aspects of proposed projects under state and federal regulatory programs; other local applications and approvals may be required. Depending on the nature of the project and the location and type of water resources impacted, multiple authorizations may be required as different regulatory programs have different types of jurisdiction over different types of resources.

Regulatory Review Structure

Federal

The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the federal agency that regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (wetlands, tributaries, lakes, etc.) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and regulates work in navigable waters under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Applications are assigned to Corps project managers who are responsible for implementing the Corps regulatory program within a particular geographic area.

State

There are three state regulatory programs that regulate activities affecting water resources. The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulates most activities affecting wetlands. It is administered by local government units (LGUs) which can be counties, townships, cities, watershed districts, watershed management organizations or state agencies (on state-owned land). The Minnesota DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources issues permits for work in specially-designated public waters via the Public Waters Work Permit Program (DNR Public Waters Permits). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act certifies that discharges of dredged or fill material authorized by a federal permit or license comply with state water quality standards. One or more of these regulatory programs may be applicable to any one project.

Required Information

Prior to submitting an application, applicants are **strongly encouraged** to seek input from the Corps Project Manager and LGU staff to identify regulatory issues and required application materials for their proposed project. Project proponents can request a pre-application consultation with the Corps and LGU to discuss their proposed project by providing the information required in Sections 1 through 5 of this joint application form to facilitate a meaningful discussion about their project. Many LGUs provide a venue (such as regularly scheduled technical evaluation panel meetings) for potential applicants to discuss their projects with multiple agencies prior to submitting an application. Contact information is provided below.

The following bullets outline the information generally required for several common types of determinations/authorizations.

- For delineation approvals and/or jurisdictional determinations, submit Parts 1, 2 and 5, and Attachment A.
- For activities involving CWA/WCA exemptions, WCA no-loss determinations, and activities not requiring mitigation, submit Parts 1 through 5, and Attachment B.
- For activities requiring compensatory mitigation/replacement plan, submit Parts 1 thru 5, and Attachments C and D.
- For local road authority activities that qualify for the state's local road wetland replacement program, submit Parts 1 through 5, and Attachments C, D (if applicable), and E to both the Corps and the LGU.

Submission Instructions

Send the completed joint application form and all required attachments to:

U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Applications may be sent directly to the appropriate Corps Office. For a current listing of areas of responsibilities and contact information, visit the St. Paul District's website at:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx> and select "Minnesota" from the contact Information box.

Alternatively, applications may be sent directly to the St. Paul District Headquarters and the Corps will forward them to the appropriate field office.

Section 401 Water Quality Certification: Applicants do not need to submit the joint application form to the MPCA unless specifically requested. The MPCA will request a copy of the completed joint application form directly from an applicant when they determine an individual 401 water quality certification is required for a proposed project.

Wetland Conservation Act Local Government Unit: Send to the appropriate Local Government Unit. If necessary, contact your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office or visit the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) web site (www.bwsr.state.mn.us) to determine the appropriate LGU.

DNR Public Waters Permitting: In 2014 the DNR will begin using the Minnesota DNR Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS) for submission of Public Waters permit applications (<https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/mpars/public/authentication/login>).

Applicants for Public Waters permits **MUST** use the MPARS online permitting system for submitting applications to the DNR. To avoid duplication and to streamline the application process among the various resource agencies, applicants can use the information entered into MPARS to substitute for completing parts of this joint application form. The MPARS print/save function will provide the applicant with a copy of the Public Waters permit application which, at a minimum, will satisfy Parts one and two of this joint application. For certain types of activities, the MPARS application may also provide all of the necessary information required under Parts three and four of the joint application. However, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to make sure that the joint application contains all of the required information, including identification of all aquatic resources impacted by the project (see Part four of the joint application). After confirming that the MPARS application contains all of the required information in Parts one and two the Applicant may attach a copy to the joint application and fill in any missing information in the remainder of the joint application.

PART ONE: Applicant Information

If applicant is an entity (company, government entity, partnership, etc.), an authorized contact person must be identified. If the applicant is using an agent (consultant, lawyer, or other third party) and has authorized them to act on their behalf, the agent's contact information must also be provided.

Applicant/Landowner Name: Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC

Mailing Address: 8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200, Bloomington, MN 55437

Phone:

E-mail Address:

Authorized Contact (do not complete if same as above): Marc Morandi, National Grid Renewables

Mailing Address: 8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200, Bloomington, MN 55437

Phone: 937-554-4504

E-mail Address: mmorandi@nationalgridrenewables.com

Agent Name: Kathy Bellrichard, Tetra Tech

Mailing Address: 2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141, Bloomington, MN 55425

Phone: 612-643-2233

E-mail Address: kathy.bellrichard@tetrattech.com

PART TWO: Site Location Information

County: Martin

City/Township: Rutland Township

Parcel ID and/or Address:

Legal Description (Section, Township, Range): Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, and 21, T103N, R30W

Lat/Long (decimal degrees): 43.7279 / -94.4502 (Project center)

Attach a map showing the location of the site in relation to local streets, roads, highways.

Approximate size of site (acres) or if a linear project, length (feet): 1,508 acres

If you know that your proposal will require an individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you must provide the names and addresses of all property owners adjacent to the project site. This information may be provided by attaching a list to your application or by using block 25 of the Application for Department of the Army permit which can be obtained at:

http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/regulatory/RegulatoryDocs/engform_4345_2012oct.pdf

PART THREE: General Project/Site Information

If this application is related to a delineation approval, exemption determination, jurisdictional determination, or other correspondence submitted **prior to** this application then describe that here and provide the Corps of Engineers project number.

Describe the project that is being proposed, the project purpose and need, and schedule for implementation and completion. The project description must fully describe the nature and scope of the proposed activity including a description of all project elements that effect aquatic resources (wetland, lake, tributary, etc.) and must also include plans and cross section or profile drawings showing the location, character, and dimensions of all proposed activities and aquatic resource impacts.

Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC proposes to develop the Lake Charlotte Solar Project including installation of photovoltaic panel arrays, electrical equipment, access roads, and security fencing.

PART FOUR: Aquatic Resource Impact¹ Summary

If your proposed project involves a direct or indirect impact to an aquatic resource (wetland, lake, tributary, etc.) identify each impact in the table below. Include all anticipated impacts, including those expected to be temporary. Attach an overhead view map, aerial photo, and/or drawing showing all of the aquatic resources in the project area and the location(s) of the proposed impacts. Label each aquatic resource on the map with a reference number or letter and identify the impacts in the following table.

Aquatic Resource ID (as noted on overhead view)	Aquatic Resource Type (wetland, lake, tributary etc.)	Type of Impact (fill, excavate, drain, or remove vegetation)	Duration of Impact Permanent (P) or Temporary (T) ¹	Size of Impact ²	Overall Size of Aquatic Resource ³	Existing Plant Community Type(s) in Impact Area ⁴	County, Major Watershed #, and Bank Service Area # of Impact Area ⁵
							Lincoln, 24, 9
							Lincoln, 25, 9

¹If impacts are temporary; enter the duration of the impacts in days next to the "T". For example, a project with a temporary access fill that would be removed after 220 days would be entered "T (220)".

²Impacts less than 0.01 acre should be reported in square feet. Impacts 0.01 acre or greater should be reported as acres and rounded to the nearest 0.01 acre. Tributary impacts must be reported in linear feet of impact and an area of impact by indicating first the linear feet of impact along the flowline of the stream followed by the area impact in parentheses). For example, a project that impacts 50 feet of a stream that is 6 feet wide would be reported as 50 ft (300 square feet).

³This is generally only applicable if you are applying for a de minimis exemption under MN Rules 8420.0420 Subp. 8, otherwise enter "N/A".

⁴Use *Wetland Plants and Plant Community Types of Minnesota and Wisconsin* 3rd Ed. as modified in MN Rules 8420.0405 Subp. 2.

⁵Refer to Major Watershed and Bank Service Area maps in MN Rules 8420.0522 Subp. 7.

If any of the above identified impacts have already occurred, identify which impacts they are and the circumstances associated with each:

PART FIVE: Applicant Signature

☐ Check here if you are requesting a pre-application consultation with the Corps and LGU based on the information you have provided. Regulatory entities will not initiate a formal application review if this box is checked.

By signature below, I attest that the information in this application is complete and accurate. I further attest that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein.

Signature:  Date: 8/14/2023

I hereby authorize Kathy Bellrichard to act on my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this application.

¹ The term "impact" as used in this joint application form is a generic term used for disclosure purposes to identify activities that may require approval from one or more regulatory agencies. For purposes of this form it is not meant to indicate whether or not those activities may require mitigation/replacement.

Attachment A

Request for Delineation Review, Wetland Type Determination, or Jurisdictional Determination

By submission of the enclosed wetland delineation report, I am requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (Corps) and/or the Wetland Conservation Act Local Government Unit (LGU) provide me with the following (check all that apply):

☐ **Wetland Type Confirmation**

☒ **Delineation Concurrence.** Concurrence with a delineation is a written notification from the Corps and a decision from the LGU concurring, not concurring, or commenting on the boundaries of the aquatic resources delineated on the property. Delineation concurrences are generally valid for five years unless site conditions change. Under this request alone, the Corps will not address the jurisdictional status of the aquatic resources on the property, only the boundaries of the resources within the review area (including wetlands, tributaries, lakes, etc.).

☐ **Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination.** A preliminary jurisdictional determination (PJD) is a non-binding written indication from the Corps that waters, including wetlands, identified on a parcel may be waters of the United States. For purposes of computation of impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements, a permit decision made on the basis of a PJD will treat all waters and wetlands in the review area as if they are jurisdictional waters of the U.S. PJDs are advisory in nature and may not be appealed.

☐ **Approved Jurisdictional Determination.** An approved jurisdictional determination (AJD) is an official Corps determination that jurisdictional waters of the United States are either present or absent on the property. AJDs can generally be relied upon by the affected party for five years. An AJD may be appealed through the Corps administrative appeal process.

In order for the Corps and LGU to process your request, the wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, any approved Regional Supplements to the 1987 Manual, and the *Guidelines for Submitting Wetland Delineations in Minnesota* (2013).

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/DelineationJDGuidance.aspx>

Attachment B

Supporting Information for Applications Involving Exemptions, No Loss Determinations, and Activities Not Requiring Mitigation

Complete this part *if* you maintain that the identified aquatic resource impacts in Part Four do not require wetland replacement/compensatory mitigation OR *if* you are seeking verification that the proposed water resource impacts are either exempt from replacement or are not under CWA/WCA jurisdiction.

Identify the specific exemption or no-loss provision for which you believe your project or site qualifies:

Provide a detailed explanation of how your project or site qualifies for the above. Be specific and provide and refer to attachments and exhibits that support your contention. Applicants should refer to rules (e.g. WCA rules), guidance documents (e.g. BWSR guidance, Corps guidance letters/public notices), and permit conditions (e.g. Corps General Permit conditions) to determine the necessary information to support the application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the WCA LGU and Corps Project Manager prior to submitting an application if they are unsure of what type of information to provide:

Attachment C

Avoidance and Minimization

Project Purpose, Need, and Requirements. Clearly state the purpose of your project and need for your project. Also include a description of any specific requirements of the project as they relate to project location, project footprint, water management, and any other applicable requirements. Attach an overhead plan sheet showing all relevant features of the project (buildings, roads, etc.), aquatic resource features (impact areas noted) and construction details (grading plans, storm water management plans, etc.), referencing these as necessary:

Avoidance. Both the CWA and the WCA require that impacts to aquatic resources be avoided if practicable alternatives exist. Clearly describe all on-site measures considered to avoid impacts to aquatic resources and discuss at least two project alternatives that avoid all impacts to aquatic resources on the site. These alternatives may include alternative site plans, alternate sites, and/or not doing the project. Alternatives should be feasible and prudent (see MN Rules 8420.0520 Subp. 2 C). Applicants are encouraged to attach drawings and plans to support their analysis:

Minimization. Both the CWA and the WCA require that all unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Discuss all features of the proposed project that have been modified to minimize the impacts to water resources (see MN Rules 8420.0520 Subp. 4):

Off-Site Alternatives. An off-site alternatives analysis is not required for all permit applications. If you know that your proposal will require an individual permit (standard permit or letter of permission) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you may be required to provide an off-site alternatives analysis. The alternatives analysis is not required for a complete application but must be provided during the review process in order for the Corps to complete the evaluation of your application and reach a final decision. Applicants with questions about when an off-site alternatives analysis is required should contact their Corps Project Manager.

Attachment D

Replacement/Compensatory Mitigation

Complete this part *if* your application involves wetland replacement/compensatory mitigation not associated with the local road wetland replacement program. Applicants should consult Corps mitigation guidelines and WCA rules for requirements.

Replacement/Compensatory Mitigation via Wetland Banking. Complete this section if you are proposing to use credits from an existing wetland bank (with an account number in the State wetland banking system) for all or part of your replacement/compensatory mitigation requirements.

Wetland Bank Account #	County	Major Watershed #	Bank Service Area #	Credit Type (if applicable)	Number of Credits

Applicants should attach documentation indicating that they have contacted the wetland bank account owner and reached at least a tentative agreement to utilize the identified credits for the project. This documentation could be a signed purchase agreement, signed application for withdrawal of credits or some other correspondence indicating an agreement between the applicant and the bank owner. *However, applicants are advised not to enter into a binding agreement to purchase credits until the mitigation plan is approved by the Corps and LGU.*

Project-Specific Replacement/Permittee Responsible Mitigation. Complete this section if you are proposing to pursue actions (restoration, creation, preservation, etc.) to generate wetland replacement/compensatory mitigation credits for this proposed project.

WCA Action Eligible for Credit ¹	Corps Mitigation Compensation Technique ²	Acres	Credit % Requested	Credits Anticipated ³	County	Major Watershed #	Bank Service Area #

¹Refer to the name and subpart number in MN Rule 8420.0526.

²Refer to the technique listed in *St. Paul District Policy for Wetland Compensatory Mitigation in Minnesota*.

³If WCA and Corps crediting differs, then enter both numbers and distinguish which is Corps and which is WCA.

Explain how each proposed action or technique will be completed (e.g. wetland hydrology will be restored by breaking the tile.....) and how the proposal meets the crediting criteria associated with it. Applicants should refer to the Corps mitigation policy language, WCA rule language, and all associated Corps and WCA guidance related to the action or technique:

Attach a site location map, soils map, recent aerial photograph, and any other maps to show the location and other relevant features of each wetland replacement/mitigation site. Discuss in detail existing vegetation, existing landscape features, land use (on and surrounding the site), existing soils, drainage systems (if present), and water sources and movement. Include a topographic map showing key features related to hydrology and water flow (inlets, outlets, ditches, pumps, etc.):

Attach a map of the existing aquatic resources, associated delineation report, and any documentation of regulatory review or approval. Discuss as necessary:

For actions involving construction activities, attach construction plans and specifications with all relevant details. Discuss and provide documentation of a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the site to define existing conditions, predict project outcomes, identify specific project performance standards and avoid adverse offsite impacts. Plans and specifications should be prepared by a licensed engineer following standard engineering practices. Discuss anticipated construction sequence and timing:

For projects involving vegetation restoration, provide a vegetation establishment plan that includes information on site preparation, seed mixes and plant materials, seeding/planting plan (attach seeding/planting zone map), planting/seeding methods, vegetation maintenance, and an anticipated schedule of activities:

For projects involving construction or vegetation restoration, identify and discuss goals and specific outcomes that can be determined for credit allocation. Provide a proposed credit allocation table tied to outcomes:

Provide a five-year monitoring plan to address project outcomes and credit allocation:

Discuss and provide evidence of ownership or rights to conduct wetland replacement/mitigation on each site:

Quantify all proposed wetland credits and compare to wetland impacts to identify a proposed wetland replacement ratio. Discuss how this replacement ratio is consistent with Corps and WCA requirements:

By signature below, the applicant attests to the following (only required if application involves project-specific/permittee responsible replacement):

- All proposed replacement wetlands were not:
 - Previously restored or created under a prior approved replacement plan or permit
 - Drained or filled under an exemption during the previous 10 years
 - Restored with financial assistance from public conservation programs
 - Restored using private funds, other than landowner funds, unless the funds are paid back with interest to the individual or organization that funded the restoration and the individual or organization notifies the local government unit in writing that the restored wetland may be considered for replacement.
- The wetland will be replaced before or concurrent with the actual draining or filling of a wetland.
- An irrevocable bank letter of credit, performance bond, or other acceptable security will be provided to guarantee successful completion of the wetland replacement.
- Within 30 days of either receiving approval of this application or beginning work on the project, I will record the Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants on the deed for the property on which the replacement wetland(s) will be located and submit proof of such recording to the LGU and the Corps.

Applicant or Representative:

Title:

Signature: _____

Date:

Attachment E

Local Road Replacement Program Qualification

Complete this part **if** you are a local road authority (county highway department, city transportation department, etc.) seeking verification that your project (or a portion of your project) qualifies for the MN Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP). If portions of your project are not eligible for the LGRWRP, then Attachment D should be completed and attached to your application.

Discuss how your project is a repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of a currently serviceable road to meet state/federal design or safety standards/requirements. Applicants should identify the specific road deficiencies and how the project will rectify them. Attach supporting documents and information as applicable:

Provide a map, plan, and/or aerial photograph accurately depicting wetland boundaries within the project area. Attach associated delineation/determination report or otherwise explain the method(s) used to identify and delineate wetlands. Also attach and discuss any type of review or approval of wetland boundaries or other aspects of the project by a member or members of the local Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) or Corps of Engineers:

In the table below, identify only the wetland impacts from Part 4 that the road authority has determined should qualify for the LGRWRP.

Wetland Impact ID (as noted on overhead view)	Type of Impact (fill, excavate, drain)	Size of Impact (square feet or acres to 0.01)	Existing Plant Community Type(s) in Impact Area ¹	County, Major Watershed #, and Bank Service Area # of Impact ²

¹Use *Wetland Plants and Plant Community Types of Minnesota and Wisconsin* 3rd Ed. as modified in MN Rules 8420.0405 Subp. 2.

²Refer to Major Watershed and Bank Service Area maps in MN Rules 8420.0522 Subp. 7.

Discuss the feasibility of providing onsite compensatory mitigation/replacement for important site-specific wetland functions:

Please note that under the MN Wetland Conservation Act, projects with less than 10,000 square feet of wetland impact are allowed to commence prior to submission of this notification so long as the notification is submitted within 30 days of the impact. The Clean Water Act has no such provision and requires that permits be obtained prior to any regulated discharges into water of the United States. To avoid potential unauthorized activities, road authorities must, at a minimum, provide a complete application to the Corps and receive a permit prior to commencing work.

By signature below, the road authority attests that they have followed the process in MN Rules 8420.0544 and have determined that the wetland impacts identified in Part 4 are eligible for the MN Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program.

Road Authority Representative:

Title:

Signature: _____

Date:

Technical Evaluation Panel Concurrence:

Project Name and/or Number:

TEP member:

Representing:

Concur with road authority's determination of qualification for the local road wetland replacement program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____

Date:

TEP member:

Representing:

Concur with road authority's determination of qualification for the local road wetland replacement program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____

Date:

TEP member:

Representing:

Concur with road authority's determination of qualification for the local road wetland replacement program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____

Date:

TEP member:

Representing:

Concur with road authority's determination of qualification for the local road wetland replacement program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____

Date:

Upon approval and signature by the TEP, application must be sent to: **Wetland Bank Administration
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

From: [Dustin Benes](#)
To: [Hansel, John \(BWSR\)](#); [Tyler Cowing](#); [Hannah Neusch](#); [Doorenbos, Ryan D \(DNR\)](#); [Marc Morandi](#); [Bellrichard, Kathy](#); [USACE Requests_MN@usace.army.mil](#); [Pam Flitter](#)
Subject: [External] Martin County WCA NOD, Lake Charlotte Solar LLC
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 10:46:54 AM
Attachments: [Lake Charlotte Solar LLC NOD.pdf](#)
[Delineation area & NWI.pdf](#)
[Lake Charlotte Solar MN joint appl form 2023-08-14.pdf](#)

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

Good morning everyone,

Please see the attached Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision for Lake Charlotte Solar LLC. This application was for Wetland Boundary and Type only, no specific project identified. Also attached is the Joint Application form and the delineation area surveyed maps. The area surveyed is in Rutland Township sections 7,8,16, 17, 18, and 21 in Martin County. The total area surveyed equaled 1,508 acres.

Thank you

Dustin Benes

District Technician

Martin Soil and Water Conservation District

923 N State St., Suite 110

Fairmont MN 56031

507-235-6680 ext. 105

Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision

Local Government Unit: Martin SWCD	County: Martin County
Applicant Name: Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC	Applicant Representative: Kathy Bellrichard, Tetra Tech
Project Name: Lake Charlotte Solar	LGU Project No. (if any):
Date Complete Application Received by LGU: 8/15/2023	
Date of LGU Decision: 9/18/2023	
Date this Notice was Sent: 9/18/2023	

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):	Joint Application form and Delineation Area & wetland and waters survey maps
☒ Summary: Tetra Tech submitted a Wetland Boundary/Type application for Lake Charlotte Solar, LLC. The LGU and TEP concur with the boundaries of the aquatic resources delineated on the property. Review of the 1,508 acre site was completed by desktop. Agriculture crops are still currently in the fields. Areas of concern were identified in the survey.	

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)

--

Notice Distribution (include name)

Required on all notices:

☒ SWCD TEP Member: Dustin Benes	☒ BWSR TEP Member: John Hansel
☒ LGU TEP Member (if different than LGU contact): Tyler Cowing and Hannah Neusch	
☒ DNR Representative: Ryan Doorenbos	
☐ Watershed District or Watershed Mgmt. Org.:	
☒ Applicant: Marc Morandi	☒ Agent/Consultant: Tetra Tech, Kathy Bellrichard

Optional or As Applicable:

☒ Corps of Engineers: USACE_Requests_MN@usace.army.mil
☐ BWSR Wetland Mitigation Coordinator (required for bank plan applications only):
☒ Members of the Public (notice only): Martin County Planning and Zoning ☐ Other:

Signature: 	Date: 
--	---

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.