

**NEW DECISION OPTION**  
**Proposed by Commissioner Sieben**  
**December 18, 2025**

DOCKET NUMBER IP7115/GS-23-423, IP7115/ESS-24-283, IP7115/TL-23-425

ANALYST Cezar Panait

DATE/TIME SUBMITTED December 17, 2025

TITLE New Proposed Decision Option – Tree Replacement Plan

ATTACHMENT No

SUBJECT(s): In the Matter of the Application of Benton Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the 100 MW Solar Energy Generating System, a 100 MW Battery Energy Storage System, and a Route Permit for a 0.5-mile 115 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line associated with the Benton Solar Project in Benton County, MN

**Decision Option 18.5** Tree Replacement Plan

Amend the site and the route permits to include a requirement that the Permittee shall, in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District, develop a tree replacement plan to replace any trees that are removed for the construction of the Project and file the plan with the Commission at least 14 days before the pre-construction meeting. Replacement trees may be planted on public lands with the permission of the public entity/owner.