

**Notice of Gopher State Solar, LLC's
Filing of Site Permit Application
with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
MPUC Docket No. IP7127/GS-24-106**



August 19, 2024

To: Persons Interested in the Proposed Construction of an up to 200 megawatt alternating current photovoltaic solar energy generating facility and associated facilities known as the Gopher State Solar Project in Renville County, Minnesota; the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities General List; Local Officials; Tribes; and Property Owners

Gopher State Solar, LLC (Gopher State Solar), an independent power producer, is proposing to construct and operate an up to 200 megawatt (MW) alternating current photovoltaic solar energy generating facility and associated facilities known as the Gopher State Solar Project in Renville County, Minnesota (the Gopher State Solar Project, or the Project).

This notice provides formal notice that Gopher State Solar filed an Application for a Site Permit (Application) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the Project (MPUC Docket No. IP7127/GS-24-106) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. This notice also provides information on the Project and the permitting process, as well as information on how to register your name with the Commission on the Project contact list to ensure that you receive future notices.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is located in Kingman, Osceola, and Bird Island Townships in Renville County, Minnesota. The Project is situated on approximately 1,645 acres in size, 977 acres of which are currently designated to host Project infrastructure.

The Project will include: photovoltaic solar modules; single-axis trackers; inverters; an electrical collection system; an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility; electrical cables, conduit, switchgear, and metering equipment; step-up transformers; supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system; access roads; a meteorological tower; stormwater management system; security fencing and gates; a Project substation and interconnection facilities; a short (<1,500 ft) aboveground 230 kV generation interconnect (gen-tie) line; ancillary equipment or buildings as necessary; temporary facilities; and other infrastructure typical of a solar farm. The Project's above ground 230 kV gen-tie line is needed to interconnect the Project to the grid.

The accompanying map outlines the location of the Project.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Gopher State Solar has, through voluntary agreements, secured 100 percent of the private real estate rights necessary to construct the Project. Accordingly, Gopher State Solar's current and future plans do not include the use of eminent domain. If additional property rights are required for the Project, Gopher State Solar will seek to negotiate either a lease or easement agreement with each affected landowner.

SITE PERMIT PROCESS

A Site Permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216E) and Minn. R. parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a Site Permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process. The Application will be considered by the Commission under the alternative permitting process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Commission has up to six months from the time the application is accepted as complete to process and make a decision on the Site Permit according to Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 7, and Minn. R. 7850.3900, subp. 1. The Commission may extend this time limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.

Within 60 days after the Commission accepts the application as complete, the Commission and the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) unit will hold a public information and scoping meeting to provide information and seek comments from the public. At this meeting, members of the public may comment on the scope of the environmental assessment and/or propose additional issues for consideration in the environmental assessment that the EERA will prepare. Once the public meeting is scheduled, notice of the meeting will be provided to persons whose names are on the Project contact list and will be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the Project area.

After the environmental assessment has been completed, EERA will make the document available for public review and a public hearing will be held on the Application. Any person may speak at the public hearing, present documentary evidence, ask questions of Gopher State Solar's representatives and EERA staff and submit comments.

Further details regarding upcoming meetings and comment periods on the application will be provided by Gopher State Solar, EERA, and/or the Commission in the future.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

A Certificate of Need is not required from the Commission for the Project. The Project is exempt from Certificate of Need requirements pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 8.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on the Project mailing lists, contact:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Craig Janezich at craig.janezich@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2203 or (800) 657-3782
www.mn.gov/puc

Minnesota Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Jessica Livingston at jessica.livingston@state.mn.us or (651) 539-1823 or (800) 657-3710
www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

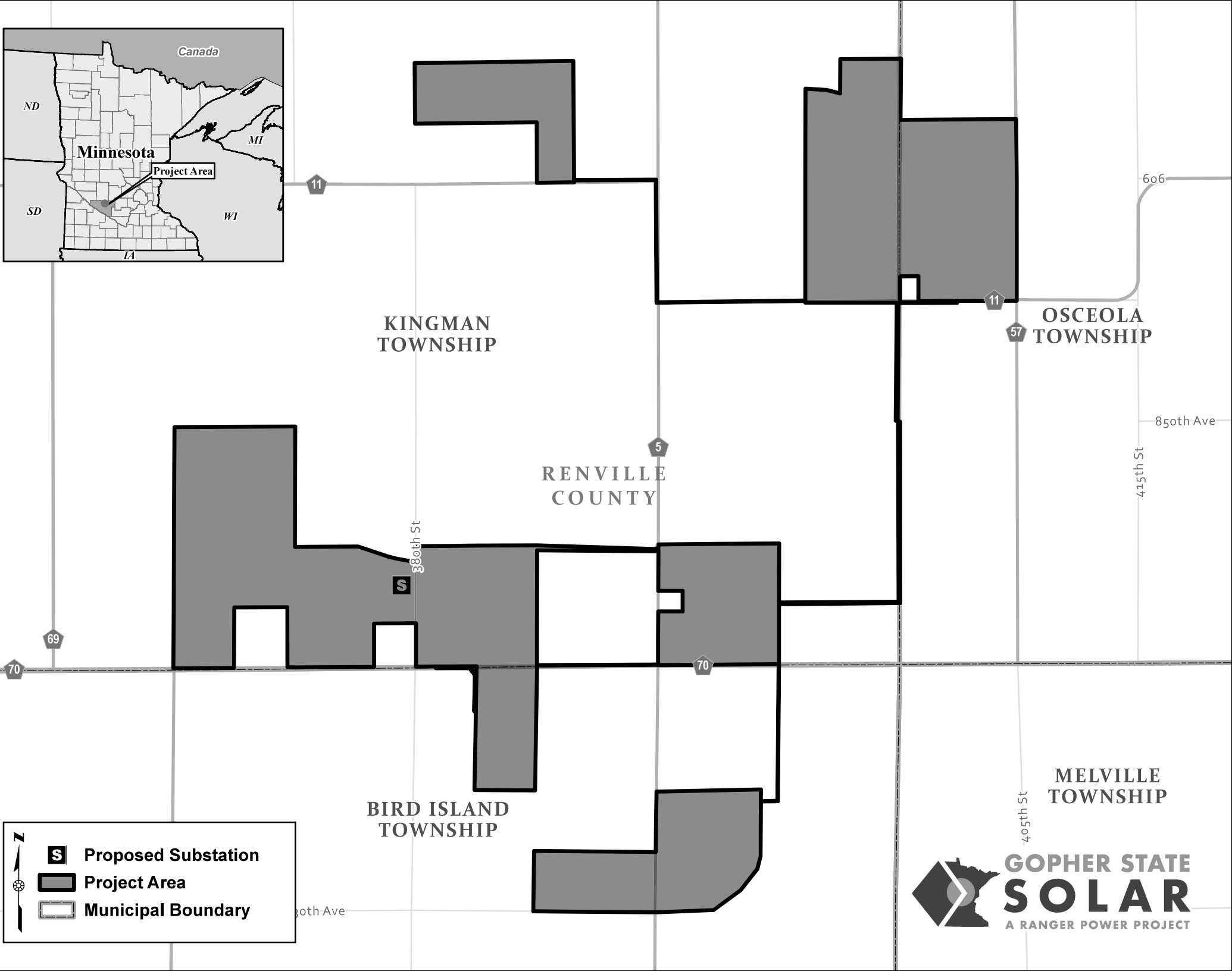
1. **Sign up for the Project Mailing List.** To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call (651) 201-2246 with the docket number (IP7127/GS-24-106), your name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
2. **Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the dockets visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to eDockets* and follow the prompts.




Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Current information about the Project and Application is available online at Gopher State Solar's Project website: <https://www.GopherStateSolar.com>.

A copy of the Application is also available for review at Bird Island Public Library, 260 S Main St, PO Box 217, Bird Island, MN 55310.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Rosanne Koneval at (908) 797-6702 or by email at rosanne@rangerpower.com.



 **S** Proposed Substation
 Project Area
 Municipal Boundary

 **GOPHER STATE
SOLAR**
A RANGER POWER PROJECT

**In the Matter of the Application of Gopher
State Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the up
to 200 MW Gopher State Solar Project in
Renville County, MN**

MPUC Docket No. IP7127/GS-24-106

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Alicia P. LaValla certifies that on the 19th day of August 2024 she e-filed on behalf of Gopher State Solar, LLC a true and correct copy of the **Project Notice Under 7850.2100 for the Gopher State Solar Project, and Certificate of Service** with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission via eDockets (www.edockets.state.mn.us). Said documents were also served upon the persons as designated on the Official Service List and the General Service Lists, as applicable, maintained by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and as attached hereto.

Dated this 19th day of August 2024

/s/ Alicia P. LaValla
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400
83336348

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-106_GS-24-106
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_24-106_GS-24-106
Ryan	Cox	rcox@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-106_GS-24-106
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-106_GS-24-106
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_24-106_GS-24-106
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_24-106_GS-24-106

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL__INTERNAL names-DOC
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__INTERNAL names-DOC
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL__INTERNAL names-DOC
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL__INTERNAL names-DOC
Nicole	Westling	nicole.westling@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Suite 280 St Paul, MN 55001	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__INTERNAL names-DOC

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David	Bell	david.bell@state.mn.us	Department of Health	POB 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Kate	Fairman	kate.fairman@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 551554032	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us		Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Kelly	Gragg Johnson	ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us	MN Historical Society Preservation Office	345 Kellogg Blvd. W., Level A St. Paul, MN 55102-1906	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Chris	Green	Chris.Green@state.mn.us	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	504 Fairgrounds Rd Suite 200 Marshall, MN 56258	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Todd	Green	Todd.A.Green@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry	443 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul, MN 55155-4341	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Chad	Konickson	chad.konickson@usace.army.mil	U.S.Army Corps of Engineers	180 5th St # 700 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Stacy	Kotch Egstad	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Dawn S	Marsh	dawn_marsh@fws.gov	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Offices 4101 American Blvd E Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
John	Reynolds	John.Reynolds@state.mn.us	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	161 St. Anthony Avenue, Ste. 940 St. Paul, MN 55103	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps

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Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Jayme	Trusty	execdir@swrdc.org	SWRDC	2401 Broadway Ave #1 Slayton, MN 56172	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Jen	Tyler	tyler.jennifer@epa.gov	US Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Planning & Evaluation Unit 77 W Jackson Blvd. Mailstop B-19J Chicago, IL 60604-3590	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Alan	Whipple	sa.property@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department Of Revenue	Property Tax Division 600 N. Robert Street St. Paul, MN 551463340	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Jonathan	Wolfgram	Jonathan.Wolfgram@state.mn.us	Office of Pipeline Safety	445 Minnesota St Ste 147 Woodbury, MN 55125	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps

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PUC	CAO	consumer.puc@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Consumer Affairs Office 121 7th Place E Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Bill	Cook	bcook@rpu.org	Rochester Public Utilities	4000 East River Road NE Rochester, MN 55906	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
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George	Crocker	gwillc@nawo.org	North American Water Office	5093 Keats Avenue Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List

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Larry	Hartman	Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Valerie	Herring	vherring@taftlaw.com	Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP	2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Scott	Johnson	Scott.Johnson@ci.medina.mn.us	City of Medina	2052 County Road 24 Medina, MN 55340-9790	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Tom	Karas	tomskaras@gmail.com		3171 309th Ave NW Cambridge, MN 55008	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
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Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Carl	Strohm	cjsmg@sbcglobal.net	SBC Global	105 East Edgewood Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Todd	Tadych	ttadych@atcllc.com	American Transmission Company LLC	5303 Fen Oak Dr Madison, WI 53718	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Caren	Warner	caren.warner@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Elizabeth	Wefel	eawefel@flaherty-hood.com	Flaherty & Hood, P.A.	525 Park St Ste 470 Saint Paul, MN 55103	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List
Deanna	White	mncwa@cleanwater.org	Clean Water Action & Water Fund of MN	330 S 2nd Ave Ste 420 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__PPSA General List