



August 5, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Subject: Benton Solar Project – Docket Numbers 23-423; 24-283; 23-425**

Dear Mr. Hicks,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on PUC Docket Numbers 23-423, 24-283, and 23-425. Minnesota AgriGrowth is a broad statewide coalition of farm and commodity organizations, agribusinesses, allied industries, and community leaders committed to advancing agriculture and food in Minnesota.

We are writing to respectfully urge your support and prompt permitting of NextEra Energy Resources' (NEER) "Benton Solar, LLC" project, which includes up to 100 MW of Solar, Battery Storage, and a 0.5-mile transmission line, currently under consideration. A vast majority of the land for this proposed Benton Solar project is working farmland. This project is preserving farmland that would likely be converted into housing or industrial developments during the lease of the land. AgriGrowth appreciates the thoughtful restoration plan to return these acres to working farmland at the end of the lease.

The Benton Solar project will provide much-needed energy to our region, utilizing clean, renewable solar power. As Minnesota's agriculture and food processing sectors continue to adopt new technologies and innovations that require more energy, Minnesota must have a reliable renewable energy source to meet our state's clean energy and decarbonization goals. The Benton Solar project and other NextEra projects supporting the Great River Energy clean energy goals are significant for our state and for Greater Minnesota communities.

We encourage you to permit this project without delay, and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darin Broton, Executive Director

**From:** [Hicks, Logan \(He/Him/His\) \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Panait, Cezar M \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Benton Solar  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:28:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[AgriGrowth Benton Project.pdf](#)  
[Outlook-0pm0elq0.png](#)

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Hello,

Please see the attached comment, sent to me from Darin Broton, for Benton Solar.

Thanks,

Logan Hicks

Energy Infrastructure Permitting

[Public Utilities Commission](#)

Phone: 651-539-1067

121 7<sup>th</sup> Place E, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101



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**From:** Darin Broton <[dbroton@agrigrowth.org](mailto:dbroton@agrigrowth.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 5, 2025 9:38 PM  
**To:** Hicks, Logan (He/Him/His) (PUC) <[Logan.M.Hicks@state.mn.us](mailto:Logan.M.Hicks@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Benton Solar

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Mr. Hicks

Attached, you'll find my comment letter for the Benton Solar project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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