

From: [MN_PUC_PublicAdvisor](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Misuse of farmland - Renville County landowner
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 1:20:40 PM

Please post to docket 23-477.

Thank you,

Craig

From: Ann Brazil <annmbrazil@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 1:10 PM
To: MN_PUC_PublicAdvisor <publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us>; Staff, CAO (PUC) <consumer.puc@state.mn.us>; *AGO_Attorney General <Attorney.General@state.mn.us>
Subject: Misuse of farmland - Renville County landowner

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to call attention to the lack of communication and potential improper use of valuable farmland. I have been informed the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Birch Coulee Solar LLC, and Xcel Energy's MN Energy Connection Project are not communicating with one another and as a result not making well laid out plans or minimizing the use of valuable farmland.

In talking to Mike McTighe from WBS, who is working on behalf of Xcel Energy to gain "Right of Entry" to my land he relayed he was not aware of the Birch Coulee Solar LLC project, which is being planned adjacent to my property. I own three parcels of land in Renville County (03-007777-00, 03-00930-00, 03-00940-00) where Right of Entry has been requested. The latter two parcels are adjacent to land that has been secured by the Birch Coulee Solar LLC for the development of a solar field.

I have tried and need to point out that the adjacent land/solar field could serve a dual purpose: both housing of the solar panels and the transmission poles and lines. I am told they require a 75' easement and as a result they are not only difficult to farm around but the process to survey the land "for a period of up to two years" will cause additional disruption to farming. When such a simple solution exists: to position the poles/lines a few feet to the East, on land that will no longer be farmed, why wouldn't the logical approach be to do so. Why take high quality, hard to obtain farmland away from farmers when there is a better option literally feet away?

My request is to place these lines a few feet to the east, by removing their footprint from parcels 03-00930-00, 03-00940-00 and leveraging parcels 03-00920-00, 03-00950-00, and 03-00960-00 which are part of the proposed solar site. I will await your response before signing any "Right of Entry" to my land.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 952-546-6962 or email me at annmbrazil@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Ann M. Brazil Johnson