

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: February 22, 2021

In the Matter of the Application of Louise Solar Project, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota

In the Matter of the Application of Louise Solar Project, LLC for a Site Permit for the 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number(s): IP7039/CN-20-646 and IP7039/GS-20-647

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes **March 8, 2021 at 4:30pm**

Reply comment period closes **March 15, 2021 at 4:30pm**

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics Open for Comment:

- Does the certificate of need application contain the information required under Minn. R. 7849.0220, subp. 1?
- Does the site permit application contain the information required under Minn. R. 7850.3100?
- Should the application(s) be evaluated using the Commission's informal process or referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceedings?
- Should an advisory task force be appointed for the site permit application?
- Should the site permit application be processed jointly with the certificate of need application (i.e., public meetings, environmental review, and public hearings)?
- Are there any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the application(s)?

Background:

On February 11-12, 2021, Louise Solar Project, LLC, (Louise Solar), a wholly owned subsidiary of EDF Renewables, Inc (EDFR), filed a certificate of need (CN) application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for its proposed 50-megawatt (MW) solar energy generating system. On February 11-12, 2021, Louise Solar filed a site permit application for the project.

The proposed project area is comprised of approximately 613 acres of agricultural land located in Lodi and Adams Townships in Mower County, of which the final project design is expected to occupy approximately 325 acres. The excess acreage allows for planned buffers and flexibility in overall design. The primary components of the facility would include photovoltaic panels affixed to a linear axis tracking rack system, inverters, step-up transformers, electrical cables and conduits, electrical cabinets, access roads, a 34.5/161- kilovolt (kV) step-up substation with metering and switching gear, security fencing, below-ground or above-ground electrical collection and communication lines, an operation and maintenance facility, parking lot, up to four weather stations, a 161-kV overhead transmission line (under 1,000 feet in length), a supervisory control and data acquisition system, and temporary laydown areas. The project would interconnect at the existing ITC Midwest 161 kV Adams Substation in the project area.

Louise Solar Project, LLC has not secured a Power Purchase Agreement for the project. However, it has secured a Generator Interconnection Agreement with Midcontinent Independent System Operator dated February 22, 2019, which will allow it to interconnect to the transmission system. Louise Solar indicated that the power produced by this Project is needed to meet the growing commercial and Industrial demand for additional renewable energy resources, to accommodate the Solar Energy Standard for public utilities set forth in Minnesota Statutes, and to meet other clean energy goals and requirements in Minnesota and neighboring states.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Submit Public Comments:

Online: Visit mn.gov/puc, select Comment and follow the prompts

Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul MN 55101

Please use the Commission’s docket numbers (20-646 and 20-647) in all correspondence.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission’s website at mn.gov/puc, select *eDockets*, enter the year (20) and the docket number (646 or 647), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Cezar Panait, at Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207 or Michael Kaluzniak, Public Advisor at Mike.Kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Consumers with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Nancy Jia, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Docket Number

IP7039/CN-20-646

IP7039/GS-20-647

Dated this **22nd** day of **February, 2021**

/s/ Nancy Jia

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000 Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
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_20-646_CN-20-646
Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	200 South Sixth Street Suite 4000 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Kate	Fairman	kate.frantz@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 551554032	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us		Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
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_20-646_CN-20-646
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Ray	Kirsch	Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Susan	Medhaug	Susan.medhaug@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 280, 85 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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_20-646_CN-20-646
Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Jacob	Salisbury	Jacob.Salisbury@edf-re.com	EDF Renewables	10 NE 2nd St Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55413	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@edf-re.com	EDF Renewable Energy	10 Second Street NE Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55410	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
David	Weetman	david.weetman@westwoodps.com	Westwood Professional Services	12701 Whitewater Dr Ste 300 Minnetonka, MN 55343	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646
Scott	Wentzell	scott.wentzell@edf-re.com	EDF Renewables	10 NE 2nd St Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55413	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20-646

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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_20-647_GS-20-647
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_20-647_GS-20-647
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	200 South Sixth St Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-647_GS-20-647
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_20-647_GS-20-647
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_20-647_GS-20-647

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Sarah	Beimers	sarah.beimers@state.mn.us	Department of Administration - State Historic Preservation Office	50 Sherburne Avenue Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
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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
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint 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
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

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Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Agency Reps
Kenneth	Westlake	westlake.kenneth@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
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