#### NOTICE OF FILING OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND SITE PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE LOUISE SOLAR PROJECT WITH THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

TO: Persons interested in the proposed 50 MW large electric power generating plant in Mower County, Minnesota; the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities General List; Local Officials; and Property Owners

#### RE: Notice of Louise Solar Project, LLC's Filing of Certificate of Need and Site Permit applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC Docket Nos. IP-7039/CN-20-646 and IP-7039/WS-20-647)

This notice provides formal notice that Louise Solar Project, LLC (Louise Solar), a wholly owned subsidiary of EDF Renewables, Inc., filed Certificate of Need and Site Permit applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on February 11, 2021 for a 50 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generating facility and associated systems in Mower County, Minnesota (Project). This notice also provides information on the Project and the permitting processes, 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**

The Project footprint spans approximately 613 acres of landowner signed land, of which approximately 325 acres is currently proposed for use, in portions of Lodi and Adams Townships in Mower County, Minnesota.

The Project will include solar panels and racking, inverters, security fencing, a substation, O&M building, electrical collection and communication lines, stormwater basins, laydown areas, access roads, and up to four weather stations.

The accompanying map outlines the location of the Project.

### **PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Louise Solar has, through voluntary agreements, secured 100 percent of the private real estate rights necessary to construct the Project. Accordingly, Louise Solar's current and future plans do not include the use of eminent domain. If additional property rights are required for the Project, Louise Solar will seek to negotiate a voluntary easement agreement with each affected landowner. If Louise Solar and the landowner are unable to negotiate an easement for the right-of-way, Louise Solar reserves the right to evaluate whether the use of eminent domain is appropriate under Minn. Stat. Ch. 117, based on specific circumstances.

### **CERTIFICATE OF NEED**

Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243, subdivision 2, states that "no large energy facility" shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a Certificate of Need (CN). Louise Solar filed its CN application with the Commission on February 11, 2021.

The Commission will consider the CN application pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243 and implementing rules, Minn. R. Ch. 7849. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for

various stages of the process. Per statute, the Commission shall approve or deny the CN within twelve (12) months of the CN application.

The Commission will hold a public meeting on the CN application. The Commission will provide notice of this meeting to persons whose names are on the Project contact list, those listed on a general service list, local government officials in the area of the proposed Project, and those persons who own property adjacent to any site or within any route affected by the proposed Project. At this meeting, the public will be afforded an opportunity to ask questions and present comments and suggest alternative and possible impacts to be evaluated in the environmental report.

## SITE PERMIT PROCESS

A Site Permit (SP) from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216E) and implementing rules in Minn. R. parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process.

The Commission will consider the SP application pursuant to the alternative permitting process outlined in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. 7850.2800 through 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 permit according to Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 7 and Minnesota Rule 7850.3900, subp. 1, but that time period is extended up to 12 months from the time the application is accepted as complete because the Project also requires a CN before it can receive a SP and the process for a CN is up to 12 months.

Within sixty (60) days after the Commission accepts the SP application as complete, the Commission will schedule a public meeting to provide information to the public about the Project and to afford the public an opportunity to present comments and ask questions. At this meeting, members of the public may comment on the scope of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that the Department of Commerce, Energy, Environmental Review and Analysis unit (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.

Once EERA completes the draft EA, EERA will make the document available for public review by placing a copy of the document in a public library or other governmental office in each county where the Project is proposed, and will hold an informational meeting to provide for the opportunity to comment on the draft EA. A period for written comments will also be provided.

After the draft EA has been completed, a public hearing (conducted by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings) will be held. Any person may speak at the public hearing, present documentary evidence, ask questions of Louise Solar representatives and EERA staff, and submit comments.

Louise Solar has requested that the Commission jointly process the two applications.

Further details regarding upcoming meetings and comment periods on the two applications will be provided by Louise Solar and the Commission in the future.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

The Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) will hold a public information and Environmental Assessment scoping meeting on the Applications at a future date. Please look for future notices providing additional details regarding the meeting.

# HOW TO LEARN MORE

Department of Commerce Project Website: http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

**Full Case Record:** All documents filed in these dockets are available on the Commission's website at <u>https://mn.gov/puc/</u>. Select "eDockets", and under the category of "Docket Number", enter the year (20) and docket number (646 for the CN and 647 for the SP), then select "Search".

**Subscribe to the Docket:** The best way to stay informed is to "subscribe" to receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the docket:

- 1. Follow the steps above to access the full case record.
- 2. Select box under Subscribe and click on Subscribe.
- 3. Type your e-mail address.
- 4. For Type of Subscription, select Docket Number.
- 5. For Docket Number, select 20 in the first box and type 646 for the CN or 647 for the SP in the second box.
- 6. Select Add to List.
- 7. Select Save.

**Project Mailing List:** Contact the Public Advisor (see below)

**Public Libraries:** The CN and SP applications are available for review at the following public library:

• Austin Public Library, 323 4th Ave NE, Austin, MN 55912

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** The CN is being reviewed under Minn. Stat. § 216B.243 and Minn. R. Ch 7849. The SP is eligible for consideration by the Commission under the alternative permitting process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. 7850.2800 through 7850.3900. Minnesota Statutes and Rules are available at <a href="https://www.revisor.mn.gov/">https://www.revisor.mn.gov/</a>

# **PROJECT CONTACTS**

# Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Michael Kaluzniak at publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2257 or 1 (800) 657-3782

### **Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst**

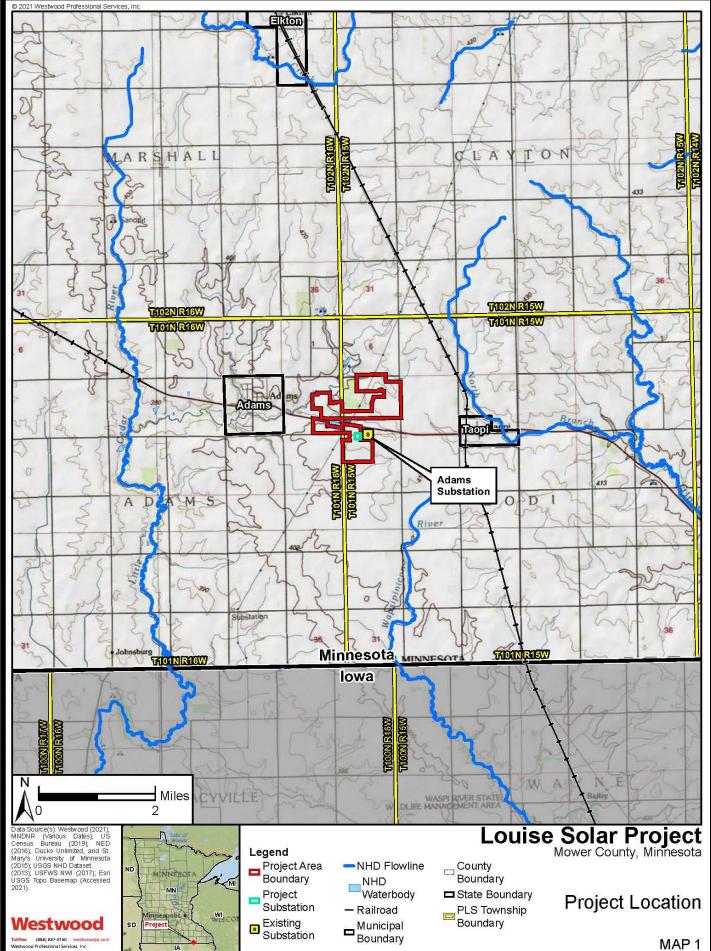
Cezar Panait at <u>cezar.panait@state.mn.us</u> or (651) 201-2207 or 1 (800) 657-3782

# **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**

Jamie MacAlister at jamie.macalister@state.mn.us or (651) 539-1775

If you wish to receive written notices of the Project milestones regarding the environmental review process, including notice of the availability of the draft EA, please sign up for the Project contact list by contacting the Public Advisor indicated above.

Should you require further information pertaining to the Project, or to the CN or SP applications, please contact Louise Solar's representative, Scott Wentzell, at <u>Scott.Wentzell@edf-re.com</u> or (612) 486-4523.



aprx

#### **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, Alicia P. Jones, hereby declare that on the 12th day of February 2021 I served a true and correct copy of the **Notice of Filing of Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications for the Louise Solar Project** to all parties listed on the attached service lists by electronic filing or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MPUC Docket No. IP-7039/CN-20-646 MPUC Docket No. IP-7039/GS-20-647 PPSA General List 7850.2100-1A Permit Filings

Dated this 12th day of February 2021

/s/ Alicia P. Jones

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.st ate.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
Kari	Howe	kari.howe@state.mn.us	DEED	332 Minnesota St, #E200 1ST National Bank Blo St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service g	No	OFF_SL_20-646_CN-20- 646
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.stat e.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.m n.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@westwood ps.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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Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000 Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-647_GS-20- 647
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.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.stat e.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 PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-647_GS-20- 647

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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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Margaret	Rheude	Margaret_Rheude@fws.go v	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office 4101 American Blvd. I Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SLPPSA General List
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Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.m n.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SLPPSA 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_SLPPSA General List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Deanna	White		Clean Water Action & Water Fund of MN	330 S 2nd Ave Ste 420 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service		SPL_SLPPSA General List