

ELK CREEK SOLAR, LLC

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMISSION DOCKET NOS. IP-7009/GS-19-495 and IP-7009/CN-19-351

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JORDAN BURMEISTER

JULY 17, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Jordan Burmeister, and my place of business is 93525 U.S. Highway 71, Windom, Minnesota 56101.

Q. With whom are you employed and what is your position?

A. I am employed by Geronimo Energy, LLC (Geronimo), as a Senior Project Manager.

Q. Please briefly describe your educational background and experience.

A. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 2008. I have worked in the renewable energy industry for more than 11 years. I am currently a Senior Developer, Market Lead for Geronimo and have been with Geronimo since 2009. Prior to joining Geronimo, I was a Land Acquisition Assistant for enXco, which is now EDF Renewable Energy. My resume is attached as Exhibit A.

II. OVERVIEW

Q. What is the purpose of your Direct Testimony?

A. The purpose of my Direct Testimony is to provide updates as to coordination with landowners surrounding the Elk Creek Solar Project (Project) and local governments.

Q. What schedules are attached to your Direct Testimony?

A. The following exhibits are attached to my Direct Testimony:

- Exhibit A: Statement of Qualifications
- Exhibit B: Proposed Landscaping Plan

31 **Q. Are you sponsoring any portion of the Elk Creek public hearing presentation**
32 **(attached to the Testimony of Melissa Schmit as Exhibit B)?**

33 A. Yes. I am sponsoring slide number 11 of that presentation.
34

35 **III. COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
36

37 **Q. Please describe any outreach efforts Elk Creek has conducted with**
38 **surrounding landowners?**

39 A. Elk Creek Solar LLC (Elk Creek) has individually contacted (in person, by
40 telephone, mail, or e-mail) all landowners in the vicinity of the Project to provide
41 them with information about the Project and answer any questions or address
42 concerns. If a landowner indicated they had a concern about the Project, we
43 generally ask what their concerns are to see if those concerns are something we
44 can address. For example, the owners of the residence depicted as Residence A
45 in Figure 3 of both the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Minnesota
46 Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
47 and the Site Permit Application, requested that Elk Creek install landscaping
48 between their residence and the Project to provide screening for their residence.
49 Elk Creek initially proposed landscaping on the property containing Residence A,
50 and provided that landscaping to the owners of Residence A for review who, in
51 turn, provided subsequent feedback to Elk Creek. Based on the feedback, Elk
52 Creek moved the proposed landscaping to within the Project (see attached Exhibit
53 B, Proposed Landscaping Plan). The Proposed Landscaping Plan has been
54 provided to the owners of Residence A, who have indicated agreement with the
55 revised plan. Elk Creek will work with the owner of Residence A and EERA staff
56 to finalize the Proposed Landscaping Plan, including the inclusion of specific plant
57 varieties that will be planted and will update the Minnesota Public Utilities
58 Commission with the results of those discussions.
59

60 **Q. Section 5 of the sample site permit attached to the EA as Appendix B**
61 **includes an example special condition that requires a landscaping plan to be**

62 **developed to mitigate, to the extent practicable the visual impacts to all**
63 **adjacent residences, do you agree with that example special condition?**

- 64 A. No. Elk Creek is amenable to providing screening for Residence A in accordance
65 with the Proposed Landscaping Plan attached as Exhibit B, but does not believe
66 any additional screening is necessary for the other three residences that are
67 located near the Project. As indicated in Section 4.5.3 of the EA¹, Residences B,
68 C and D are all screened from the Project by existing vegetation. Accordingly,
69 additional screening is not necessary for these residences and should not be
70 required by the site permit for the Project.

71
72 **Q. Public comments raised questions about coordination with Rock County and**
73 **Vienna Township regarding road, drainage and local permitting. Do you**
74 **have a response?**

- 75 A. Elk Creek has engaged with Rock County to enter into a Development Agreement,
76 which will address road use, drainage and permitting issues related to the Project.
77 The form of agreement being utilized is based on the form of agreement used by
78 Rock County for the Prairie Rose Wind Farm. The Prairie Rose Wind Farm
79 agreements were entered into between Rock County and the Prairie Rose Wind
80 Farm, and the relevant townships then ratified the agreements by resolution and
81 delegated their authority with respect to the project and roads and drainage
82 systems to Rock County. The agreement has been modified to address solar
83 specific issues and to remove wind specific provisions. A draft agreement has been
84 shared with Rock County and Vienna Township. In addition to road and drainage
85 issues, the Development Agreement provides that Elk Creek will secure E-911
86 addresses for each Project driveway, conditional use permits for the operations
87 and maintenance building, and laydown yards and a utility permit for collectors
88 constructed within road right-of-way. Vienna Township has approved a resolution
89 delegating its authority for roads, drainage and permitting issues to Rock County
90 under the Development Agreement for the Project.

¹ EA at 100.

91

92

IV. CONCLUSION

93

94 **Q. Does this conclude your Direct Testimony?**

95 A. Yes.

96

97 70343272 v5



a national **grid** company

EDUCATION

B.A.

Augustana College, now

Augustana University

Sioux Falls, SD

2008

Business Administration

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Wind Energy Association
- Clean Grid Alliance
- American Association of Notaries

Jordan B. Burmeister, Sr. Developer, Market Lead

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019 – Present	Sr. Developer, Market Lead
2018 – 2019	Sr. Project Manager
2012 – 2018	Project Manager – MN / Central Region, Geronimo Energy, Edina, MN
2009 – 2012	Development Associate – MN / Central Region, Geronimo Energy, Edina, MN
2008 – 2009	Land Acquisition Assistant – enXco, now EDF Renewable Energy, Minneapolis, MN
2008	Commercial Real Estate Intern – Bender Commercial Real Estate Service, Sioux Falls, SD

SPECIALTY AREAS/ EXPERTISE

Jordan has 12+ years of real estate and renewable energy development experience involving project management and budgeting, site origination, property research, lease drafting, land acquisition, and networking and building relationships with various regional and local stakeholders and government officials. Jordan has led the development of over 800 MW of operational renewable projects. Jordan and his family live in Jackson County in southwest Minnesota. Jordan is also a Notary Public in the State of Minnesota.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Volunteer Wrestling Coach, Flat Earth Wrestling Club, Jackson, MN

PREPARED FOR:



8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1200
Bloomington, MN 55437

REVISIONS:

#	DATE	COMMENT

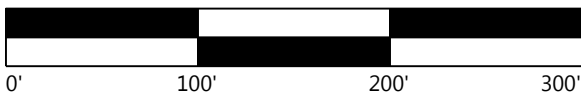
LEGEND:

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- EX. PARCEL LINE
- RIGHT-OF-WAY LINES
- EX. OVERHEAD POWER
- EX. PAVED ROAD
- EX. GRAVEL ROAD
- EX. STREAM CHANNEL
- EX. WETLAND
- EX. STRUCTURE
- EX. INDEX CONTOUR
- EX. INTERVAL CONTOUR
- PROPOSED SOLAR ARRAY
- PROPOSED MODULE SETBACK
- PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
- PROPOSED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
- PROPOSED SECURITY FENCE
- PROPOSED SUBSTATION AND O&M
- PROPOSED LAYDOWN YARD
- PROPOSED COLLECTION
- PROPOSED LOW WATER CROSSING
- PROPOSED SILT FENCE
- PROPOSED CULVERT

NOTES:

- MINOR SURFACE SMOOTHING MAY OCCUR FOR SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
- CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL ALL PERIMETER EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL DEVICES PRIOR TO UPSLOPE DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES.
- SITE PREPARATION INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO CLEARING/GRUBBING, MINOR GRADING, COMPACTION, MOWING OF VEGETATION, AND RESTABILIZATION OF DISTURBED AREA.
- ACCESS ROADS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO MATCH THE SURROUNDING EXISTING GROUND ELEVATIONS TO ALLOW THE CONTINUATION OF DRAINAGE PATTERNS.
- OVERALL DRAINAGE PATTERNS WILL NOT BE ALTERED WITH SOLAR DEVELOPMENT.
- A SITE SPECIFIC SWPPP AND SPECIFIC BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE FINAL DESIGN.
- EXISTING OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE VOLTAGE HAS BEEN APPROXIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 69 AND 115 kV. NOTE THIS IS JUST AN APPROXIMATION. EXACT VOLTAGE TO BE VERIFIED WITH UTILITY.

PROPOSED GRADING ESTIMATION: 55.70 AC



KEY MAP



Elk Creek Solar, LLC

Rock County, MN

Site Plan - 1

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DATE: 02/10/2020

SHEET: C.201

