
From: jwestgor@comcast.net <jwestgor@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:21 PM
To: MN_PUC_PublicAdvisor <publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us>
Cc: Armstrong, Lisa (OAH) <lisa.armstrong@state.mn.us>
Subject: Elk Creek Solar Project comments from Land Owner Jeff Westgor

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My name is Jeff Westgor and I am one of the Landowners in the Elk Creek Solar Project.

Over the last 7 years I have been approached by several out of state companies with proposals for a solar or wind projects, all out of state companies with no ties to Minnesota or the regional area.

When I was approached by Geronimo Energy I became interested when I learned that Geronimo is a Minnesota group with ties to southwestern Minnesota. In fact the Geronimo founders family were members in our Lutheran Church in Windom, Mn. They also have been farmers over several generations and understand the “farmers” perspective and challenges.

My primary contact with Geronimo organization has been Jordan Burmeister who has been a consummate professional in terms of communication and follow up regarding any concerns I have had in the process and the overall project.

The factors that influenced my decision to

- Geronimo is a proven company with a known track record and much of the revenue generated will benefit the local economy
- Including the school district, and Minnesota.

Xcel Energy mandate for renewable energy creation need to be implemented in a timely manner.

It will offset carbon dioxide emissions and provide an alternative to fossil fuels.

They have contingencies for environmental issues that could arise in the future.

The Elk Creek project was chosen for its unique location given the amount of sunlight per days of the year.

I also have relied on the other Elk Creek project land owners knowledge of farming since they have considerable more experience in agriculture and are well known stewards of “agroecology”.

I also had concern for my tenant who will be losing production land, but from my understanding he still has a successful operation without my farm land and I don't see the loss as detrimental as it would be if this was their primary income.

I also gave him an option to make an offer before I entered into an agreement with Geronimo, he declined.

For all of these reasons I am in favor of the project. Jeff Westgor

From: Klay Walinga <kwalinga@fairlandmgmt.com>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:42 PM

To: MN_PUC_PublicAdvisor <publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us>

Cc: Jordan B. Burmeister <jordan@geronimoenergy.com>

Subject: FW: Elk Creek Solar Project-PUC Public Comment-Docket #IP7009/CN-19-351 (Certificate of Need); IP7009/GS-19-495 (Site Permit) - Chambers Family Farms, LLC

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Dear MN PUC,

I think that there was an error in the e-mail address for the comments to the PUC that were submitted before the deadline...please see our comments below.

If you could please confirm receipt and that these will be able to be included in the comment period, that would be much appreciated.

Klay D. Walinga

Vice President, Manager - Farm Services Department

Real Estate Broker, Accredited Farm Manager



339 Eleventh Street, PO Box 128

Windom, MN 56101

Office 507-831-2808 | Fax 507-831-2810

From: Klay Walinga

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:29 PM

To: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn

Cc: Jordan B. Burmeister <jordan@geronimoenergy.com>

Subject: Elk Creek Solar Project-PUC Public Comment-Docket #IP7009/CN-19-351 (Certificate of Need); IP7009/GS-19-495 (Site Permit) - Chambers Family Farms, LLC

Dear Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Chambers Family Farms, LLC, which owns land in Section 27 of Vienna Township near the City of Magnolia in Rock County. Chambers Family Farms, LLC has signed a land lease/solar easement with Geronimo Energy for the potential to build the Elk Creek Solar project on its family's property. Chambers Family Farms, LLC fully supports the development of this solar project and is hoping that it will be permitted by the MN Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) and built as planned. As a multigenerational landowner, it is exciting prospect for the Chambers family to be able to expand renewable energy from their family's property. The Chambers family believe the State of Minnesota and Xcel Energy have been very progressive and proactive in supporting renewable energy efforts and fully support the potential to build this solar project and offset energy produced from fossil fuels/coal/nuclear energy for the next 50+ years! Members of the family have been involved with solar energy in their careers and are passionate about the solar industry and renewable energy. Yes, there will be some farmland that is displaced to solar panels. However, the Chambers own more farmland in Rock County and throughout parts of Southwestern Minnesota and we continue to work to make those acres continue to be much more productive (i.e. higher yields) to offset some of these acres being taken out of crop production. Corn yields have nearly doubled in the past 25 years and genetics and farming practices continue to improve. There will likely also be some environmental benefits (i.e. less potential erosion and soil run-off) with having some of this land taken out of crop production. We also fully support the benefits that this project will have on the local, regional, and State tax base to help support government infrastructure and government programs.

In closing, Chambers family farms fully supports the Elk Creek Solar project and hopes the PUC will as well. Feel free to e-mail or call our farm management firm's office at 507-831-2808 with any questions or clarifications.

Thanks for your consideration,

Klay D. Walinga

Vice President, Manager - Farm Services Department

Real Estate Broker, Accredited Farm Manager



339 Eleventh Street, PO Box 128


Windom, MN 56101

Office 507-831-2808 | Fax 507-831-2810

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:14:29 PM

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Name *	Steven Schneiderman
Provide the docket's number. *	GS-19-495
Leave a comment on the docket. *	Please see the attached PDF for my comments regarding the Elk Creek Solar project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Attach a File	<div> elk_creek_solar_project_comment_sjs_8102020.pdf 128.96 KB • PDF</div>
