

November 25, 2020 Agenda Meeting

REVISED DECISION OPTIONS

Item # 2 – Elk Creek Solar Project, CN/19-351 and GS/19-495

Offered by: Chair Sieben

3. Adopt the attached Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation proposed by EERA with the addition of:

- a) the Recommendation from Elk Creek's proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation; and
- b) the following changes:

Modify Finding of Fact (FOF) 122 as follows:

122. ~~On this record, there is no feasible and prudent alternative within a reasonable geographic area available to Elk Creek, near the Magnolia substation or otherwise in Rock or Nobles County to construct the Project and not impact prime farmland.~~

Add a New FOF immediately after FOF 122.

[122.1]. This conclusion is based in part on consideration of non-economic factors including but not limited to,

- a) the ability of the energy purchaser's customers to receive emissions-free energy due to the higher quality solar resource in the area and proximity to existing transmission infrastructure;
- b) positive environmental impacts, such as improved soil and water quality from the planned vegetative cover;
- c) furtherance of renewable energy goals of the state; and
- d) furtherance of the policies set forth in Minn. Stat. s 216E.02 requiring location of large electric power facilities compatible with environmental preservation, efficient use of resources, and minimizing adverse human and environmental impact, while insuring continuing electric power system reliability and integrity.

Revise Conclusion of Law #8:

8. ~~On this record, there is no potential site within a reasonable geographic area in either Rock or Nobles County, within an area of five miles of the Magnolia substation, that is conducive to substantial solar development of approximately 700 acres that is not defined as prime farmland. Within this geographical limitation, there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the Elk Creek Solar Project site.~~