



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: September 16, 2015

In the Matter of the Combined Application of North Star Solar PV LLC for a Site Permit and Route Permit for the North Star Solar Electric Power Generating Plant and Associated 115 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line in Chisago County, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6943/GS-15-33
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 82-2500-32679

Date: October 7, 2015

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Lakes Region EMS
40245 Fletcher Avenue
North Branch MN 55056

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Project Description

- North Star Solar PV, LLC (North Star) proposes to build a 100 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility on 1,112 acres of agricultural land within the city of North Branch and Lent and Sunrise townships in Chisago County.
- The proposed project includes construction of a one-half-mile 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that follows an existing transmission line corridor to connect the project to the Chisago Substation.

Public Hearing Information

- Public Hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Administrative Law Judge Barbara J. Case presides over the public hearing.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and North Star Solar staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment:

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a site and route permit?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed solar project and transmission line?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the project and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comment Period Comments accepted through **Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 4:30pm**

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date

Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

Online Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.

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

- Please include the Commission's docket number (15-33) in all communications.

Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Process Information

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a site and route permit before the project can be built. North Star Solar's combined site and route permit application was accepted in April 2015. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

The Department of Commerce is preparing an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, and ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment will be available prior to the public hearing.

Judge Case uses the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission reviews all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission's final decision on the site and route permit for this project is expected by January 2016.

Eminent Domain: If the Commission issues a site and route permit, North Star Solar will *not* have the power of eminent domain to take land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34064>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (15-33), your name, mailing address and email address.

Subscribe to the Docket: Subscribe to receive email notifications when new documents are filed. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select 15 in the first box, type 33 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (15) and the docket number (33), select *Search*.

Public Libraries: The site and route permit application and environmental assessment will be available at the following public libraries:

- Chisago Lakes Area Library, 11754 302nd Street, Chisago City
- North Branch Area Library, 6355 379th Street, North Branch
- Wyoming Area Giese Memorial Library, 26885 Forest Boulevard, Wyoming

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at www.revisor.mn.gov

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana - consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Scott Ek - scott.ek@state.mn.us or 651-201-2255

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

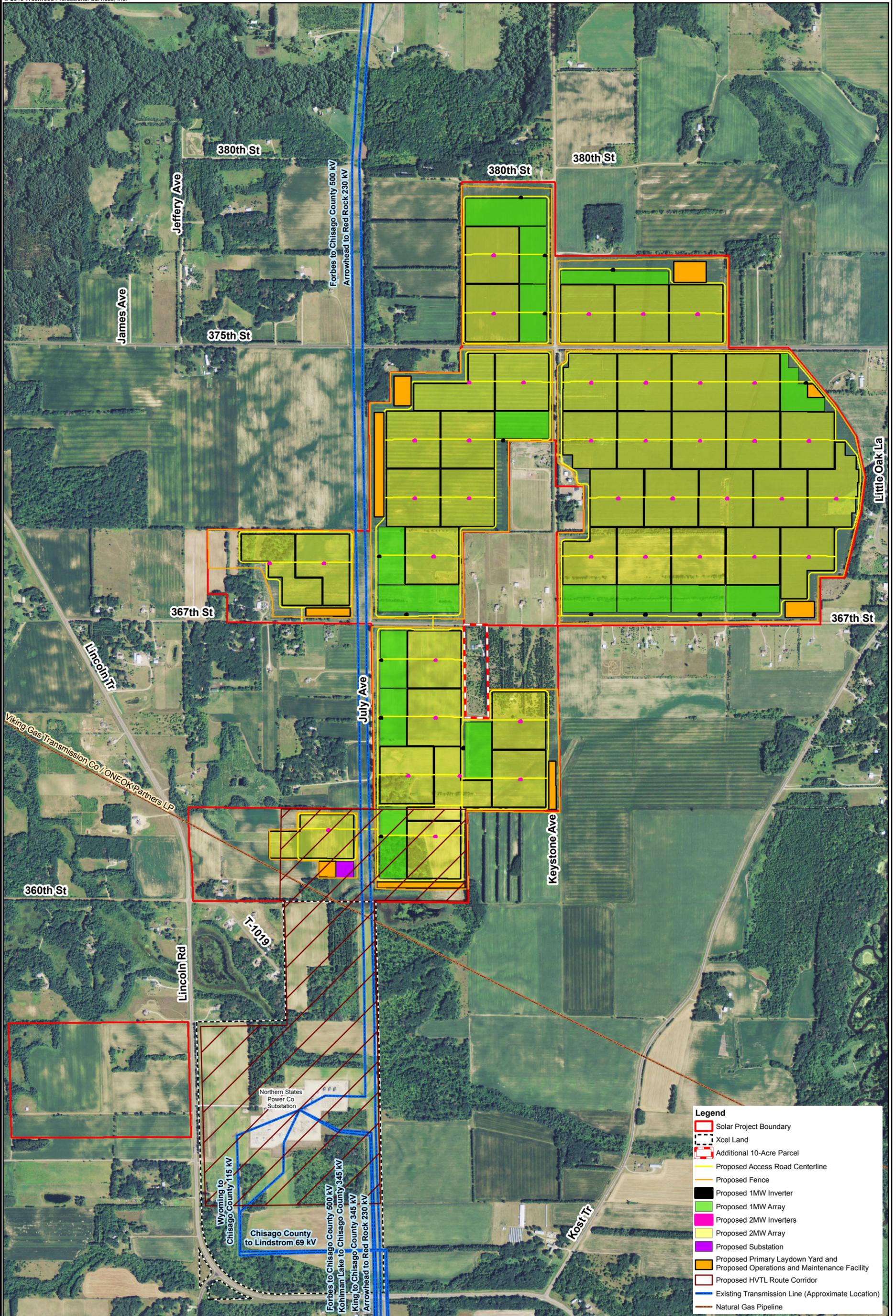
David Birkholz - david.birkholz@state.mn.us, 651-539-1838 or 1-800-657-3794

North Star Solar Project Contact

Chase Whitney - chase.whitney@communityenergyinc.com or 303-444-1412

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.



Legend

- Solar Project Boundary
- Xcel Land
- Additional 10-Acre Parcel
- Proposed Access Road Centerline
- Proposed Fence
- Proposed 1MW Inverter
- Proposed 1MW Array
- Proposed 2MW Inverters
- Proposed 2MW Array
- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Primary Laydown Yard and Proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility
- Proposed HVTL Route Corridor
- Existing Transmission Line (Approximate Location)
- Natural Gas Pipeline

Data Source(s): Data and map are approximate. Westwood (2014); MNDOT Basemap (2014); NAIP (2013); Chisago County GIS (2014); ESRI (2008); Ventyx Velocity Suite (Nov. 2014); North Star Solar PV, LLC (2014).

PUC Docket IP-6943/GS-15-33
Document ID 20154-109846-02

North Star Solar Project and NS HVTL Project

North Branch, Sunrise Township, and Lent Township;
Chisago County, Minnesota

Preliminary Facility Design

Figure 3



Westwood Professional Services, Inc.
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

PHONE 952-937-5150
FAX 952-937-5822
TOLL FREE 1-888-937-5150

www.westwoodps.com



Map Document: P:\0004493_00\GIS\Permit\INS_AreaAndCapacity\Facility01B_150421.mxd 4/21/2015 4:35:55 PM