

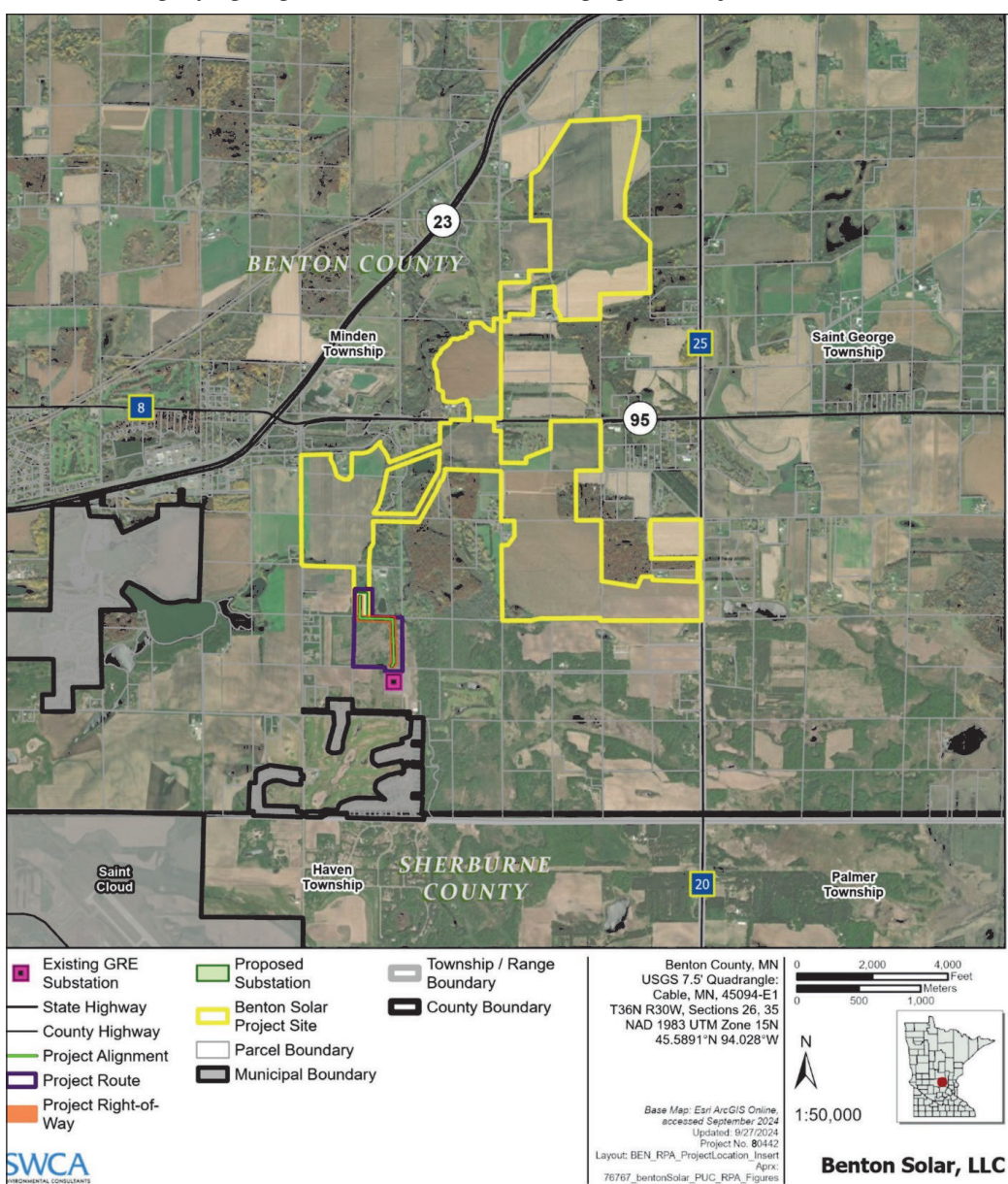
Re: Notice of Benton Solar, LLC’s Filing of a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC Docket Numbers: IP7115/GS-23-423; IP7115/ESS-24-283; IP7115/TL-23-425).

On September 24, 2024, Benton Solar, LLC (“Benton Solar”) filed both a Route Permit Application and a Joint Site Permit Application (collectively, “Applications”) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct and operate a 100-megawatt (“MW”) alternating current (“AC”) nameplate capacity solar energy conversion facility, a 100-MW AC battery energy storage system, and an approximately 0.5-mile 115 kilovolt (“kV”) high-voltage transmission line that will interconnect the solar facility and battery to the electric grid in Benton County (“Project”). This notice provides information on the Project and the siting process, as well as how to register your name with the Commission on the Project contact list, which will ensure that you receive future notices about the Project.

Project Description

Benton Solar proposes to construct the Project in Minden Township, Benton County, Minnesota. The Project site encompasses an approximately 951.4-acre area and is located entirely on privately owned land for which Benton Solar has secured control through voluntary agreements. Of that larger site, approximately 631.9 acres are planned to be used for solar panels and racking, inverters, security fencing, a substation, electrical collection and communication lines, stormwater basins, laydown areas, access roads, weather stations, and the battery energy storage system. Benton Solar also proposes to construct an approximately 0.5-mile-long 115 kV transmission line to deliver energy from the Project to the electric grid via Great River Energy’s (“GRE”) Benton County Substation. The Project route, as depicted on the accompanying map, is approximately 48.3 acres and the Project right-of-way is approximately 6.2 acres.

The accompanying map outlines the location of the proposed Project.



Public Information and Environmental Assessment Scoping Meeting

The Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce 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:

<https://eera.web.commerce.state.mn.us/web/page/home>

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission’s website at <https://mn.gov/puc/>, select “Go to eDockets Project Database,” enter the year (23) and the docket number (423) or (425), or the year (24) and the docket number (283) and select “Search.”

Subscribe to the Docket: The best way to stay informed is to “subscribe” to receive e-mail notifications when new documents are filed:

1. Go to <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/>.
2. Click on Subscribe to Dockets.
3. Type your e-mail address.
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*.
5. For *Docket Number*, select 23 in the first box, type 423 or 425 in the second box. For the battery energy storage system, select 24 in the first box, type 283 in the second box.
6. Select *Add to List*.
7. Select *Save*.

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

Public Libraries: A copy of the Applications is also available at the following public locations:

LIBRARY	ADDRESS
Great River Regional Library – St. Cloud	1300 W. St. Germain St. St. Cloud, MN 56301
Great River Regional Library - Foley	251 N. 4th Ave. Box 340 Foley, MN 56329

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Jacques Harvieux – jacques.harvieux@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2233 or 1 (800) 657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Cezar Panait, P.E. – cezar.panait@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2207 or 1 (800) 657-3782

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Logan Hicks – Logan.M.Hicks@state.mn.us or (651) 539-2712

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.

If you have additional questions about the Project, you may also contact Benton Solar’s representative, Adam Gracia, at adam.gracia@nexteraenergy.com or (561) 797-5048.