



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: January 6, 2015

In the Matter of the Site Permit Application for the 100 MW Aurora Distributed Solar Project at Multiple Facilities in Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-6928/GS-14-515
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 11-2500-31886

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, February 9, 2015	11:00 AM	Chisago City Community Center 10825 Lake Boulevard Chisago City MN 55013
Tuesday, February 10, 2015	11:00 AM	Pipestone Performing Arts Center – Lobby 104 East Main Street Pipestone MN 56164
Tuesday, February 10, 2015	6:00 PM	Montevideo Community Center 550 South 1 st Street Montevideo MN 56265
Wednesday, February 11, 2015	11:00 AM	Buckham Public Library 11 Division Street East Faribault MN 55021
Thursday, February 12, 2015	11:00 AM	Montrose Community Center 200 Center Avenue South Montrose MN 55363
Thursday, February 12, 2015	6:00 PM	Paynesville High School Room 115, North Side – Door #1 795 Old Highway 23 Paynesville MN 56362

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

Aurora Distributed Solar, LLC (Aurora) proposes to build an up to 100 megawatt (MW) distributed solar project at up to 24 locations in Benton, Blue Earth, Carver, Chippewa, Chisago, Dodge, Goodhue, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, McLeod, Pipestone, Rice, Stearns, Waseca, Washington, and Wright counties.

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 L. Neilson will preside over the public hearings.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Aurora Distributed Solar, LLC (Aurora) staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will be able to add oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Learn more about participating at a public hearing at mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment

- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed solar project?
- What are the environmental and human impacts, and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comment Period January 6, 2015 through February 24, 2015 at 4:30 PM

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

Comments received after comment period closes may not be accepted

Online Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Comment on an Issue*, find this docket (14-515), and add your comments to the discussion.

U.S. Mail Persons without Internet access may send comments by U.S. Mail to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101.

Please include the Commission's docket number 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

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a site permit. Aurora's site permit application was accepted in August 2014. 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 will review the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment will be issued in January 2015.

Judge Neilson will use the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on the site permit for this project, expected by June 2015.

Eminent Domain: If the Commission issues a site permit, Aurora 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=33924>

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 651-201-2234 with the docket number (14-515), 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 14 in the first box, type 515 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (14) and the docket number (515), select *Search*.

Public Libraries: The site permit application and the environmental assessment will be available in late January 2015 at the following public libraries:

- Atwater Public Library, 322 Atlantic Avenue, Atwater
- Blue Earth County Library, 100 East Main Street, Mankato
- Buckham Memorial Library, 11 Division Street East, Faribault
- Chippewa County Public Library, 224 South 1st Street, Montevideo
- Chisago Lakes Area Library, 11754 302nd Street, Chisago City
- Dodge Center Public Library, 13 1st Avenue Northwest, Dodge Center

- Great River Regional Library, 400 Railroad Avenue, Albany
- Great River Regional Library, 30 Cedar Street East, Annandale
- Great River Regional Library, 324 Washburn Avenue, Belgrade
- Great River Regional Library, 18 Northwest Lake Boulevard, Buffalo
- Great River Regional Library, 160 Railroad Avenue East, Delano
- Great River Regional Library, 251 North 4th Avenue, Foley
- Great River Regional Library, 119 Washburne Avenue, Paynesville
- Le Sueur Public Library, 118 East Ferry Street, Le Sueur
- Meinders Community Library, 1401 7th Street Southwest, Pipestone
- North Branch Area Library, 6355 379th Street, North Branch
- Norwood Young America Library, 314 Elm Street West, Norwood Young America
- Pleasant Hill Library, 1490 South Frontage Road, Hastings
- Taylors Falls Library, 473 Bench Street, Taylors Falls
- Van Horn Public Library, 115 3rd Street Southeast, Pine Island
- Waseca Public Library, 408 North State Street, Waseca
- Winsted Public Library, 180 Main Avenue West, Winsted
- Wyoming Area Giese Memorial Library, 26855 Forest Boulevard, Wyoming
- Zumbrota Public Library, 100 West Avenue, Zumbrota

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

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

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

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Cezar Panait at cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Suzanne Steinhauer at Suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us, 651-539-1843 or 1-800-657-3794

Aurora Project Contact

Nathan Franzen at Nathan@geronimoenergy.com or 952-988-9000

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.

Figure 2.2-1 Aurora Solar Project Facility Locations

