



Burl W. Haar
 Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
 Public Utilities Commission



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETINGS

Issued: August 22, 2014

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

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, September 9, 2014	11am - 2pm	Montrose Community Center 200 Center Avenue South Montrose MN 55363
Tuesday, September 9, 2014	6-9pm	Chisago Lakes High School Performance Arts Center 29400 Olinda Trail Lindstrom MN 55045
Wednesday, September 10, 2014	11am-2pm	Marshall YMCA - Multipurpose Room 200 South A Street Marshall MN 56258
Tuesday, September 16, 2014	11am-2pm	Public Utilities Commission 121 7 th Place East, Suite 350 (3 rd Floor) St. Paul MN 55101
Tuesday, September 16, 2014	6-9pm	Paynesville High School - Auditorium 795 Old Highway 23 Paynesville MN 56362
Wednesday, September 17, 2014	11am-2pm	Washington Recreation Center - Gym 117 Shumway Avenue Faribault MN 55021

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.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Aurora staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will be able to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who do not wish to speak may submit questions or comments in writing.
- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental assessment for this project.
- The meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has the opportunity to speak, or until the scheduled end time, whichever comes first.
- The same information will be presented at each meeting.
- More information about attending a public information meeting available at mn.gov/puc/documents/pdf_files/014372.pdf

Submit Comments

Topics Open for Public Comment:

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed solar project should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
- Are there any specific methods to address (avoid, reduce, or mitigate) these impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
- Are there alternative locations that should be considered?
- Are there changes to a proposed facility that should be considered in order to address these impacts?

Comment Period: August 22, 2014 through September 30, 2014 at 4:30pm

Submit Public Comments: Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-539-0109
Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (14-515) in all communications.

Important

Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a site permit. The commission accepted Aurora's site permit application 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 Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff will prepare 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.

After the environmental assessment is issued, there will be public hearings. Citizens will be able to speak at the hearings, ask questions, and submit comments about the project.

An Administrative Law Judge will use all 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 issued a site permit by the Commission, 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 651-201-2204 with the docket number (*14-515*), your name, mailing address, and email address.

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

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 email 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*

Public Libraries: The site permit application is available 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 Staff Analyst

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

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.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Figure 2.2-1 Aurora Solar Project Facility Locations

