Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

*Issued: April 10, 2015*

**In the Matter of the Application of Marshall Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the Marshall Solar Energy Project and Associated Facilities in Lyon County, Minnesota**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number:** IP-6941/GS-14-1052

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
|---|---|---|
| Monday, April 27, 2015 | 6:00 pm | Marshall-Lyon County Library<br>201 C Street<br>Marshall MN 56258 |
| Tuesday, April 28, 2015 | 11:00 am | Marshall-Lyon County Library<br>201 C Street<br>Marshall MN 56258 |

**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

Marshall Solar, LLC (Marshall Solar) proposes to build a 62.25 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility on approximately 500 acres in Stanley Township, about four miles east of Marshall, in Lyon County.

## 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.
- State agency staff will run the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Marshall Solar staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- People will be able to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental assessment for this project.
- Learn more about participating at a public meeting at mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html

## Submit Comments

**Topics Open for Public Comment:**

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed solar generation project should be studied in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any specific methods or potential changes to the proposed project that may serve to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
- Are there specific alternative sites that should be addressed in the environmental assessment? In proposing an alternative site, please bear in mind that Marshall Solar does not have the power of eminent domain, there must be a landowner willing to sell or lease a site that meets the project requirements. In addition, alternative sites should be of similar size to the proposed site, relatively flat and open with unimpeded views of the sun.

  - Department of Commerce staff will also review the ability of any proposed alternative to interconnect to the transmission/distribution system.

**Comment Period:**

- Through May 15, 2015.
- Please include the PUC Docket Number (*14-1052*) in all communications.

**Online** mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment

**Email** suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

**U.S. Mail** Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

**Fax** 651-539-0109

**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 Marshall Solar's site permit application at an April 2015 meeting. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about six to nine months.

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 a public hearing. An Administrative Law Judge will preside over the public hearing. People will be able to speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit comments about the project.

After the public hearing, the Commission will review all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on the site permit for this project, expected by January 2016.

**Eminent Domain**: If issued a site permit by the Commission, Marshall 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=34083

**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 (*14-1052*), 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 (*1052*), 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 e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *14* in the first box, type *1052* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

**Public Libraries:** The site permit application is available at the following public library:

- Marshall-Lyon County Library, 201 C Street, Marshall MN 56258

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E.04 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**
Tricia DeBleeckere at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254

**Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**
Suzanne Steinhauer at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us, 651-539-1843 or 1-800-657-3794

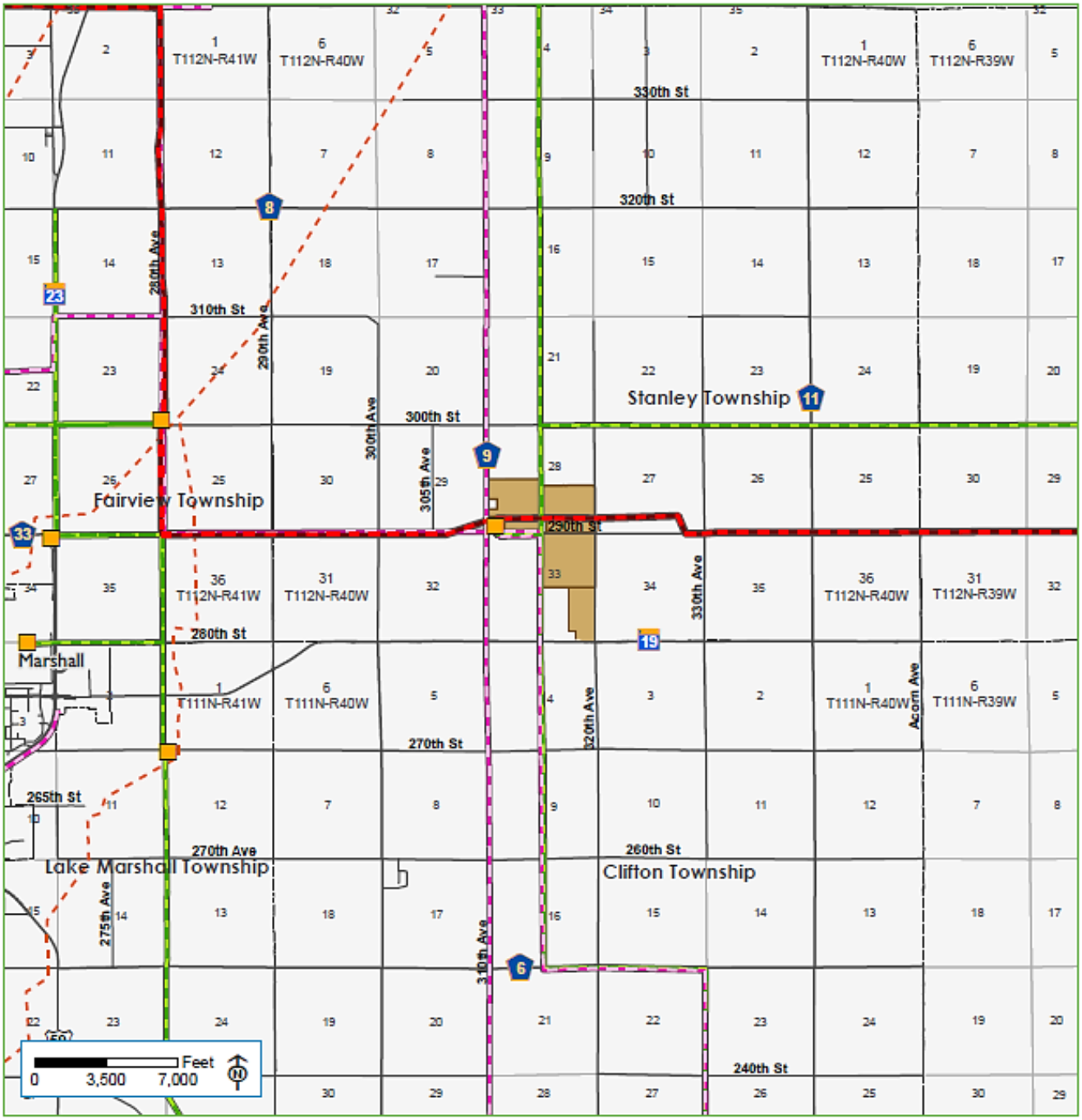
**Marshall Solar, LLC Project Contact**
Brandon Stankiewicz at brandon.stankiewicz@nee.com or 561-304-5775

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.

**Marshall Solar Facility**
**Lyon County, Minnesota**

**Figure 1**
**Project Overview and Infrastructure**




**Legend**

- Study Area
- City / Township Boundary
- Section Line

**Existing Transmission**

- 69kV AC
- 115kV AC
- 345kV AC
- Substation
- Pipeline

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