



December 12, 2025

Senator Nick Frentz, Chair
Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Andrew Mathews, Ranking Minority Member
Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2233
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Patty Acomb, Co-Chair
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
593 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Chris Swedzinski, Co-Chair
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
245 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act Report

Dear Legislators,

This letter addresses the reporting requirement set forth by the Legislature in Minnesota Statute § 216I.03 subd. 4 as outlined in the language below:

216I.03 SITING AUTHORITY.

Subd. 4. Biennial report. By December 15, 2025, and every odd-numbered year thereafter, the commission must submit a written report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy and utilities. The report must:

(1) provide an update on the progress made to permit, approve, and construct the electric utility infrastructure necessary to meet the requirements of section 216B.1691 within the milestones provided under section 216B.1691;

(2) describe efforts made by the commission to engage stakeholders in environmental justice areas, as defined in section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), in permitting, approving, and constructing electric utility infrastructure under this section, section 216B.1691, or section 216B.243; and

(3) provide information regarding any cumulative impact analysis ordered by the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency under section 116.065 pertaining to any electric utility infrastructure permitted, approved, or constructed under this section, section 216B.1691, or section 216B.243.

We address each of these three requirements in turn.

First, please find three tables, attached, which identify: 1) the solar generation, wind generation and battery energy storage system facilities permitted by the PUC in 2025; 2) the solar generation, wind generation and battery energy storage system facilities currently under review by the PUC's Energy Infrastructure Permitting Unit; and 3) the previously permitted solar generation facility that completed construction and came on-line this year.

Second, with respect to engaging stakeholders in environmental justice areas, two of the facilities under review by the PUC in 2025 are located in environmental justice areas:

- The first project, Boswell Solar, is located partially within one census tract that is considered an environmental justice (EJ) community because it is located within Indian country, as defined in United States Code, title 18, section 1151. The environmental assessment evaluated the potential for disproportionate or adverse impacts to low-income or minority populations, and concluded such impacts would not occur. Some of the variables considered include expected positive impacts related to climate change because this project will contribute to offsetting the cessation of coal operations at the Boswell Energy Center Unit 3 by December 31, 2029, and Boswell Unit 4 by 2035.

Additionally, the draft site permit for the project contains a special condition that ensures that the residents within Native American Tribes, such as Census Tract 9400 which includes the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Nation, have the opportunity to engage with the applicant and create meaningful involvement throughout the life of the project, such as through economic opportunity and employment. Providing the local EJ community opportunities for direct engagement, employment, and economic opportunity will ensure that the project does not disproportionately cause or intensify environmental inequities within this community.

- The second project, Blue Lake Battery Energy Storage System project, is located in an environmental justice community. We are currently preparing the environmental assessment for this project and will consider effects to the environmental justice community, and ways to avoid and minimize any effects. We will consider whether any special permit conditions may be necessary to reduce impacts. Stakeholders in the community will have an opportunity to attend public hearings and raise any questions or concerns about the analysis of effects and any conditions proposed to offset effects.



Third, the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency has not ordered any cumulative impact analyses under section 116.065 pertaining to any electric utility infrastructure permitted, approved, or constructed under this section, section 216B.1691, or section 216B.243.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Desiree Morningstar, Manager, of our Energy Infrastructure Permitting Unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sasha Bergman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary

Table 1.

Solar generation and wind generation and battery energy storage system projects permitted by PUC in 2025			
Project name	Docket number	Size	Location
Solar Generation Facilities			
Plummer Solar	GS-22-451	130 MW	Red Lake Co
Northern Crescent Solar	GS-22-57	150 MW	Faribault Co
Birch Coulee Solar	GS-23-477	125 MW	Renville Co
Coneflower Solar	GS-24-215	235 MW	Lyon Co
Gopher State Solar	GS-24-106	200 MW	Renville Co
Iron Pine Solar	GS-23-414	325 MW	Pine Co
Solway Solar	GS-24-309	66 MW	Beltrami Co
Battery Energy Storage Systems			
Northern Crescent BESS	ESS-24-238	50 MW	Faribault Co
Snowshoe BESS	ESS-24-279	150 MW	Olmstead Co
Wind facilities			
Elm Creek II Repowering	WS-09-553	150 MW	Martin / Jackson

Table 2.

Pending solar generation, wind generation and battery energy storage system projects			
Project name	Docket number	Size	Location
Solar Generation			
Benton Solar	GS-23-423	100 MW	Benton Co
Lake Charlotte Solar	GS-25-205	150 MW	Martin Co
Summit Lake Solar	GS-25-88	200 MW	Lyon Co
Boswell Solar	GS-24-425	85 MW	Itasca Co
Castle Rock Solar	GS-24-267	150 MW	Dakota Co
Lemon Hill Solar	GS-25-126	180 MW	Olmsted Co
Battery Energy Storage Systems			
Benton BESS	ESS-24-283	100 MW	Benton Co
Lake Charlotte BESS	ESS-25-206	150 MW	Martin Co
Summit Lake BESS	ESS-25-89	200 MW	Lyon Co
Midwater BESS	ESS-24-294	150 MW	Freeborn Co
North Star BESS	ESS-25-132	80 MW	Chisago Co
Crane BESS	ESS-24-406	200 MW	Olmsted Co
Sandhill BESS	ESS-24-407	200 MW	Olmsted Co

Table 2, Continued.

Pending solar generation, wind generation and battery energy storage system projects			
Project name	Docket number	Size	Location
Battery Energy Storage Systems			
Blue Lake BESS	ESS-25-214	135.5 MW	Scott Co
Sherco South and West BESS	ESS-25-319	600 MW	Sherburne Co
Wind facilities			
Big Bend Wind Permit Amendment	WS-19-619	311.1 MW	Cottonwood/Watonwan
Bent Tree North Wind	WS-24-349	153 MW	Freeborn Co

Table 3.

Permitted facilities constructed and on-line in 2025			
Project name	Docket number	Size	Location
Xcel Sherco 2 Solar	GS-21-191	230 MW	Sherburne