



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson  
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner  
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
RECEIVED: 01/20/2021 1:45:00 PM

January 20, 2020

Re: Request for Comments on Draft Order Adopting Application  
Filing Requirements for Solar Electric Generation Projects

5-AFR-700

Comments Due:

**February 8, 2020 – 1:30 p.m.**

This docket uses the Electronic Records Filing system (ERF).

Address Comments To:

**Steffany Powell Coker**  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

To the Parties:

A draft Commission Order establishing Application Filing Requirements (AFR) for Solar Electric Generation Projects is being provided to the interested parties for comment. The AFRs list the information required for a complete application for the construction of a solar energy generation facility that requires either a Certificate of Authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 or a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under Wis. Stat. § 196.491 from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. The Commission participates in a joint review process of these applications with staff from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Energy. The AFRs include two tables necessary for DNR's review of the project.

Comments must be received by 1:30 p.m. on February 8, 2020. Comments must be filed using the Commission's ERF system. The ERF system can be accessed through the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>. Members of the public may file comments using the ERF system or may file a comment by mail at the Public Service Commission, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

Please direct questions about this docket or requests for additional accommodations for the disabled to the Commission's docket coordinator Stacy Schumacher at (608) 267-2547 or [Stacy.Schumacher@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumacher@wisconsin.gov). Questions regarding the process of filing comments via ERF should be addressed to the PSC Records Team at [PSCRecordsMail@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCRecordsMail@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

Martin R. Day  
Division Administrator  
Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis

Attachments

MRD:KN:STS:jlt:DL: 01764731

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application Filing Requirements for Solar Electric Generation Projects

5-AFR-700

### ORDER

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) hereby orders that public utilities and wholesale merchant plants seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) under Wis. Stat. § 196.491 or a Certificate of Authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 shall be required to follow the attached Application Filing Requirements (AFR) and shall submit applications responsive to the items provided for therein.

For many years, the Commission has provided AFRs similar to these to assist applicants in the preparation of applications for a range of energy and water infrastructure projects. Applicants use the different AFRs to develop their applications to construct water infrastructure projects, municipal electric infrastructure projects, natural gas pipelines, fossil fuel and wind electric generating facilities, and large transmission lines.

Under Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3)(a)2. the Commission shall determine whether an application for a CPCN is complete within 30 days and must notify the applicant of the Commission's determination. The list of information that must be provided for a CPCN application to be determined complete is provided in Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 111.53. Additionally, Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.70(2) states that each application submitted to the Commission shall describe the project in sufficient detail that the Commission can prepare the relevant environmental analysis document for the Type I, II, or II Action a project is determined to be. Under Wis. Stat. § 30.025, the Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must follow a common review timetable if wetlands or navigable waters are involved. Therefore, information necessary for DNR staff to process permit applications under

Docket 5-AFR-700

Wis. Stat. § 30.025 are included in the AFRs to facilitate this joint review process. In furtherance of the joint review process, the draft AFRs available for review and comment include a text document and three Excel tables.

The provision of thorough and comprehensive AFRs facilitates the development of an application, minimizes additional data requests following receipt of an application, and aids in the goal of establishing application completeness as early in the review process as possible. The AFRs are based upon what the Commission has learned from its experience to date in reviewing a range of power plant construction applications for projects that require a CPCN or Certificate of Authority.

Commission staff shall make these Solar Electric Generation Project AFRs available on the Commission's website. Commission staff will make available any subsequent updates or corrections to these AFRs by posting the update or correction on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing system in docket 5-AFR-700 and on the Commission's website. The AFRs are guidance that public utilities and wholesale merchant plants must follow. The AFRs in no way bind the Commission nor preclude the Commission from making determinations as to the completeness or sufficiency of any application that is submitted to the Commission. The Commission retains jurisdiction.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin,

By the Commission:

Martin R. Day, Division Administrator  
Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis

MRD:KN:STS:jlt:DL:01765016

Attachments

See attached Notice of Rights

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

**NOTICE OF RIGHTS FOR REHEARING OR JUDICIAL REVIEW, THE  
TIMES ALLOWED FOR EACH, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE  
PARTY TO BE NAMED AS RESPONDENT**

The following notice is served on you as part of the Commission's written decision. This general notice is for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Wis. Stat. § 227.48(2), and does not constitute a conclusion or admission that any particular party or person is necessarily aggrieved or that any particular decision or order is final or judicially reviewable.

*PETITION FOR REHEARING*

If this decision is an order following a contested case proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3), a person aggrieved by the decision has a right to petition the Commission for rehearing within 20 days of the date of service of this decision, as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. The date of service is shown on the first page. If there is no date on the first page, the date of service is shown immediately above the signature line. The petition for rehearing must be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and served on the parties. An appeal of this decision may also be taken directly to circuit court through the filing of a petition for judicial review. It is not necessary to first petition for rehearing.

*PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW*

A person aggrieved by this decision has a right to petition for judicial review as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.53. In a contested case, the petition must be filed in circuit court and served upon the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin within 30 days of the date of service of this decision if there has been no petition for rehearing. If a timely petition for rehearing has been filed, the petition for judicial review must be filed within 30 days of the date of service of the order finally disposing of the petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition of the petition for rehearing by operation of law pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.49(5), whichever is sooner. If an *untimely* petition for rehearing is filed, the 30-day period to petition for judicial review commences the date the Commission serves its original decision.<sup>1</sup> The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin must be named as respondent in the petition for judicial review.

If this decision is an order denying rehearing, a person aggrieved who wishes to appeal must seek judicial review rather than rehearing. A second petition for rehearing is not permitted.

Revised: March 27, 2013

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<sup>1</sup> See *Currier v. Wisconsin Dep't of Revenue*, 2006 WI App 12, 288 Wis. 2d 693, 709 N.W.2d 520.

# **APPLICATION FILING REQUIREMENTS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS**

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**





# **Application Filing Requirements**

## **Solar Energy Projects**

This document lists information required for a sufficient application for the construction of a solar energy generation facility that requires either a Certificate of Authority (CA) under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 or a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) under Wis. Stat. § 196.491 from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC). It applies to all public utility solar energy projects over the CA cost threshold and any non-utility solar energy project with a capacity of 100 megawatts (MW) or greater.

The CPCN and CA are PSC certifications, but the applicant might also need to request certain Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (DNR) permits. This document therefore also refers to information required for permits from the DNR under Wis. Stat. § 30.025.

Overall, the filing requirements are intended to assist applicants and organize information consistently and to facilitate PSC and DNR application reviews.

Utility applications must include an analysis of project need and costs. Other types of applicants such as Independent Power Producers (IPP) may not be required to provide this information. In several sections of this Application Filing Requirements (AFR), IPPs proposing merchant plants and utilities are treated differently because of differences in the PSC's statutory authority. In those sections, such as Section 1.3, items that pertain only to utilities or to both utilities and IPPs are marked. In all other sections of this AFR where differences in treatment are not noted those sections apply to BOTH utilities and IPPs. Consult with PSC staff during the pre-application consultations to verify which filing requirements apply to a specific project.

### **Joint PSC/DNR Pre-Application Consultation Process**

An applicant must consult with both the PSC and DNR prior to submitting its application under Wis. Stat. § 30.025(1m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.70(1). This pre-application consultation process is a series of discussions with the staff of these two agencies. Each agency has its own requirements, but the two agency reviews interrelate.

A proposed project may require wetlands, waterway, construction storm water, and any other applicable permits from DNR. DNR Office of Energy staff can help determine permitting requirements during pre-application discussions. During the pre-application process, the PSC and DNR staff will identify the number of paper copies of the application that both state agencies may require.

Topics discussed during the pre-application process include:

- PSC and DNR staff contacts
- Applicable portions of the filing requirements for each agency
- Appropriate application formats and subject matter, such as for maps and tables
- Specific permits and approvals required for the project
- PSC's and DNR's projected review estimated timelines and important milestones
- Site alternatives and project boundaries
- Appropriate type, scope, and timing of required field work (habitat assessments, wetland delineations, biological surveys, etc.)

During the pre-application period, the applicant should also solicit additional information from other interested persons through public outreach.

## **DNR Joint Application Needs**

Like the PSC, the DNR requires a thorough joint application for the project review to proceed. The applicant must also consult DNR staff to ensure that particular requirements for the joint application are met.

### **Permits and Application Requirements**

DNR permits required for the project will be identified during the pre-application process and with the help of the applicant's Engineering Plan, described in the next subsection.

Under Wis. Stat. § 30.025, the two agencies must follow a common review timetable if impacts to wetlands and/or navigable waters are involved. For this reason, a thorough application containing both DNR and PSC required information is submitted to both agencies at the same time. Specific DNR permit application requirements can be confirmed by the DNR Office of Energy's Energy Project Liaison staff (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/Energy.html>). The requirements include information and materials needed for analysis of potential impacts to rare species and natural communities, and wetland or waterway construction permits. Applications must include an Endangered Resources (ER) Review from the DNR or obtain concurrence from DNR for an ER Review completed by a certified individual. The ER Review includes an analysis of the information contained in the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. An ER Verification Form may also be submitted if the project is covered by the Broad Incidental Take Authorization for No/Low Impact Activities. Specific ER screening requirements can be confirmed by the DNR Office of Energy's ER Review staff.

### **Engineering Plan**

An Engineering Plan required under Wis. Stat. §196.491(3)(a)3 must be submitted to DNR before a CPCN application may be submitted to the PSC. The Engineering Plan must:

- Show the proposed facility locations.
- Describe the facilities, including major components that could have impacts to natural resources.

- Briefly describe the anticipated effects of the proposed facilities on air quality, water quality, wetlands, solid waste disposal capacity, and other natural resources.

### **Habitat Assessments and Biological Surveys**

Habitat assessments or biological (plant and/or animal) surveys may be required.

The applicant should complete an ER screening as stated above early in the pre-application process with DNR to determine what, if any, field work should be completed. DNR may require fieldwork to be conducted: 1) prior to submitting an application, 2) while the application is under review, 3) prior to the start of construction, and 4) post construction. Within one year of construction starting, DNR will require project information such as the project schedule, major project actions, and current aerial imagery of the project area. For this review, DNR staff defines the project area as any location under consideration for any facilities associated with the solar generation project, including a generator tie line and any substations. For most species, the field season begins in the second quarter of the year; however, some rare species may require that field work be conducted earlier or later in the year. DNR will discuss with the applicant the timing and scope of the required studies based on project specifics and the application schedule.

### **Wetlands and Waterways**

Wetland and waterway surveys may be required. If wetland field work will not be completed on any portion of the project area, the applicant should conservatively assume all desktop areas mapped as WWI and hydric soil indicators are wetland, or should discuss wetland mapping alternatives with DNR prior to filing. Submitted information should differentiate between field identified wetlands and desktop identified wetlands, with supporting documentation to support the desktop identified wetlands, is applicable.

If field delineations will be conducted, and/or if navigability determination will be requested, the following field information should be collected at all DNR mapped waterways and field identified waterways:

- Waterway characteristics such as water depth, water width, ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) width, substrate type, bank height, etc.
- Photos at crossing locations, upstream, and downstream—if the site is covered in tall vegetation, move back the vegetation by hand to show if a channel is present or not underneath the vegetation. The photos should include a narrative or caption that documents each of the photo's location, direction taken, and what the photo is depicting.
- Other documentation, such as presence and size of existing culverts and bridges, etc.

If field surveys are not feasible by the time of the joint application submittal, the applicant must consult with DNR staff to determine alternative sources of information prior to filing.

The applicant must submit separate tables, a Wetland and Waterway Impact/Crossing Table (DNR Table 1) and a Wetland and Waterway Inventory Table (DNR Table 2) for the proposed and alternative sites. Copies of these tables will be provided by DNR Office of Energy's Energy Project Liaison staff or can be found on the PSC website. Copies of these DNR Tables must be submitted in Excel format. Complete the wetland sections of these DNR tables with the wetland

mapping method discussed at the pre-application meeting. To complete the waterway sections of the DNR Tables, all DNR mapped waterways (on the DNR 24k hydro layer, and also found in the Surface Water Data Viewer “surface waters” layer) plus any field identified waterways must be included in these tables, regardless of a navigability determination being requested.

These tables must be updated throughout the review process as more accurate information becomes available. The wetland and waterway unique field IDs that are used in the DNR tables must also be included in the attributes tables of the submitted wetland Geographical Information Systems (GIS) shapefiles, as well as the wetland and waterway maps, that are included with the project application.

## **Other State Agencies**

### **WisDOT Permits and Reviews**

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) oversize and overweight permits may be required for transporting project components to construction sites. In addition, a review for high structure permits issued by WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics may also be required (See Section 5.14). Applicants should contact WisDOT at an early stage in project development and before submitting an application to the PSC.

### **DATCP Application Needs**

Utility-proposed projects may require an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). If the project is subject to AIS requirements, DATCP requires the submittal of a complete Agricultural Impact Notice for Non-Linear Projects and associated tables and GIS data. Applicants should contact the DATCP AIS program prior to submitting an application to the PSC to determine DATCP filing requirements. DATCP may require a paper copy of the PSC application and associated GIS data.

## **Application Formats**

### **Application Tables**

The tables submitted as part of the application such as impacts, cost, and mailing list spreadsheets are to be submitted in Adobe Acrobat (\*.pdf) as well as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Mailing lists as part of the application should not be submitted to the Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system. Rather, submit mailing lists to the PSC docket coordinator via email.

The mailing lists must be submitted in Microsoft Excel, must be identical to the example shown below, and must meet the following format criteria as demonstrated below:

- Submit tables in Microsoft Excel.
- Do not use punctuation marks.
- Capitalize all data entries.
- Comply with current U.S. Postal Service mailing standards.

- Only use the Email Column if addresses are known to be current.

Mailing list(s) should be possible to cross-reference with the submitted GIS parcel shapefile through the name or address column, but do not add additional columns or formatting. Mailing lists should include property owners, both participating and non-participating, located up to one mile from the facilities that are part of the application. This includes both proposed and alternative arrays, any substations, generator tie lines, etc.

Mailing list submitted in other formats will be sent back for correction, as the PSC’s mailing system can only work with this format.

### Sample Mailing List Table

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	attention	name	address	city	state	zip	email
2	CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD	JAMES B WOYWOD; KURT RUNZLER; DENNIS DUMS	16 NORTH CARROLL STREET STE 640	MADISON	WI	53703	WOYWOD@WISCUB.ORG; RUNZLER@WISCU
3	CLEAN WISCONSIN	KATIE NEKOLA	634 WEST MAIN STREET STE 300	MADISON	WI	53703	KNEKOLA@CLEANWISCONSIN.ORG
4	CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY-GAS DIVISION	DARCY FABRIZIUS	N21 W23340 RIDGEVIEW PARKWAY	WAUKESHA	WI	53188	DARCY.FABRIZIUS@CONSTELLATION.COM

Contact PSC staff regarding any questions about mailing list submittals.

Contact DNR Office of Energy’s Energy Project Liaison staff (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/Energy.html>) for questions regarding the two DNR tables.

### Geographical Information System Submissions

GIS data files must be submitted in the most current version of ArcGIS (ESRI ArcGIS 10.X) to both PSC and DNR staff. Geodatabases or individual shapefiles may be submitted. Data file names should be descriptive of the contents.

Provide the following GIS-related items as part of the application:

- GIS shapefiles or geodatabase that contains all the data used to produce all maps submitted as part of the application and additional items as detailed in Section 4.2.
- A spreadsheet listing all GIS data files, a file description, the source of the data, and the date when the data was collected or published.
- Map files in ESRI ArcGIS \*.mxd format for all GIS maps in the application.

All GIS data at from local to statewide resolution must be projected in “NAD 1983 HARN Wisconsin TM (Meters)” projection system.

### Photographic and Line Drawing Submissions

Line drawings must be in AutoCad and may be in either \*.dwg or \*.dxf format. The preference is \*.dwg.

Any photographic renderings (photo simulations) of proposed facilities on the existing landscape must be submitted in a high-resolution raster format.

Digital aerial imagery must be properly geo-referenced and must be accompanied by the geographic coordinate and projection system.

Scanned maps and diagrams that cannot be submitted in any other format must be submitted in \*.gif format at a depth of 256 colors or less.

## Application Size

Applicants are required to minimize the physical size of their applications by eliminating superfluous information not material to the case.

Only submit those pages relevant to the information requirement. Do not submit multi-page ordinances, land use plans, etc. unless the entire document would be helpful for context.

Minimize duplicative information. An appendix is the appropriate location for information that is referred to in several different sections of the application.

Submit only official correspondence between the applicant and state, local and federal government agencies. PSC staff needs to review this correspondence to verify that the applicant has applied for the necessary permits and to ascertain the status of the permit review. Do not include unofficial minutes of meetings, records of telephone conversations, or billings from the PSC or DNR.

Applications should be printed double-sided. Exceptions to this requirement are maps sized larger than 11 x 17 inches.

## Confidential and CEII Materials

Organize the application so that all confidential materials are only in Appendices and separated from non-confidential materials. Submit confidential materials in compliance with the confidential materials handling procedures of each agency.

Confidential project documents, such as an Endangered Resources Review and cultural resource documents, must be submitted confidentially to the PSC and DNR.

***Prior to submitting any critical energy infrastructure information (CEII) related to the project, contact the Commission staff docket coordinator for instructions regarding how to do so.***

## PSC Electronic Records Filing System

The ERF system is the official file for all dockets considered by the Commission. Use the ERF system to post all confidential and non-confidential application materials, including all materials provided to DNR. No joint application materials should be provided separately to DNR through the DNR's E-Permitting site, unless specifically requested to do so, but should be posted to ERF. Both the initial application and the complete application must be submitted using the ERF system. Items submitted in native formats, such as ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles, Microsoft Excel tables, Microsoft Word versions, modeling, etc. should be documented in a letter filed on ERF.

Instructions for submitting documents to the ERF system can be found on the PSC web site. Search for "ERF Policy/Procedure" on the PSC Homepage search bar for the current instructions.

## Application Completeness

For CPCNs, PSC and DNR staff will examine the application during a 30-day completeness review period as required under Wis. Stat. §196.491(3)(a)2. The applicant will be notified if an application is deemed complete by the end of the 30-day period. If the application is found to be incomplete, PSC will send the applicant a letter identifying the deficiencies. The applicant may then submit revised or supplemented application materials to the PSC and DNR for a new 30-day application completeness review. There is no statutory time limit for an applicant to submit the revised or supplemental materials in order to remedy identified deficiencies.

Applicants should be aware that complete applications rarely answer all the questions that the PSC and DNR must address. It is likely that applicants will be called upon to provide additional information and data to support their applications throughout the review process. Applicants will be expected to respond to all staff inquiries made subsequent to a determination of completeness in a timely, complete, and accurate manner.

## Filing the Application

*For CA applications*, check with PSC docket coordinator and the DNR during the pre-application process to determine how the application should be filed and how many paper copies are necessary. Electronic versions of all submitted application materials must be sent to both the PSC and DNR.

*For CPCN applications*, a two-step process must be followed.

### Step 1 – Initial CPCN Applications

- Send to the PSC docket coordinator and DNR Office of Energy project manager the number of paper copies of the non-confidential portion of the application agreed upon by PSC staff and the applicant.
- Send to the PSC docket coordinator and DNR Office of Energy project manager CDs or DVDs<sup>1</sup>, or, upload to the PSC's secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site<sup>2</sup>, files containing:
  - The entire non-confidential portion of the application in Adobe Acrobat (\*.pdf) format.
  - Microsoft Word versions of the text portion of the application.
  - Microsoft Excel versions of tables.
  - ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles/geodatabase and map document files (\*.mxd) for all maps submitted in the application.
- File with PSC Records Management, using confidential material handling procedures, electronic versions of confidential portions of the application including spreadsheets, NHI unredacted materials, etc., as described in the PSC ERF Filing Policy/Procedure guide.

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<sup>1</sup> Flash drives are not accepted by the PSC.

<sup>2</sup> Contact the PSC docket coordinator for instructions.

Post to the PSC ERF, all application materials both confidential and non-confidential, including all materials provided to DNR.

***Prior to submitting any CEII related to the project, contact the Commission staff docket coordinator for instructions regarding how to do so.***

## **Step 2 – After CPCN Application is Deemed Complete**

The PSC may require as many as 10 complete paper applications. Again, check with the PSC docket coordinator to verify the appropriate number of applications. Applicants should work with the docket coordinator to determine whether printed copies of the application should be replaced entirely, or updated, based on the extent of any changes. Upon the PSC declaring the application to be complete, submit the following:

- Send to the PSC docket coordinator and DNR Office of Energy project manager, paper versions of the non-confidential portions of the complete application. Again, the PSC encourages the reuse of unchanged portions of the initial applications.
- Send to the PSC docket coordinator and DNR Office of Energy project manager, paper copies of the confidential portions of the application. Do NOT send paper copies of CEII material.
- CDs or DVDs, or, upload to the PSC's SFTP site, files containing:
  - The non-confidential portion of the complete application in Adobe Acrobat (\*.pdf) format.
  - Microsoft Word versions of the text portion of the complete application.
  - Microsoft Excel versions of tables.
  - ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles/geodatabase and map document files (\*.mxd) for all maps submitted in the application.
  - Any updated modeling data.
- Using confidential material handling procedures, as described in the ERF Filing Policy/Procedure Guide, file with PSC Records Management, confidential appendices, spreadsheets, etc.

Post to ERF the revised complete application (confidential and non-confidential).

***Prior to submitting any CEII related to the project, contact the Commission staff docket coordinator for instructions regarding how to do so.***

## **Public Copies of CPCN Applications**

Electronic copies of the initial application and of the complete application must be sent to the clerks of municipalities and towns in the project area, and to the main public libraries that serve the project area (Wis. Stat. § 196.491 and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 111.51).

Within 10 days of filing a CPCN application, the Commission shall send electronic copies of the application to municipalities, towns, and libraries. At the request of a clerk or library, a paper copy of the application must be sent. Under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 111.51, the Commission may fulfill this obligation by directing the applicant to conduct the mailings. In this case, proof

of delivery will be required. Commission staff will provide a cover letter to accompany the application explaining that this is an initial application and that it may differ from the application that the Commission deems complete.

Within 10 days after the Commission determines that an application is complete or the application is considered to be complete, the Commission must send an electronic copy of the complete application to municipalities, towns, and libraries. At the request of a clerk or library, a paper copy of the application must be sent. The Commission may fulfill this obligation by directing the applicant to conduct the mailings. Commission staff will provide a cover letter to accompany the application explaining that this is a copy of the complete application. In this case, proof of delivery is required.

## **Public Copies of CA Applications**

There are no requirements for distributing copies of a CA applications to the public.

## **Contact for Questions**

If you have questions about the Application Filing Requirements, visit the PSC website at: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForUtilities/Energy/FilingRequirements.aspx> for information. Initial questions can be directed to the Environmental Review Coordinator listed on that website.



## Application Filing Requirements

### Construction of a Solar Powered Electric Generation Facility Requiring a CPCN or CA

Any generation facility of 100 megawatts (MW) or greater requires an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). A complete CPCN application will contain the information listed in this document. Exceptions will be documented during the pre-application consultation process. Information that an applicant believes does not apply to the proposed project may not be omitted without a showing as to why the information is not applicable. Applications should follow the organization and format of this Application Filing Requirements document (AFR).

A Certificate of Authority (CA) will be required for any Wisconsin utility proposing to build a generation facility rated at less than 100 MW, where the cost exceeds the thresholds established in Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 112.05(3). These filing requirements also apply to CA projects. Consult with Commission staff prior to submitting an application.

### Project Area and Site Alternatives

Under Wis. Stat. §§ 1.11, 196.025(2m)(c), and 196.491(3), and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 4, the Commission decision for all CPCN and CA projects must include an evaluation of alternatives. These alternatives include:

#### Alternative Project Areas

For this analysis the application must describe the method and factors used to evaluate and eliminate competing project areas and why the proposed project site is the applicant's chosen option.

#### Alternative Sites

The applicant must provide alternative sites for the Commission to consider. Wisconsin Admin. Code § 111.53(1)(f) states the site-related information that must be provided for each of two proposed power plant sites for large electric generation facility CPCN applications. ***Alternative sites must be viable and true alternatives to proposed sites.*** For large solar facilities, at a minimum, an application should have a total number of viable panel sites that are at least 25 percent greater than the minimum number of sites needed to achieve the rated output of the project. For example, for the acreage needed to construct a 120 MW direct current (DC) solar project, the application must identify and fully describe alternative site acreage equal to

25 percent of the 120 MW project. The proposed and alternative arrays must be identified as such in the application materials.

For utility projects requiring a CPCN an additional evaluation of alternative methods of supply is also required.

## **Alternative Methods of Supply**

Describe the alternative methods of supply considered in the course of developing the proposed project including a no-build option. Alternative forms of supply can include other forms of renewable energy such as wind, biomass, fuel cells etc. For a utility project, an alternative source of supply could also be a purchase power contract. This requirement that alternative methods of supply must be described does not apply to a CPCN application for a wholesale merchant plant, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.491(1)(w).

*Do not break a single project into two or more smaller projects in order to avoid the regulatory review process under Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3) or to avoid the regulatory review process under Wis. Stat. §196.49 (Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 112).*

## **1. Project Description and Overview**

### **1.1 General Project Location and Description of Project and Project Area**

(The overall size of the project area will have an impact on the amount of data and analyses required in this AFR. It is recommended that the project area be optimized so that the project retains flexibility for siting panels while at the same time reducing the total area for which data will be required.) Provide the following information about the project:

- 1.1.1 Project location – counties and townships in the project area.
- 1.1.2 Size of project area (in acres), area to be disturbed by construction activities (in acres), and size of solar arrays (in acres).
- 1.1.3 Size (rated capacity), in both DC and alternating current (AC) MWs, of the proposed project. When providing the DC MW size, a range can be provided. (If an actual panel model is not yet under contract, the applicant must provide information on at least two models that are being considered. Those panels must represent the maximum and minimum megawatt size under consideration for purchase for the project).
- 1.1.4 Number of panel sites proposed for the project and the number of alternative panel sites that have been identified (See the discussion on page 1 regarding alternatives). Identify any new or modified electric transmission lines or other electric transmission facilities that might be needed.
- 1.1.5 Provide a general map showing the location of the project area, nearest communities, townships, and major roads. Include an inset map showing where the project is located in the state. Scale should be appropriate for showing communities within at least 10 miles of the project area boundary.

## 1.2 Ownership

Identify the corporate entity or entities that would own and/or operate the plant.

## 1.3 Project Need/Purpose

*Independent Power Producers (IPP) (merchant plants) skip to Subsection 1.3.6.*

Subsections 1.3.1 thru 1.3.5 apply to utilities only. These subsections focus on compliance with Wis. Stat. § 196.374, the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

- 1.3.1 The utility's renewable baseline percentage and baseline requirement for 2001-2003 and the amount of renewables needed in the future.
- 1.3.2 Amount of renewable energy currently owned and operated by the utility as defined by the RPS requirements for additional renewable energy.
  - 1.3.2.1 Total existing renewable generation capacity.
  - 1.3.2.2 Total energy produced by renewable assets in previous calendar year separated by generation type (Hydro, biomass, methane, wind etc.).
  - 1.3.2.3 Amount of renewable energy acquired through purchase power agreements (separated by type, hydro, biomass, wind, solar, etc.).
  - 1.3.2.4 Amount of RPS credits purchased.
- 1.3.3 Expected annual energy output for the project.
- 1.3.4 Other need not covered in Section 1.3.1
  - 1.3.4.1 Monthly demand and energy forecast for peak and off peak periods over the next 20-25 years.
  - 1.3.4.2 Describe how the availability of purchase power was analyzed.
  - 1.3.4.3 Identify plant retirements forecast over the next 20-25 years.
  - 1.3.4.4 Describe how the existing and expected applications for generation from IPPs have been factored into your forecast.
  - 1.3.4.5 Describe how the proposed project meets the requirements the Energy Priorities Law, Wis. Stat. §§ 1.12 and 196.025(1).
  - 1.3.4.6 Briefly describe utility's compliance under Wis. Stat. § 196.374 for energy efficiency.

### 1.3.5 **Utilities Only** – Generation Capacity Expansion Modeling

The generation capacity expansion modeling should be performed in a software program like EGEAS or similar and include a 30-year extension period. The generation capacity expansion modeling should be filed on CDs, DVDs, or uploaded to the PSC's SFTP site, based on discussion with the docket coordinator as described in the PSC ERF Policy/Procedure Filing guide.

- 1.3.5.1 Describe the 25-year optimal generation expansion plan for all of the entities that are part of the generation plan.
  - 1.3.5.2 The solar resource should be modeled as non-dispatchable, using an hourly solar profile.
- ### 1.3.6 **IPPs Only** – Energy Agreements
- 1.3.6.1 Identify all Wisconsin utilities under contract for delivery of energy from the proposed project.

- 1.3.6.2 For each utility under contract or with which an agreement in principle for delivery of energy is in place provide the following, by utility:
  - 1.3.6.2.1 Rated capacity under contract.
  - 1.3.6.2.2 Annual energy to be delivered under contract or expected to be delivered.

## 1.4 Alternatives

- 1.4.1 **Utilities (CPCN) – Supply Alternatives.** Describe the supply alternatives to this proposal that were considered (including a “no-build” option) and present the justification for the choice of the proposed option(s).
  - 1.4.1.1 Describe any alternative renewable fuel options considered and why those options were not selected.
    - 1.4.1.1.1 Wind
    - 1.4.1.1.2 Biomass
    - 1.4.1.1.3 Hydro
    - 1.4.1.1.4 Landfill Gas
    - 1.4.1.1.5 Fuel Cell
  - 1.4.1.2 Describe Purchase Power Agreements (PPA) considered or explain why a PPA was not considered for this project.
  - 1.4.1.3 No-Build Option.
- 1.4.2 **Utilities (CPCN or CA) and IPPs (CPCN) – Project Area Selection**
  - 1.4.2.1 Alternative Project Areas. Describe the project area screening and selection process used to select the proposed project area. Provide the following:
    - 1.4.2.1.1 List individual factors or site characteristics used in project area selection.
    - 1.4.2.1.2 Explain in detail how brownfields were considered in the selection of sites to develop.
    - 1.4.2.1.3 Explain how individual factors and project area characteristics were weighted for your analysis and why specific weights were chosen.
    - 1.4.2.1.4 Provide a list of all project areas reviewed with weighted scores for each siting factor or characteristic used in the analysis.
  - 1.4.2.2 Provide a narrative describing why the proposed project area was chosen.

## 1.5 Utilities (CPCN or CA) and IPPs (CPCN) – Site Selection

- 1.5.1 List the individual factors or characteristics used to select the proposed and alternative panel sites (arrays).
- 1.5.2 Provide information on how site characteristics and the type/s of panels chosen factored into the selection of the final panel sites.
- 1.5.3 Setback distances
  - 1.5.3.1 Provide the minimum setbacks for both boundary fences and solar panels from:
    - residences
    - property lines
    - other buildings (e.g., animal barns, storage sheds)

- roads
  - wetlands and waterways
  - any other features.
- 1.5.3.2 Identify any sites where non-participating “good neighbor” agreements have been executed.
- 1.5.3.3 Status of easement agreements:
- 1.5.3.3.1 Identify all project sites with easement agreements that have been signed.
- 1.5.3.3.2 Identify all sites where easement agreements have not been signed and provide a short description of the status of negotiations.
- 1.5.4 Identify whether setbacks are consistent with local zoning (county or municipality) or if there are variations from local zoning setbacks, describe why.

## **1.6 Utilities Only – Cost**

- 1.6.1 Provide capital cost of the completed facility organized by Plant Account Codes (PAC) found in the PSC’s Uniform System of Accounts for Private Electric Utilities – 1/1/90. Provide a breakdown within each PAC and a subtotal. Include, at least, the following PACs:
- 1.6.1.1 PAC 340 – Land and Land Rights.
- 1.6.1.2 PAC 341 – Structures and improvements (operation and maintenance (O&M) buildings, access roads).
- 1.6.1.3 PAC 344 – Generators (foundations, engineering, procurement, construction management, erection).
- 1.6.1.4 PAC 345 – Accessory Electrical Equipment (substation, meteorological towers, collector circuit system, SCADA).
- 1.6.2 Provide the complete terms and conditions of all lease arrangements.
- 1.6.2.1 Site lease
- 1.6.2.2 Neighbor or non-participant agreements
- 1.6.2.3 Provide a statement demonstrating how conditions of Wis. Stat. § 196.52(9)(a)3(b) have been met (this pertains to leased generation contracts).
- 1.6.2.4 Affiliated interest approvals required. Include those applied for or received.
- 1.6.3 Discuss and provide the comparative costs of the alternatives identified and evaluated in Section 1.4.
- 1.6.4 Describe the effect of the proposed project on wholesale market competition. Include a description of how, at the time of this filing, the proposed facility would be treated as an intermittent resource in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) market.
- 1.6.5 Provide an estimate of the expected life span for the power plant.
- 1.6.6 Describe how the facility would be decommissioned at the end of its life span. Describe expected decommissioning actions and timelines.
- 1.6.6.1 Provide an estimate of the cost of and source of funding for decommissioning. State whether financial security would be provided to

cover decommissioning costs, including the amount and time it would be provided.

- 1.6.6.2 State how the start of decommissioning would be decided, including a description of what constitutes site abandonment.

## **1.7 IPPs Only – MISO and Project Life Span**

- 1.7.1 MISO Market. Describe how, at the time of this filing, the proposed facility would be treated as an intermittent resource in the MISO market.
- 1.7.2 Provide an estimate of the expected life span for the power plant.
- 1.7.3 Describe how the facility would be decommissioned at the end of its life span.
- 1.7.3.1 Provide an estimate of the cost of and source of funding for decommissioning.

## **1.8 Utilities and IPPs – Required Permits and Approvals**

- 1.8.1 Approvals and Permits. For each of the regulatory agencies listed below provide the following information:

- regulatory agency,
- the approvals/permits required,
- application filing date,
- the status of each application,
- agency contact name and telephone number.

### 1.8.1.1 Federal

- 1.8.1.1.1 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- 1.8.1.1.2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 1.8.1.1.3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- 1.8.1.1.4 Other federal agencies not listed above

### 1.8.1.2 State

- 1.8.1.2.1 WisDOT
- 1.8.1.2.2 DNR
- 1.8.1.2.3 DATCP
- 1.8.1.2.4 Other state agencies not listed above

### 1.8.1.3 Local Permits – including county, town, city, and village

- 1.8.2 Correspondence with Permitting Agencies. Provide copies of correspondence to and from state and federal agencies that relate to permit approval, compliance approval, or project planning and siting. Provide copies of any correspondence to or from local governments. This should continue after submittal of the application.

## **2. Technical Description – Project Area, Arrays, Panels, and Ancillary Facilities**

### **2.1 Estimated Solar Resource and Projected Energy Production**

Provide a complete energy production assessment for the project. This report should include, at a minimum:

- 2.1.1 Solar resource data used in analysis.
- 2.1.2 Gross and net capacity factor (explain the method used to calculate the capacity factors and provide the data used).
- 2.1.3 Estimated energy production of project.
  - 2.1.3.1 Estimated production losses.
  - 2.1.3.2 Estimated net energy production.

## **2.2 Solar Panel Type and Characteristics**

- 2.2.1 Identify the manufacturer and model of solar panel to be used. (If no Panel Purchase Agreement has been signed, applicants should identify the panel or panels being considered. It is acceptable to identify a range by providing information on the largest and smallest panel being considered, however, consult with Commission staff prior to preparing the application).
- 2.2.2 Panel delivery date – Indicate whether or not this date is firm.
- 2.2.3 Total number of panels required for project.
- 2.2.4 Technical characteristics of panels.
  - 2.2.4.1 Panel physical dimensions.
  - 2.2.4.2 Panel material/type.
  - 2.2.4.3 Highest and lowest points during daily rotation.
  - 2.2.4.4 Any surface treatment of panels.
  - 2.2.4.5 Panel power curve (provide actual data – solar resource and rated output needed to create the curve).
  - 2.2.4.6 Panel tolerances for extreme weather events. Include any operational actions for extreme weather events.
  - 2.2.4.7 Panel tolerance for placement on slopes
- 2.2.5 Technical characteristics of inverters.
- 2.2.6 Technical characteristics of any tracking systems, panel supports, and racking.
  - 2.2.6.1 Type of material used for supports and racking.
  - 2.2.6.2 Tracking system used.
  - 2.2.6.3 Dimensions and number of sections required.
  - 2.2.6.4 Typical distances between rows, access roads, and fences.
- 2.2.7 Scale drawings of a typical panel row including inverter pad and transformer box.
- 2.2.8 Provide information on any perimeter fencing that would be used around the solar PV arrays. Describe any requirements on the fencing around the PV sites.

## **2.3 Other Project Facilities**

- 2.3.1 Site Construction Area. Describe the site construction area. Include the number of, location, and dimensions for:
  - 2.3.1.1 Solar arrays, proposed and alternative.
  - 2.3.1.2 Lay-down/staging areas.
  - 2.3.1.3 Parking area.
  - 2.3.1.4 Provide a scale drawing showing the general construction setup for the solar array sites.

- 2.3.2 Collector Circuits.
  - 2.3.2.1 Total number of miles of collector circuits required – separated by circuit type (overhead vs. underground).
  - 2.3.2.2 Specify the collector circuit voltage to be used.
  - 2.3.2.3 Transformer type, location, and physical size of transformer pad at each site.
  - 2.3.2.4 Underground collector circuits.
    - 2.3.2.4.1 Conductor to be used.
    - 2.3.2.4.2 Describe installation type and how lines would be laid (open-cut trench, vibratory plow, directional bore, etc.). Provide scale drawing of underground circuit.
    - 2.3.2.4.3 Depth and width of trench, and minimum depth of soil cover over circuits (if applicable).
  - 2.3.2.5 Overhead collector circuits.
    - 2.3.2.5.1 Size of pole to be used.
    - 2.3.2.5.2 Engineering drawing of structure to be used.
- 2.3.3 Site Foundations. Describe the type of foundation or foundations to be used for each part of the project. If more than one type of foundation may be needed describe each and identify under what circumstances each foundation type would be used. Include the following:
  - 2.3.3.1 Describe how the panel and inverter foundations would be installed (e.g. direct imbed, excavation for pouring of concrete footings, etc.).
  - 2.3.3.2 Dimensions, surface area and depth required for each foundation.
  - 2.3.3.3 Amount of soil excavated for each foundation type.
  - 2.3.3.4 Describe how excavated soils would be handled including disposal of excess soil.
  - 2.3.3.5 Materials to be used for the foundation. Include:
    - 2.3.3.5.1 Approximate quantity and type of concrete required for typical foundation.
    - 2.3.3.5.2 Materials required for reinforcement.
    - 2.3.3.5.3 Description of the panel mounting system.
  - 2.3.3.6 Provide technical drawings of each foundation type to be used showing foundation dimensions.
  - 2.3.3.7 Describe how foundation or support installation would address the risk of frost heave on facilities.
- 2.3.4 Access Roads
  - 2.3.4.1 Provide the total number and total miles required for access roads. Provide the amounts for both temporary access (used during construction only) and permanent access (for long-term facility operation and maintenance) roads. State if any temporary access roads would be converted into permanent access roads.
  - 2.3.4.2 Describe materials to be used and methods for construction of temporary and permanent access roads, including road bed depth.

- 2.3.4.3 Specify the required width of temporary and permanent access roads. Fully describe any differences between final road size and that required during construction.
- 2.3.4.4 Describe any site access control (e.g. fences or gates).
- 2.3.5 General Construction Areas
  - 2.3.5.1 Identify size, number, and location of laydown/staging areas outside of those found at the array sites and any other areas used for material storage.
  - 2.3.5.2 Identify size and location of construction parking areas.
  - 2.3.5.3 Describe the expected use of these areas after project completion.
  - 2.3.5.4 Provide a list of all hazardous chemicals to be used on site during construction and operation (including liquid fuel).
  - 2.3.5.5 Discuss spill containment and cleanup measures including the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) and Risk Management planning for the chemicals proposed.
- 2.3.6 Construction Site Lighting.
  - 2.3.6.1 Describe the site lighting plan during project construction.
  - 2.3.6.2 Provide copies of any local ordinances relating to lighting that could apply.

## **2.4 Substation**

If the project includes the construction of a substation or modifications to an existing substation, provide the following information:

- 2.4.1 A complete electrical description of required substation facilities including a list of transformers, busses, and any interconnection facilities required.
- 2.4.2 Indicate the size (in acres) of the land purchase required for the new substation or substation expansion.
- 2.4.3 Indicate the actual size of the substation or substation addition in square feet, the dimensions of the proposed substation facilities, and the orientation of the substation within the purchase parcel. This should include the size of any new driveways associated with the substation.
- 2.4.4 Identify current land ownership and whether applicant has control of property or whether or not an option to buy has been signed.
- 2.4.5 Describe substation construction procedures (in sequence as they would occur) including erosion control practices (see Section 3.1).
- 2.4.6 Describe associated permanent storm water management facilities that will be constructed, or expansion/modification of existing storm water treatment facilities to comply with applicable post-construction performance standards in Wis. Admin. Code §§ NR 151.121 through 151.128. Identify the locations of the point(s) of collection and discharge.
- 2.4.7 Describe any security requirements for the substation site and provide information on how these would be met.

## **2.5 Transmission and Distribution Interconnection**

If the project includes the construction of a generator tie line, that is not the subject of a separate application before the Commission, provide the following information:

- 2.5.1 Describe any transmission or distribution grid interconnection requirement.
- 2.5.2 Identify the length of the generator tie line.
- 2.5.3 Provide details on the types of structures (underground/overhead, single-pole/H-frame, direct embed/concrete caisson, typical span length, etc.) and lines that would be constructed as part of any necessary generator tie line, including the height of the structures. If the installation will be underground, identify the installation method(s), such as directional bore, open-cut trench, plow, etc.
- 2.5.4 Describe the transmission configuration (single-circuit, double-circuit, etc.).
- 2.5.5 Describe the right-of-way (ROW) area needed for the generator tie line and the status of any easements or other land agreements with property owners.
- 2.5.6 Describe all communications and agreements, official or otherwise, with the transmission or distribution owner. These can include definitive phase planning (DPP) studies and any signed generator interconnection agreements, or more informal meeting notes or letters.
- 2.5.7 For transmission interconnections, indicate where the project is in the MISO Queue and provide copies of the latest draft or final MISO report for the project interconnect. During the PSC review process applicant must continue to supply the latest reports from MISO.
- 2.5.8 Indicate how equipment access will occur, and if off-ROW access roads will be utilized. If off-ROW access roads will be utilized, provide the following:
  - 2.5.8.1 Provide the number of off-ROW access roads proposed, and an identifying name or number for each off-ROW access road.
  - 2.5.8.2 For each proposed route, provide the dimensions (length, width, area) and construction method, including any modifications that would be needed to utilize the off-ROW access roads, such as road widening, road fill placement, tree clearing, etc.
  - 2.5.8.3 Discuss the reasons for the necessity for off-ROW access roads (e.g. topography, rivers/wetlands, etc.). If protection of a natural resource is a reason, discuss how the resource would be protected during construction and operation of the proposed project.
  - 2.5.8.4 Provide quantitative land cover information for off-ROW access roads similar to the information provided in PSC Impact Table.
  - 2.5.8.5 If the off-ROW access roads would be modified post-construction, provide details.
- 2.5.9 Describe the type of construction machinery that would be used.
- 2.5.10 Describe the construction disturbance zone, if different from the ROW.
- 2.5.11 Describe how spoil materials would be managed on and off-site

- 2.5.12 Describe the dewatering method(s) that may be utilized during excavation activities, such as pit/trench dewatering or high capacity wells. Identify treatment methods that would be utilized to treat the discharge, and the discharge location.
- 2.5.13 Describe if the construction of a new substation or switchyard, or modifications to existing facilities would be needed for the transmission interconnection. If so, describe which company would own and operate the facilities, and which company would conduct any ground disturbing construction for the facilities.

## **2.6 Operations and Maintenance Building**

- 2.6.1 Describe the purpose and use of the proposed O&M building.
- 2.6.2 Number of full-time employees that would be working at the facility.
- 2.6.3 Provide the size (in acres) of the land purchase required for the facility.
- 2.6.4 Building and Building Footprint.
  - 2.6.4.1 Provide a drawing or diagram of the O&M building with dimensions including square feet.
  - 2.6.4.2 Indicate the actual size of the building in square feet, and the size of any permanent driveways for the building to be constructed.
  - 2.6.4.3 Describe the type of building to be constructed (metal, frame, etc.).
- 2.6.5 Lighting and Security Plan for O&M Property
  - 2.6.5.1 Describe how the building property would be lit and how the lighting plan minimizes disturbance to nearby residences.
  - 2.6.5.2 Describe any security plans for the property (fences etc.).
- 2.6.6 Describe any other facilities needed, including:
  - 2.6.6.1 Parking lots.
  - 2.6.6.2 Sheds or storage buildings.
  - 2.6.6.3 Supplies of water.
  - 2.6.6.4 Sewer requirements.
- 2.6.7 Describe construction procedures (in the sequence as they would occur), including erosion control practices (see Section 3.1)
- 2.6.8 Describe associated permanent storm water management facilities that will be constructed, or expansion/modification of existing storm water treatment facilities, to comply with applicable post-construction performance standards in Wis. Admin. Code §§ NR 151.121 through 128. Identify the locations of the point(s) of collection and discharge.

## **2.7 Battery Storage**

If the proposed project would include a large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) or plans to include one in the future, provide the following information.

- 2.7.1 Describe the location of the proposed BESS, including a map that shows its placement within the other project facilities.

- 2.7.2 Explain what criteria was used to decide whether to use a BESS, and provide information on how its inclusion would affect the electrical design of the project and MISO interconnection process.
- 2.7.3 Provide information on how the BESS would be installed, any changes to project impacts through its inclusion, and ongoing operations and maintenance actions it would require.
- 2.7.4 Discuss any safety requirements specific to the BESS both on site and for local first responders.
- 2.7.5 Describe construction procedures (in the sequence as they would occur), including erosion control practices (see Section 3.1)
- 2.7.6 Describe associated permanent storm water management facilities that will be constructed, or expansion/modification of existing storm water treatment facilities, to comply with applicable post-construction performance standards in Wis. Admin. Code §§ NR 151.121 through 128. Identify the locations of the point(s) of collection and discharge.

## **3. Construction Sequence and Workforce**

### **3.1 Construction Sequence and Schedule**

- 3.1.1 Provide the construction schedule for the proposed project, identifying any potential seasonal or regulatory constraints. Include a timeline showing construction activities from beginning of construction to in-service. Identify all critical path items.
- 3.1.2 Provide a description of the staging and construction sequence required for building a typical solar array. Include the delivery of materials.
- 3.1.3 Provide an estimate of time required to complete construction at a typical solar array.
- 3.1.4 Provide a description of the staging and construction sequence for any other facilities to be constructed.
- 3.1.5 If grading, land leveling, or any other activity that would result in a change in topography or vegetative or non-vegetative soil cover will occur:
  - 3.1.5.1 Indicate the maximum area (sq. ft. or acres) of disturbance that would occur at a given time.
  - 3.1.5.2 Describe erosion and sediment control practices (e.g. sedimentation basins) that by design will be employed to result in a discharge of no more than 5 tons per acre per year of the sediment load carried in runoff from initial construction to final grading.
  - 3.1.5.3 Describe any structural practices that will be used to divert flow away from exposed soils, store runoff or otherwise limit runoff and the discharge of sediment.
  - 3.1.5.4 Describe to what extent final grade will affect predevelopment drainage patterns.
  - 3.1.5.5 Describe how these preventative measures will be incorporated into the project:

- Maintenance of existing vegetation, especially adjacent to surface waters whenever possible.
- Minimization of soil compaction and preservation of top-soil.
- Minimization of land-disturbing construction activity on slopes of 20 percent or more.

## **3.2 Workforce**

- 3.2.1 Provide information on the workforce size and skills required for project construction and operation.
- 3.2.2 Estimate how much of the expected workforce would come from local sources.

## **3.3 Construction Equipment and Delivery Vehicles**

Provide a description of the types of construction equipment needed to build the project and the types of delivery vehicles that would be used. For large equipment and vehicles include:

- 3.3.1 Types of construction equipment and delivery vehicles.
- 3.3.2 Gross vehicle weight (loaded and unloaded) for all vehicles using local roads.
- 3.3.3 For vehicles used for delivery, include:
  - 3.3.3.1 Overall vehicle length.
  - 3.3.3.2 Turning radius.
  - 3.3.3.3 Minimum ground clearance.
  - 3.3.3.4 Maximum slope tolerance.
- 3.3.4 Roads and Infrastructure. Estimate the potential impacts of construction and delivery vehicles on the local roads. Provide the following:
  - 3.3.4.1 Describe methods to be used to handle heavy or large loads on local roads.
  - 3.3.4.2 Probable routes for delivery of heavy and oversized equipment and materials.
  - 3.3.4.3 Potential for road damage and any compensation for such damage.
  - 3.3.4.4 Probable locations where local roads would need to be modified, expanded, or reinforced in order to accommodate delivery of equipment.
  - 3.3.4.5 Include an estimate of whether or not trees near or in road ROW might need to be removed.
  - 3.3.4.6 Provide an estimate of likely locations where local electric distribution lines would need to be disconnected in order to allow passage of equipment and materials.
    - 3.3.4.6.1 Describe how residents would be notified before local power would be cut.
    - 3.3.4.6.2 Estimate the typical duration of a power outage resulting from equipment or materials delivery.
- 3.3.5 Construction Traffic. Describe any anticipated traffic congestion and how congestion would be managed, minimized or mitigated. Include:
  - 3.3.5.1 List of roads most likely to be affected by construction and materials delivery.
  - 3.3.5.2 Duration of typical traffic disturbance and the time of day disturbances are most likely to occur.

## **4. Project Maps, Aerial Imagery, Photo Simulations, and GIS Shapefiles**

Aerial Imagery: Recent aerial imagery is required for every project. Aerial imagery submitted with an application should be no older than three years – more recent in rapidly developing areas. Aerial images are typically used as a base for most maps and should be provided at a scale of at least 1:4800. Physical aerial photographs are not acceptable. Orthorectified imagery created using GIS is required – reduced size photos are not adequate. All spatial data submitted must be compatible with the most current version of ESRI ArcGIS.

In addition to providing the maps listed below, all GIS data used to create those maps must also be submitted with the application (see Section 4.2 for a list of GIS shapefiles required and pages vi-vii for instructions on GIS map projections). The extent of the aerial imagery must be inclusive enough to show the landscape context within which the proposed facilities would be placed. Typically, this requires extending the map extent to at least two miles beyond any project boundary.

**Provide the maps in both hard copy and digital versions.**

**Refer to Application Formats in the Introduction.**

### **4.1 Project Area Maps**

Basic (background) features for both the general and the detailed project area maps must include: recent aerial imagery (no older than three years), county boundaries, major roads, waterbodies and waterways, and municipality boundaries. All features should be labeled appropriately. In addition the maps should contain the following features:

- 4.1.1 General Project Area Map. (The extent of this map should show the entire project area and reach at least 1 mile beyond the project area boundary. Approximate scale 1:4800.) Clearly show:
  - The boundaries of the project area,
  - All proposed and alternative solar array sites (symbolized differently and identified by number),
  - Any new substation facilities or required expansion of an existing substation,
  - O&M Building and facilities,
  - Battery Storage Facilities,
  - Distribution and transmission interconnection,
  - All access roads, distinguishing between temporary and permanent (if applicable).
- 4.1.2 Detailed Project Area Map. (The scale for this map should be larger than that of the general project map so that the added detail is clearly visible. This usually necessitates a series of maps.) Clearly show:
  - All the features listed for the General Project Area Map,
  - All collector circuits both underground and overhead, symbolized by the installation method,

- Existing utility facilities within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (electric transmission and distribution, pipelines, etc.),
- Industrial/commercial facilities within and up to one mile of project area boundary,
- All residences (identified as either participating or non-participating) within and up to one mile of project area boundary,
- Daycare centers within and up to one mile of project area boundary,
- Hospitals or other health care facilities within and up to one mile of project area boundary.

(If new residences, day-care centers, hospitals, or commercial or industrial facilities have been built since the date of the aerial image base map, note those features accurately on the detailed project area map.)

#### 4.1.3 Topographic Maps

Provide topographic maps at 1:24,000 or larger scale showing: project boundary, all solar array sites (proposed and alternative), substation facilities, collector circuits, access roads, and O&M building.

#### 4.1.4 Substation

4.1.4.1 Provide a map showing the following features:

- The location, dimensions (in feet and acres), and layout of any new substation or proposed additions to an existing substation.
- Recent aerial images of the substation site.
- The location of all power lines entering and leaving the substation, including any turning structures. Show details in a separate diagram of any turning structures that might impact adjacent land owners (size, type of structure, guying, etc.).
- For new substations, show the location of the access road, other permanent impervious ground surfaces (e.g. gravel, asphalt, concrete, etc.) and the location of permanent storm water management features (i.e. pond, swale, etc.). For expansion of existing substations, show details on changes to access roads that may be required (width, length, location, etc.), as well as any other ground disturbing construction activities.
- Show parcel data including the name of landowners for the substation site or substation addition. Include adjacent landowners.
- Show topographic contours of the property.

4.1.4.2 Provide an engineering diagram/s of the substation and substation equipment including any turning structures and interconnection facilities.

#### 4.1.5 O&M Building

4.1.5.1 Provide a map showing the O&M building, parking area, roads, other impervious ground surfaces (e.g. gravel, aggregate, asphalt, concrete, etc.),

permanent storm water management areas, and any other facilities. Include, as a background, a recent aerial image of the property.

- 4.1.5.2 Provide an engineering drawing of the O&M building.
- 4.1.6 Battery Storage
  - 4.1.6.1 Provide an engineered drawing of the battery storage area, fencing, impervious ground surfaces, access roads, and permanent storm water management areas.
- 4.1.7 Natural Resources and Land Use/Ownership Maps
  - 4.1.7.1 Wetland and waterway maps. See section 8.3 for the map sets to provide.
  - 4.1.7.2 Land ownership maps, minimum scale 1:10,000 (map extent to one mile from the project boundary). Show the following features:
    - Current parcel boundaries and landowners
    - Roads
    - Municipal boundaries
    - Project boundary
    - Solar arrays (proposed and alternative); (symbolized differently and identified by number),
    - Access roads
    - Collector circuits
    - Substation
    - O&M Building
    - Battery storage
    - Generator tie line
    - Topographic contours
    - Residences, including identification of participating and non-participating
  - 4.1.7.3 Public lands. Show the following features:
    - All publicly owned lands inside the project boundary and within two miles of the project area (parks, trails national/county/state forests, etc.). Public lands should be clearly labeled.
    - Project boundary
    - Solar arrays (proposed and alternative); (symbolized differently and identified by number),
    - Access roads
    - Collector circuits
    - Substation
    - O&M building
    - Battery storage
    - Generator tie line
  - 4.1.7.4 Land cover. Show the following features:
    - The distribution of vegetative communities within the project area using the land cover categories in Section 5.3
    - Project area boundary

- Solar arrays (proposed and alternative); (symbolized differently and identified by number),
  - Access roads
  - Collector circuits
  - Substation
  - O&M building
  - Battery storage
  - Generator tie line
- 4.1.7.5 Flood Insurance Rate maps (FIRM) (within the project boundary). Provide flood insurance maps if the site is within one-half mile of a floodplain.
- 4.1.7.6 Soil survey maps (within the project boundary)
- 4.1.7.7 Bedrock maps (within the project boundary). Map showing depth to bedrock for the entire project area.
- 4.1.8 Community Maps
- 4.1.8.1 Zoning maps. Provide a map or maps of the project area showing existing zoning (e.g. agriculture, recreation, forest, residential, commercial etc.). Map should show existing zoning within and up to 0.5 miles of the project area boundary.
- 4.1.8.2 Sensitive sites. Additional map (if necessary) showing proximity to schools, day care centers, hospitals, and nursing homes within and up to 0.5 miles of the project area boundary.
- 4.1.8.3 Airports. Include the following features:
- All runways for public airports within and up to 10 miles of the project area boundary.
  - All runways for private airports within and up to 10 miles of the project area boundary.
  - All landing strips within and up to two miles of the project area boundary.
  - Project area boundary.
  - Both proposed and alternative solar array sites.
- 4.1.9 Communication Infrastructure
- 4.1.9.1 Identify radio, television, microwave towers, and any NEXRAD or Doppler weather radar installations on a map and show the results of the line of site analysis. Include communications and NEXRAD/Doppler installations within a 50-mile radius of the project area.

**4.2 GIS data – Provide GIS data with attributes as listed and described below. GIS attribute table information should be clearly labeled to identify fields and feature names.**

- 4.2.1 Project area boundary.
- 4.2.2 Proposed solar array site components including:
- 4.2.2.1 Perimeters of fenced areas identified by number (polygon). Include area in acres.

- 4.2.2.2 Solar arrays identified by number (polygon). Include area in acres.
- 4.2.2.3 All inverters (point).
- 4.2.3 Alternative solar array site components including:
  - 4.2.3.1 Perimeters of fenced areas identified by number (polygon, include area in acres).
  - 4.2.3.2 Solar arrays identified by number (polygon, include area in acres).
  - 4.2.3.3 All inverters (point).
- 4.2.4 Access roads, differentiate between permanent and temporary, for proposed solar arrays (polygon).
- 4.2.5 Access roads, differentiate between permanent and temporary, for alternative solar arrays (polygon).
- 4.2.6 Underground collector circuits (line). Include number of conductors, voltage, and the installation method.
  - 4.2.6.1 Bore pits for trenchless installation (point).
- 4.2.7 Overhead collector circuits (line). Include voltage.
- 4.2.8 Generator tie line (line). Include voltage.
- 4.2.9 Generator tie line structures (point).
- 4.2.10 Laydown areas (polygon).
- 4.2.11 Temporary matting (polygon).
- 4.2.12 Electric distribution lines within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (line). Include voltage of each line and phases present (e.g. A, B, and/or C).
- 4.2.13 Electric transmission lines within and up to one mile of the project area boundary identified by voltage (line). Include voltage.
- 4.2.14 Natural gas high-pressure pipelines within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (line).
- 4.2.15 New substation components including:
  - 4.2.15.1 Perimeter of entire parcel acquired or to be acquired (polygon).
  - 4.2.15.2 Perimeter of substation (polygon).
  - 4.2.15.3 All interior line work, including collector circuits, buswork, and high voltage connections (line).
  - 4.2.15.4 All interior facilities, including transformer, switchgear, buildings, etc. (polygon).
  - 4.2.15.5 Access road (polygon).
  - 4.2.15.6 Other facilities such as a retention pond or storm water management (polygon).
- 4.2.16 Expansion of an existing substation components including:
  - 4.2.16.1 Perimeter of original substation and of expanded area (polygon).
  - 4.2.16.2 Boundary showing any new land acquisition (polygon).
  - 4.2.16.3 All new power lines and reconfigured line work (line).
  - 4.2.16.4 All collector circuits entering the substation (line).
  - 4.2.16.5 Any modified interior facilities (polygon).
  - 4.2.16.6 Other facilities such as permanent storm water management features (polygon).

- 4.2.17 O&M Building components including:
  - 4.2.17.1 Perimeter of property acquired (polygon).
  - 4.2.17.2 Perimeter of building (polygon).
  - 4.2.17.3 Perimeter of other buildings (polygon).
  - 4.2.17.4 Perimeter of parking lot (polygon).
  - 4.2.17.5 Access road (polygon).
  - 4.2.17.6 Other facilities such as permanent storm water management features (polygon).
- 4.2.18 Battery Energy Storage System components including:
  - 4.2.18.1 Perimeter of entire parcel acquired or to be acquired (polygon).
  - 4.2.18.2 Perimeter of Battery Energy Storage System (polygon).
  - 4.2.18.3 Access Road (polygon).
  - 4.2.18.4 Other facilities such as permanent storm water management features (polygon).
- 4.2.19 Wetlands and waterways in the project area:
  - 4.2.19.1 Delineated wetlands (polygon). See Section 8.
  - 4.2.19.2 Field identified waterways (polygon). See Section 8.
- 4.2.20 Land owners/buildings:
  - 4.2.20.1 All residences within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (point). Include land owner name, address, and status as either participating or non-participating.
  - 4.2.20.2 All parcels within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (polygon). Include land owner name, address, and status as either participating or non-participating.
  - 4.2.20.3 All industrial/commercial facilities within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (point). Include facility name, ownership name, and address.
  - 4.2.20.4 All sensitive sites, including schools, daycares, hospitals, nursing homes, places of worship, and cemeteries within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (point) Include facility name, ownership name, and address.
  - 4.2.20.5 Confined animal operations<sup>3</sup> (point):
    - All confined animal operations within and up to 0.5 miles of the project area boundary.
    - For each confined animal operation provide attribute data that identifies the type of animal(s), the number of confined animals, and the name of the land owner.
  - 4.2.20.6 All other buildings within and up to 300 feet of the project area boundary (point). Include type of building.
- 4.2.21 All culverts within the project area boundary (line).
- 4.2.22 All drain tiles within the project area boundary (line).
- 4.2.23 All public lands within and up to two miles of the project area boundary (polygon).

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<sup>3</sup> Any farming operation that has animals confined in building(s). Not limited to dairy operations, a specific number of animals, or the DNR's definition of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).

- 4.2.24 All properties enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program within and up to one mile of the project area (polygon). Work with PSC staff if any information is considered sensitive and/or confidential.
- 4.2.25 All properties enrolled in a conservation easement within and up to one mile of the project area boundary (polygon). Include entity that holds rights to conservation easement (e.g. state/federal government, private land trust, etc.).
- 4.2.26 All communication infrastructure boundary (point). Include radio, television, and microwave towers within and up to 10 miles of the project area. Also include any NEXRAD or Doppler weather radar installations within a 50-mile radius of the project area.
- 4.2.27 All public and private airport runways and landing strips within and up to 10 miles of the project area boundary (line). Include facility name and public status.
- 4.2.28 Land cover/Vegetative communities (polygon). Do not use obsolete DNR Land Cover data). See Section 5.3.
- 4.2.29 Land cover within each fenced area (polygon). Include acreages of each dissolved land type identified by fence area number.
- 4.2.30 Aerial imagery (no older than three years) of project area and surrounding landscape (two-mile radius of the project area).

### **4.3 Topography – Raster files of topographic features within the project area and surrounding landscape (2-mile radius of the project area).**

### **4.4 Photo Simulations**

Photo simulations are required. Simulations should seek to provide an accurate representation of what the project area would most likely look like after the project is completed. *In order to be certain that any photo simulations provided in an application will be useful, please consult with PSC staff before preparing and submitting photos.*

## **5. Natural and Community Resources, Description and Potential Impacts**

### **5.1 Site Geology**

- 5.1.1 Describe the geology of the project area.
- 5.1.2 Geotechnical report on soil conditions.
  - 5.1.2.1 Provide a summary of conclusions from any geotechnical report or evaluation of soils in the project area including:
    - Results of soil borings including a review of soil bearing capacity and soil settlement potential.
    - Results of soil borings and test pits for Site Evaluation for Storm Water Infiltration (Wisconsin Technical Standard 1002).
    - Depths to seasonal high groundwater,

- Results of any infiltration rate measurements, such as for permanent storm water infiltration basins or other practices.
- Identify any soil conditions related to site geology that might create circumstances requiring special methods or management during construction.

#### 5.1.2.2 Depth to bedrock

- Identify any sites where panel supports or foundation construction must be modified because of the presence of bedrock.
- Describe construction methods and foundation issues associated with situations where bedrock formations are near the surface.
- Discuss the likelihood or potential that construction on bedrock formations may negatively impact private wells within two miles of solar array sites.

## 5.2 Topography

5.2.1 Describe the general topography of the project area.

5.2.2 Describe expected changes to site topography due to grading activities.

## 5.3 General Project Area Land Cover

5.3.1 Identify and describe the landscape within the general project area, including a list of dominant plants in the land cover categories listed in this section. Land cover may be based on GIS data, recent aerial imagery, and/or on-site evaluation not greater than two years old.

### 5.3.1.1 Agricultural

- Row/Traditional crops
- Specialty crops/Other
- Prime farmland

### 5.3.1.2 Non-Agricultural upland

- Prairie/Grasslands/Pasture/Fallow field
- Upland forests

### 5.3.1.3 Wetlands (Eggers and Reed classification type)

### 5.3.1.4 Developed land

- Residential
- Commercial/Industrial

## 5.4 Land Cover Impacted by Proposed Project Facilities

In table format, estimate the number of acres within each land cover type (listed in Section 5.3) that could be impacted by all proposed project facilities (listed in Section 5.4). Provide tables in Microsoft Excel format. Applicants are encouraged to submit one Microsoft Excel file that contains separate sheets for each table.

5.4.1 Solar panel fenced array areas. Complete the PSC Solar Impact Table provided with these AFRs. Identify impacts by proposed and alternative fenced array areas with unique identifiers (e.g. number) for each fenced array area. Provide the estimated energy production (MW) for each fenced array area. Provide land cover impacts for each solar panel fenced array area. For each solar panel fenced array area, provide a

- count of participating and non-participating residences within the following feet of the fence: 0-25, 26-50, 51-100, 101-150, 151-300.
- 5.4.2 Collector circuits. For collector circuits in forested areas, identify how vegetation within the ROWs would be maintained.
  - 5.4.3 Access roads
  - 5.4.4 Substation
  - 5.4.5 O&M Building
  - 5.4.6 Battery storage
  - 5.4.7 Generator tie line

## **5.5 Invasive Species**

- 5.5.1 Describe locations where invasive species, forest pests, or diseases have been observed in the project area (e.g., invasive plants, oak wilt, etc.). State if invasive species surveys have occurred or would be conducted. If invasive species surveys have been conducted, provide documentation showing where surveys occurred and locations of invasive species found, indicating which species.
- 5.5.2 Describe mitigation actions during construction that would be used to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species, forest pests, or diseases.
- 5.5.3 Describe planned ongoing invasive species monitoring and management for the project during operations.

## **5.6 Vegetation Management and Site Restoration**

- 5.6.1 Provide a vegetation removal plan that discusses the types and locations where vegetation would be removed (e.g. herbaceous, agricultural crop clearing, shrub/forest clearing, etc.), the timing of vegetation removal, and the equipment to be used.
- 5.6.2 Provide a detailed revegetation and site restoration plan that discusses the following items:
  - 5.6.2.1 Types of revegetation proposed for impacted areas.
  - 5.6.2.2 Provide seed mixes, or example seed mixes if not known at time of application, and if seed mixes would be pollinator friendly.
  - 5.6.2.3 Vegetation monitoring and management protocols for subsequent years after construction.
  - 5.6.2.4 Invasive species management.

## **5.7 Wildlife**

- 5.7.1 Describe existing wildlife resources and estimate expected impacts to plant and animal habitats and populations.
- 5.7.2 Wildlife pre-construction surveys. (See Habitat Surveys and Biological Assessments in the Introduction)
  - 5.7.2.1 Provide a summary of pre-application consultation meetings held with DNR and/or USFWS for the purposes of determining whether or not any pre-construction wildlife studies would be required for the project.

- 5.7.2.2 If, after consultation with DNR or USFWS, wildlife pre-construction studies are required, provide the following:
- A copy of the approved survey methodologies for any studies including the species of interest, dates of surveys, and a schedule for releasing data and reports to the PSC and DNR.
  - Copies of all data collected for all pre-construction studies (data should be provided using a format acceptable to DNR and PSC staff).
  - Final report/s or analyses prepared using the data collected.
- 5.7.2.3 Provide any monitoring and response protocol for wildlife accessing the solar arrays.

## **5.8 Endangered Resources**

Endangered resources include any state or federally listed species (e.g. threatened, endangered, special concern, etc.) and/or natural communities. Location specific information for endangered resources that may have habitat within the proposed project area is considered sensitive and should be filed confidentially on ERF with a public redacted version also provided. For example, either species names and/or locations should be redacted wherever referenced throughout all application materials.

- 5.8.1 Provide a copy of the completed DNR endangered resources screening (i.e. ER Review) and all supporting materials (see DNR Application Needs in the Introduction).
- 5.8.2 Discuss how any DNR-required actions to comply with endangered species law would be incorporated into the project construction or operation. Include discussion of how any USFWS permits or required actions would be incorporated into the project.
- 5.8.3 Discuss how any DNR-recommended actions to comply with endangered species law would be incorporated into the project construction or operation. Include discussion of how any USFWS recommended actions would be incorporated into the project.

## **5.9 Public Lands and Recreation**

List all public properties within the project area and in a separate list all public properties within two miles of the project area boundary.

- 5.9.1 State properties, including but not limited to:
- 5.9.1.1 Wildlife Areas
  - 5.9.1.2 Fisheries Areas
  - 5.9.1.3 State Parks and Forests
- 5.9.2 Federal properties, including but not limited to:
- 5.9.2.1 Wildlife Refuges
  - 5.9.2.2 Parks
  - 5.9.2.3 Scenic Riverways
- 5.9.3 County Parks
- 5.9.4 Recreation Trails

- 5.9.5 Identify the owner/manager of each recreation resource.
- 5.9.6 Provide any communications with these owners/managers.
- 5.9.7 Discuss how short and long-term impacts to these resources would be avoided and/or minimized.

## **5.10 Contaminated Sites**

List all contaminated sites and solid waste sites within the project area, and in a separate list, all contaminated sites and solid waste sites within two miles of the project area boundary.

- 5.10.1 Using the Wisconsin Remediation and Redevelopment Database (WRRD), <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/WRRD.html>, identify any contaminated sites (open and closed) within the project area and within two miles of the project area.
- 5.10.2 Using the Historic Registry of Waste Disposal Sites, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Landfills/registry.html>, identify any Environmental Repair and Solid Waste disposal sites within the project area and within two miles of the project area.
- 5.10.3 If contaminated materials are known to exist on-site, list and describe:
  - The type of contaminant(s) known to exist on-site.
  - The location of the contaminant(s).
  - The media in which the contaminant is located within (i.e., soil, water, etc.).
  - The estimated concentration of the contaminant(s).
  - The estimated volumes of the contaminant(s).
- 5.10.4 If contaminated materials are newly discovered on-site, specify:
  - The procedure for screening materials.
  - The location where materials be tested.
  - The protocols that would be followed.
  - Whether construction work would be impacted.

## **5.11 Floodplain**

- 5.11.1 Identify any work occurring in floodplains or flood-prone areas.
- 5.11.2 Discuss if impacts to the floodplain have been evaluated, and how impacts to the floodplain will be avoided or minimized.
- 5.11.3 Provide information on any discussions that have occurred with the application floodplain zoning authority, and how the project will comply with local floodplain ordinance(s).

## **5.12 Local Zoning and Safety**

### ***Utilities (CA)***

- 5.12.1 Provide copies of any zoning ordinances affecting the project area and within two miles of the project boundary. Provide only the page(s) directly citing ordinance language.
- 5.12.2 Describe any zoning changes needed for the project.

- 5.12.3 Describe zoning changes that the applicant has requested of local government for the proposed project. Include:
  - 5.12.3.1 The name of the entity responsible for zoning changes.
  - 5.12.3.2 Description of the process required to make the zoning change.
  - 5.12.3.3 The outcome or expected outcome for requested zoning changes.
- 5.12.4 Township road safety and use plans.
  - 5.12.4.1 Provide details on any plan or permit requirement pertaining to local road safety, use, or repair.
- 5.12.5 Other conditional use permits
  - 5.12.5.1 Provide details on any other conditional use permit required by local government.

### ***Utilities and IPPs (CPCN)***

- 5.12.6 Provide a list of potential local issues normally associated with zoning, road use and safety, or other condition uses.
  - 5.12.6.1 Provide copies of all correspondence to and from local government pertaining to issues of zoning, safety, or local road use safety plans.
  - 5.12.6.2 Provide a discussion of how local concerns would be accommodated.
- 5.12.7 Describe any impacts the proposed project would have on existing infrastructure including electric distribution lines and gas pipelines.

### **5.13 Land Use Plans**

Provide a copy of all land-use plans adopted by local governments that pertain to the project area, extending out two miles from the project boundary. (See Application Size in the Introduction.) Include not only general land-use plans, but also other relevant planning documents such as:

- 5.13.1 County Recreation Plans
- 5.13.2 Farmland Preservation Plans
- 5.13.3 Highway Development Plans
- 5.13.4 Sewer Service Area Plans

### **5.14 Archaeological and Historic Resources**

Confidential information includes only the specific location and other sensitive details of archaeological and human burial sites (e.g. maps).<sup>4, 5</sup> Confidential information should be submitted on ERF as a confidential version in addition to a redacted public version. The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) can provide a list of qualified archaeologists, architectural historians, human burial specialists, or tribal preservation officers who may be required to

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<sup>4</sup> Wis. Stat. 157.70(2)(a): Any information in the catalog related to the location of any burial site, the disclosure of which would be likely to result in the disturbance of the burial site or the cataloged land contiguous to the burial site, is not subject to s. 19.35(1).

<sup>5</sup> Wis. Stat. 44.48(1)(c): The director may keep any specific information regarding archaeological resources closed to the public if the director determines that disclosure of the information would be likely to result in disturbance of the archaeological resources.

perform steps of this review. Access to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD) is required to complete this review. Access to WHPD is free at the WHS headquarters or can be used online for a fee. Depending on the outcome of this review, the Commission may be required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO consultation may take up to an additional 30 days. The *Guide for Public Archeology in Wisconsin*, provides information about best management practices.<sup>6</sup>

- 5.14.1 Provide maps or GIS files and a description of all archaeological sites, historic buildings and districts, and human burial sites within or near the proposed project area.
- 5.14.2 For archaeological sites and historic buildings or districts, determine the boundaries, historic significance, and integrity of each resource. Additional field surveys may be required to make these determinations.
- 5.14.3 Identify the potential project effects on each resource.
- 5.14.4 Describe modifications to the project that would reduce, eliminate, avoid, or otherwise mitigate effects on the resources. Examples of modifications include changes to construction locations, modified construction practices (e.g. use of low-pressure tires, matting, etc.), placement of protective barriers and warning signage, and construction monitoring.
- 5.14.5 For human burial sites, obtain a Burial Site Disturbance Authorization/Permit from WHS for all human burial sites that would be affected by the project.
- 5.14.6 Provide an unanticipated archaeological discoveries plan. The plan should outline procedures to be followed in the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources or human remains during construction activities for the project.

## **5.15 Agricultural Impacts**

- 5.15.1 Identify current agricultural practices in the project area.
- 5.15.2 Identify the location of agricultural drainage tiles, irrigation systems, erosion control and water management practices and facilities in the project area that could be impacted by construction activities or the location of the proposed facilities.
- 5.15.3 Identify any farming operations such as herd management, specialty crop production, field and building access, organic farming, etc. that could be impacted by the construction of the project.
- 5.15.4 Describe how damage to agricultural facilities and interference with farming operations would be minimized during construction.
- 5.15.5 Describe how damage to agricultural facilities would be identified and repaired.
- 5.15.6 Identify any farmland affected by the project that is part of an Agricultural Enterprise Area.
- 5.15.7 Identify any farmland in the project area that is part of a Drainage District. Describe any permits needed from a Drainage District Board for construction and operation of the proposed project, and the status of any permits.

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<sup>6</sup> *Guide for Public Archeology in Wisconsin*. The Wisconsin Archeological Survey. August 2012.

- 5.15.8 Identify any lands within the project boundary that are enrolled in agricultural conservation or agricultural tax incentive programs. Describe the process for returning land to agricultural use after decommissioning, including any subsequent years of monitoring.
- 5.15.9 Discuss induced voltage issues as they relate to the project arrays, collector circuits, and generator tie line. Provide the following information:
  - 5.15.9.1 Identify the location of confined animal dairy operations within one-half mile of any proposed transmission or distribution centerline or other project facilities.
  - 5.15.9.2 Identify the location of agricultural buildings located within 300 feet of any proposed transmission or distribution centerline or other project facilities.
  - 5.15.9.3 Discuss induced voltage issues related to the project and its transmission or distribution line routes.
  - 5.15.9.4 Discuss any plans to conduct stray voltage testing pre and post construction.

## **5.16 Airports and Landing Strips**

- 5.16.1 Airport, Landing Strips, and Helipads
  - 5.16.1.1 Identify all public and private airports, landing strips, and helipads within 10 miles of the project facilities (both for solar arrays and the nearest generator tie line structure).
  - 5.16.1.2 Describe each of the airports, landing strips, and helipads with a description of the runways/landing zone and type of use.
  - 5.16.1.3 Describe any potential for impacts to aircraft safety and potential facility intrusion into navigable airspace.
  - 5.16.1.4 Describe any mitigation measures pertaining to public airport impacts.
- 5.16.2 Commercial Aviation
  - 5.16.2.1 Identify all commercial air services operating within the project boundaries (i.e. aerial applications for agricultural purposes, state programs for control of forest diseases and pests (i.e. Gypsy moth control)).
  - 5.16.2.2 Describe any potential impact to commercial aviation operations.
  - 5.16.2.3 Describe any mitigation measures pertaining to commercial aviation.
- 5.16.3 Agency Consultation
  - 5.16.3.1 Identify any potential construction limitations and permit issues.
  - 5.16.3.2 Provide a summary of the status of any FAA determinations with details on mitigation actions or how any unresolved problems with aircraft safety are being addressed (including generator tie line structures)
  - 5.16.3.3 Provide a list of any structures requiring WisDOT high structure permits, and the status of any such permits.

## **5.17 Communications Towers**

For the following sections, include in the assessment all facilities that make up the solar arrays as well as any structures that are part of a necessary generator tie line for the project.

- 5.17.1 Provide an analysis or supportive data to predict whether or not any aspect of the proposed project would interfere with:
  - 5.17.1.1 Cell phone communications
  - 5.17.1.2 Radio broadcasts
  - 5.17.1.3 Internet (WiFi)
  - 5.17.1.4 Television
  - 5.17.1.5 Doppler radar network
- 5.17.2 Describe mitigation measures should interference occur during project operation for any of the communications infrastructure listed above.

## **5.18 Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)**

- 5.18.1 Provide an estimate of the magnetic profile created by collector circuits. Estimates should be made using the following criteria:
  - Show a separate profile for the typical underground collector circuits. If some trenches would support more than one underground circuit, provide a separate estimate for each bundled configuration.
  - Show a separate profile for any overhead collector circuits.
  - Assume all panels are working and project is producing at maximum capacity.
  - Show EMF profile at 0 ft., 25 ft., 50 ft., and 100 ft. from the centerline of each circuit type modeled.
- 5.18.2 Provide an estimate of the magnetic profile created by any necessary electric transmission facilities (generator tie line). Estimates should be made using the following criteria:
  - Show the predominant generator tie line configurations proposed for the project (H-frame, single-pole delta, double-circuit, etc).
  - Show any existing lines that would be affected by the proposed generator tie-line and a post-construction diagram that incorporates the new existing lines.
  - Assume all panels are working and project is producing at maximum capacity.
  - Show EMF profile at 0 ft., 25 ft., 50 ft., and 100 ft. from the centerline of each circuit type modeled.

## **5.19 Noise**

Pre- and post-construction noise studies are required for all electric generation projects. Noise measurement studies must be approved by PSC staff.

- 5.19.1 Provide existing (ambient) noise measurements and projected noise impacts from the project using the PSC's Noise Measurement Protocol. The PSC Noise Measurement Protocol can be found on the PSC website at:  
<https://psc.wi.gov/SiteAssets/ConventionalNoiseProtocol.pdf>.
- 5.19.2 Provide copies of any local noise ordinance.

- 5.19.3 Provide equipment manufacturer's description of noise attenuating methods and materials used in the construction of proposed facilities.
- 5.19.4 Describe how noise complaints would be handled.
- 5.19.5 Discuss any mitigation measures that would be used to address noise complaints during the operation of the project.

## **5.20 Solar Panel Glint or Glare**

- 5.20.1 Provide an analysis showing the potential for glint or glare from a typical project solar panel, as well as from the project as a whole. Include the following:
  - The analysis should list the basic assumptions used and the methodology/software used for creating the glint or glare analysis.
  - The analysis should evaluate impacts to aircraft and air traffic controllers from any impacted airports.
  - The analysis should also examine the risk of glint or glare to local residents and road users in the project area.
  - The analysis software may indicate that proposed array areas are large enough to impact the accuracy of glare results. If this warning is encountered in the modeling, the applicant should break the affected array areas into smaller sub-arrays and perform the glare analysis using these smaller sub-arrays.
  - The analysis software may model different amounts of glare at observation points with different elevations. For any stationary observation points that could have human occupancy at higher elevations (e.g. a second story of a residence), the applicant should model multiple elevations for those stationary observation points.
  - The analysis software may model different amounts of glare depending on the assumed heights of the solar panels. The applicant should model panel elevations for at least two different solar panel heights to establish a range of potential glare results.
  - The analysis software may model different amounts of glare depending on the assume rest angle of the solar panels. The applicant should model at least two resting angle configurations, including one configuration with a resting angle set at between zero and five degrees.
- 5.20.2 In the event of an inquiry or complaint by a resident in or near the project area, describe what modeling or other analysis would be used to evaluate the possibility of unreasonable panel glint or glare at the residence.
- 5.20.3 Describe mitigation options available to reduce unreasonable panel glint or glare.

# **6. Local Government Impacts**

## **6.1 Joint Development and Other Agreements**

- 6.1.1 Provide a summary of major agreement items agreed upon in any Joint Development Agreements (JDA) or other type of agreement including:

- 6.1.1.1 All services to be provided by the city, town, and/or county during construction and when the plant is in operation (e.g. water, fire, EMS, police, security measures, and traffic control).
- 6.1.1.2 Specifically, address community and facility readiness for incidents such as fires.
- 6.1.2 Provide a copy of all agreements with local communities (e.g. JDA).

## **6.2 Infrastructure and Service Improvements**

- 6.2.1 Identify any local government infrastructure and facility improvements required (e.g. sewer, water lines, railroad, police, and fire).
- 6.2.2 Describe the effects of the proposed project on city, village, town and/or county budgets for these items.
- 6.2.3 For each site provide an estimate of any revenue to the local community (i.e. city, village, town, county) resulting from the project in terms of taxes, shared revenue, or payments in lieu of taxes.
- 6.2.4 Describe any other benefits to the community (e.g. employment, reduced production costs, goodwill gestures).

# **7. Landowners Affected and Public Outreach**

## **7.1 Contact lists**

Provide a separate alphabetized list (names and addresses) in Microsoft Excel for each of the groups described below:

- 7.1.1 Property owners and residents within the project boundary and a separate list of property owners and residents from the project boundary out to a distance of one mile. It is strongly recommended that applicants consult with PSC staff in order to ensure that the format and coverage are appropriate considering the project type, surrounding land use, etc.
- 7.1.2 Public property, such as schools or other government land.
- 7.1.3 Clerks of cities, villages, townships, counties, and Regional Planning Commissions directly affected. Also include on this list the main public library in each county the proposed facilities would occupy.
- 7.1.4 Local media for the project area, at least one print and one broadcast.

## **7.2 Public Outreach and Communication**

- 7.2.1 List and describe all attempts made to communicate with and provide information to the public. Describe efforts to date and any planned public information activities.
- 7.2.2 Provide copies of public outreach mailings or website addresses for project pages.
- 7.2.3 Describe plans and schedules for maintaining communication with the public (e.g. public advisory board, open houses, suggestion boxes, and newsletters).
- 7.2.4 Identify all local media that have been informed about the project.
- 7.2.5 Describe the ongoing ways that the public would be able to communicate with plant operators or the company. Describe any internal process for addressing queries or complaints.

## 8. Waterway/Wetland Permitting Activities

Section 8.0 covers information required by DNR for waterway and wetland permits. *The following subsections apply to both proposed and alternative solar array sites.*

**Questions about this section should be directed to DNR Office of Energy staff.**

### 8.1 Waterway Permitting Activities

This section should be consistent with the waterways included in DNR Tables 1 and 2 and associated maps. See page iii in this document on what to include in DNR Tables 1 and 2 regarding waterway resources.

- 8.1.1 Identify the number of waterways present, including all DNR mapped waterways and field identified waterways, assuming all waterways are navigable until a navigability determination is conducted (if requested). Provide an overall project total, as well as broken down by the proposed site and the alternative site and their associated facilities.
- 8.1.2 Identify any waterways in the project area that are classified as Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters, Trout Streams, Wild Rice Waters, and Wild or Scenic Rivers.
- 8.1.3 State if you are requesting DNR staff perform a navigability determination on any of the DNR mapped waterways and/or field identified waterways that would be impacted and/or crossed by project activities. If a navigability determination is requested, provide the following information in a separate appendix with the application:
  - A table with columns for:
    - The crossing unique ID,
    - Waterbody Identification Code (WBIC) for each waterway (found in the Surface Water Data Viewer or in the GIS data for the DNR mapped waterways),
    - Latitude and longitude for each crossing,
    - Waterway name,
    - Waterway characteristics from field investigation, and;
    - Any other pertinent information or comments.
  - Site photographs, clearly labeled with the photo number, direction, date photo was taken, and crossing unique ID. A short description of what the photo is showing, and any field observation must also be included in the caption.
  - Project map showing the following:
    - Aerial imagery (leaf-off, color imagery is preferred),
    - DNR mapped waterways (labeled with their unique ID),
    - Field identified waterways (labeled with their unique ID),
    - the location of each site photograph taken (labeled with the photo number),
    - the project area, and;

- Call out box/symbol for each DNR mapped waterway crossing where the navigability determination is requested (labeled with their unique ID).
- 8.1.4 For both the proposed and alternative sites and their associated facilities, provide the following:
- 8.1.4.1 The number of waterways that would be crossed by collector circuits and specify the installation method (e.g. X waterways would be bored, Y waterways would be trenched, etc.).
  - 8.1.4.2 The number of waterways that would be traversed with equipment for temporary access roads, and how that crossing would be accomplished (e.g. temporary clear span bridges (TCSB), use of existing bridge or culvert, etc.).
  - 8.1.4.3 The number of waterways that would be impacted for permanent access roads, and how that crossing would be accomplished (e.g. placement of culvert, ford, permanent bridge, etc.).
  - 8.1.4.4 The number of waterways that would be impacted and/or crossed by fence installation and footings.
  - 8.1.4.5 The number of waterways that would be impacted and/or crossed by other construction activities or facilities (e.g. placement of a storm water pond within 500 feet of a waterway, stream relocation, staging areas, etc.).
- 8.1.5 Provide the methods to be used for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigation construction impacts in and near waterways. This discussion should include, but not be limited to, avoiding waterways, installation methods (i.e. directional bore versus open-cut trenching or plowing), equipment crossing methods (i.e. for temporary access, the use of TCSB versus temporary culvert; for permanent access, the use of permanent bridge versus permanent culvert), sediment and erosion controls, invasive species protocols for equipment, etc.
- 8.1.6 Describe fence crossings of waterways, including the location of support pilings (i.e. in waterway channel, at the top of the waterway banks) and the amount of clearance between the bottom of the fence and the ordinary high-water mark. Also describe any existing public use of the waterway and how this public use may be impacted by the fence crossing.
- 8.1.7 For waterways that would be open-cut trenched, provide the following:
- 8.1.7.1 State if any waterways are wider than 35 feet (measured from OHWM to OHWM).
  - 8.1.7.2 The machinery to be used, and where it would operate from (i.e. from the banks, in the waterway channel) and if a TCSB is needed to access both banks.
  - 8.1.7.3 The size of the trench (length, width, and depth) for each waterway crossing.
  - 8.1.7.4 The details on the proposed in-water work zone isolation/stream flow bypass system (i.e. dam and pump, dam and flume, etc.).
  - 8.1.7.5 The details on the proposed dewatering associated with the in-water work zone isolation/stream flow bypass system, including where the dewatering structure would be located.

- 8.1.7.6 The duration and timing of the in-stream work, including the installation and removal of the isolation/bypass system and the trenching activity.
- 8.1.7.7 How impacts to the waterway would be minimized during in-water work (e.g. energy dissipation, sediment controls, gradually releasing dams, screened and floating pumps, etc.).
- 8.1.7.8 How the waterway bed and banks would be restored to pre-existing conditions.
- 8.1.8 For waterways that would be directionally bored, provide the following:
  - 8.1.8.1 Where the equipment would operate from (e.g. from upland banks, from wetland banks, etc.) and if a TCSB is needed to access both banks.
  - 8.1.8.2 The location and size of any temporary staging and equipment storage.
  - 8.1.8.3 The location and size of bore pits.
  - 8.1.8.4 Provide a contingency plan for bore refusal and a plan for the containment and clean-up of any inadvertent releases of drilling fluid (e.g. a frac-out).
- 8.1.9 For waterways that would have a TCSB installed across them, provide the following:
  - 8.1.9.1 A description of the TCSB proposed, including dimensions, materials, and approaches.
  - 8.1.9.2 State if any waterways are wider than 35 feet, and/or if any in-stream supports would be used.
  - 8.1.9.3 State how the TCSB placement and removal would occur (e.g. carried in and placed with equipment, assembled on site, etc.) and if any disturbance would occur to the bed or banks for the installation and removal, including bank grading or cutting.
  - 8.1.9.4 The duration of the TCSB and when installation and removal would occur.
  - 8.1.9.5 Describe sediment controls that would be installed during the installation, use, and removal of the TCSBs.
  - 8.1.9.6 Describe how the TCSBs would be inspected during use, and how they would be anchored to prevent them from being transported downstream.
  - 8.1.9.7 State if the required five foot clearance would be maintained, or if the standards in Wis. Admin. Code NR 320.04(3) would be complied with.
  - 8.1.9.8 How the waterway banks would be restored when the TCSB is removed.
- 8.1.10 Describe the proposed area of land disturbance and vegetation removal at waterway crossings. Include a description of the type of vegetation to be removed, and if this vegetation removal would be temporary (allowed to regrow) or permanent (maintained as cleared).
- 8.1.11 If any of the following activities are proposed, provide the information as detailed on the applicable permit checklist:
  - New culvert placement:
    - <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/PermitDocs/GPs/GP-CulvertWPEDesign.pdf> (General Permit) or
    - <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/documents/PermitDocs/IPs/IP-culvert.pdf> (Individual Permit).

- New permanent bridge placement:  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/PermitDocs/GPs/GP-ClearSpanBridge.pdf> (General Permit, no in-stream supports) or  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/documents/PermitDocs/IPs/IP-bridgeTempCross.pdf> (Individual Permit, in-stream supports).
- New storm water pond placed within 500 feet of a waterway:  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/PermitDocs/GPs/GP-StormwaterPond.pdf>.

## 8.2 Wetland Permitting Activities

This section should be consistent with the wetlands included in DNR Tables 1 and 2 and associated figures. See page iii in this document on what to include in DNR Tables 1 and 2 regarding wetland resources.

- 8.2.1 Describe the method used to identify wetland presence and boundaries within the project area (i.e. wetland delineation, wetland determination, review of desktop resources only, etc.). If a combination of methods were used, describe which project areas utilized which method. The associated delineation report and/or desktop review documentation should be uploaded to the PSC's website as part of the application filing. State if wetlands mapped via desktop resources would be field confirmed, and when (if known).
- 8.2.2 Identify the number of wetlands present and by wetland type, using the Eggers and Reed classification. Provide as an overall project total, as well as broken down by the proposed site and the alternative site and their associated facilities.
- 8.2.3 Wetland functional values:
  - 8.2.3.1 Discuss the existing functional values of the wetland present. Functional values include but are not limited to floristic diversity, fish and wildlife habitat, flood storage, water quality, groundwater discharge and recharge, public use, etc.
  - 8.2.3.2 Discuss how the project may impact existing functional values of wetlands.
  - 8.2.3.3 Provide Wisconsin Rapid Assessment Methodology (WRAM) forms, or other assessment methodology documentation, if completed.
- 8.2.4 Identify the any wetlands in the project area that are considered sensitive and/or high-quality wetlands, including, but not limited to:
  - 8.2.4.1 Any wetlands in or adjacent to an area of special natural resource interest (Wis. Admin. Code § NR 103.04).
  - 8.2.4.2 Any of the following types: deep marsh, northern or southern sedge meadow not dominated by reed canary grass, wet or wet-mesic prairie not dominated by reed canary grass, fresh wet meadows not dominated by reed canary grass, coastal marsh, interdunal or ridge and swale complex, wild rice-dominated emergent aquatic, open bog, bog relict, muskeg, floodplain forest, and ephemeral ponds in wooded settings.

- 8.2.4.3 Any wetlands with high functional values based on factors such as abundance of native species and/or rare species, wildlife habitat, hydrology functions, etc.
- 8.2.5 For both the proposed and alternative sites and their associated facilities, provide the following:
  - 8.2.5.1 How many wetlands would be crossed by collector circuits and specify the installation method (i.e. X wetlands would be bored, Y wetlands would be trenched).
  - 8.2.5.2 How many wetlands would have construction matting placed within them to facilitate vehicle access and operation and material storage. Also provide the total amount of wetland matting, in square feet.
  - 8.2.5.3 How many wetlands would be impacted for permanent access roads and indicate if culverts would be installed under the roads to maintain wetland hydrology.
  - 8.2.5.4 How many wetlands would be impacted and/or crossed by fence installation and footings.
- 8.2.6 Describe if wetlands would be disturbed for site preparation activities (e.g. grading, leveling, etc.) in the array areas, and for the installation of the arrays and associated supports.
- 8.2.7 Describe if wetlands will be disturbed for site preparation activities:
  - 8.2.7.1 Grading, leveling, etc. in the array areas, and for the installation of the arrays and associated supports.
  - 8.2.7.2 If vegetation removal will be conducted in wetlands, describe how woody debris (i.e. brush piles, wood chips, etc.) would be handled and disposed of when clearing shrub and forested wetlands.
- 8.2.8 Describe the sequencing of matting placement in wetlands and the anticipated duration of matting placement in wetlands. For matting placed in any wetland for longer than 60 consecutive days during the growing season, prepare and submit a wetland matting restoration plan with the application filing.
- 8.2.9 For wetlands that would be open-cut trenched, provide the following:
  - 8.2.9.1 Provide details on the total disturbance area in wetland, including how total wetland disturbance was calculated. Include the size of the trench (length, width, and depth), where stockpiled soils would be placed (i.e. in upland, in wetlands on construction mats, etc.), and where equipment would operate.
  - 8.2.9.2 Details on the proposed trench dewatering, including how discharge would be treated and where the dewatering structure would be located.
  - 8.2.9.3 Duration and timing of the work in wetland.
  - 8.2.9.4 How the wetland would be restored to pre-existing conditions.
- 8.2.10 For wetlands that would be directionally bored, provide the following:
  - 8.2.10.1 How bored wetlands and associated bore pits would be accessed.
  - 8.2.10.2 The location and size of any temporary staging and equipment storage.
  - 8.2.10.3 The location and size of bore pits.

- 8.2.10.4 Provide a contingency plan for bore refusal and a plan for the containment and clean-up of any inadvertent releases of drilling fluid (e.g. a frac-out).
- 8.2.11 Describe how fence installation would occur in wetlands, including the footing types (e.g. direct imbed, concrete, etc.), any associated wetland impact such as vegetation clearing, operation of equipment, etc.
- 8.2.12 For wetland vegetation that would be cleared or cut, provide the following:
  - 8.2.12.1 The justification for why wetland trees and shrubs are proposed to be cleared, and what construction activity the clearing is associated with.
  - 8.2.12.2 The timing and duration of vegetation removal
  - 8.2.12.3 Describe the type of equipment that would be used, and if the vegetation removal would result in soil disturbance, including rutting and soil mixing.
  - 8.2.12.4 The type of wetland and type of vegetation to be cleared.
  - 8.2.12.5 If tree and shrubs removed would be allowed to regrow or be replanted, or if cleared areas would be kept free of trees and shrubs long-term.
  - 8.2.12.6 Indicate the plan for removal and disposal of brush and wood chips.
- 8.2.13 Indicate if any permanent wetland fill is proposed, such as for substation placement, permanent roads, fence or array footings, pole locations, etc. and provide the amount of permanent wetland fill.
- 8.2.14 Provide the methods to be used for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigation construction impacts in and near wetlands. This discussion should include, but not limited to, avoiding wetlands, installation methods (i.e. directional bore versus open-cut trenching, soil segregation during trenching, etc.), equipment crossing methods (i.e. use of construction matting, frozen ground conditions, etc.), sediment and erosion controls, invasive species protocols for equipment, etc. Additional guidance to prepare this discussion can be found here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/documents/PAA supp3Utility.pdf>.
- 8.2.15 Indicate if an environmental monitor would be employed during project construction and restoration activities. If so, describe the monitors roles and responsibilities, frequency of visits, etc.
- 8.2.16 Describe how all wetlands within the project area would be restored. This includes wetlands that would be encompassed within the arrays even if not directly impacted by project construction. This discussion should include details on the seeding plan, maintenance and monitoring, restoring elevations and soil profiles, restoring wetland hydrology, etc.

### **8.3 Mapping Wetland and Waterway Locations, Impacts, and Crossings**

Provide the following map sets, as detailed below, for each proposed facility. Each map set should include an overview or index page that includes page extents for the corresponding smaller-scale map pages within the remainder of the map set. The smaller-scale map pages, to show the project and resources in greater detail, should include page numbers to reference to the overview page and have consistent scales throughout the smaller-scale pages.

- 8.3.1 Topographic map set showing the following:
  - Solar arrays and all associated components, including but not limited to:

- permanent and temporary access roads
- fences
- collector circuits (labeled with the installation method, i.e. directional bore, plow, open-cut trench, etc.).
- Staging areas (labeled with identifying name/number) and all temporary work spaces
- O&M Building and associated driveways, storm water management features, etc.
- New and existing substations
- Distribution or transmission interconnection, including pole locations and all access roads (including off-ROW access roads), include identifying labels for each facility
- Generator tie line, including pole locations and all access roads, including off-ROW access.
- Delineated wetlands, labeled with the feature unique ID
- Wisconsin Wetland Inventory and hydric soils, if a delineation was not conducted.
- DNR mapped waterways, labeled with the feature unique ID.
- Field identified waterways, labeled with the feature unique ID.
- Locations of proposed storm water features (i.e. ponds, swales, etc.).
- Vehicle crossing method of waterways for both permanent and temporary access, labeled by the crossing method (i.e. TCSB, installation of culvert, installation of bridge, installation of ford, use of existing culvert, use of existing bridge, use of existing ford, driving on the bed).
- Placement of construction matting in wetlands.
- Excavation areas in wetlands (i.e. bore pits, open-cut trench, etc.).

#### 8.3.2 Aerial imagery map set showing the following:

- Solar arrays and all associated components, including but not limited to:
  - permanent and temporary access roads
  - fences
  - collector circuits (labeled with the installation method, i.e. directional bore, plow, open-cut trench, etc.).
  - Staging areas (labeled with identifying name/number) and all temporary work spaces
  - O&M Building and associated driveways, storm water management features, etc.
  - New and existing substations
  - Distribution or transmission interconnection, including pole locations and all access roads (including off-ROW access roads), include identifying labels for each facility
  - Generator tie line, including pole locations and all access roads, including off-ROW access.
- Delineated wetlands, labeled with the feature unique ID

- Wisconsin Wetland Inventory and hydric soils, if a delineation was not conducted.
    - DNR mapped waterways, labeled with the feature unique ID.
    - Field identified waterways, labeled with the feature unique ID.
    - Locations of proposed storm water features (e.g. ponds, swales, etc.).
    - Vehicle crossing method of waterways for both permanent and temporary access (i.e. TCSB, installation of culvert, installation of bridge, installation of ford, use of existing culvert, use of existing bridge, use of existing ford, driving on the bed).
    - Placement of construction matting in wetlands.
    - Excavation areas in wetlands (i.e. bore pits, open-cut trench, etc.).
- 8.3.3 A map showing which method(s) were used to identify wetland presence and boundaries within the project area (i.e. wetland delineation, wetland determination, review of desktop resources only).

## **9. DNR Information regarding Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Plans (not PSC requirements)**

This section serves as guidance for development of Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Plans associated with DNR NR 216 Permits. These are not requirements for a PSC CPCN or CA.

### **9.1 Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Plans**

DNR requires a detailed description of temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control measures to be utilized during and after construction of the project.

If the project would involve one or more acres of land disturbance, the applicant's request for permits under Wis. Stat. § 30.025 must identify the need for coverage under the [Construction Site Storm Water Runoff General Permit \[PDF\]](#) from DNR. The permit application itself must be submitted through DNR's electronic Water Permits system after the PSC order. This permit may also authorize construction site dewatering discharges under certain conditions.

The Storm Water Permit and Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 216 require a site-specific Erosion Control Plan, Site Map, and Storm Water Management Plan. The permittee would be required to implement and maintain, as appropriate, all erosion and sediment control practices identified in the plans from the start of land disturbance until final stabilization of the site. Final stabilization means that all land-disturbing construction activities at the construction site have been completed and that a uniform perennial vegetative cover has been established with a density of at least 70 percent of the cover for the unpaved areas and areas not covered by permanent structures or equivalent stabilization measures.

The Erosion Control Plan, Site Map, Storm Water Management Plan, and any supporting documentation (such as modeling input/output, design specifications, geotech/soil report, site photos, etc.) must be submitted with the Storm Water Permit application through the DNR's ePermitting system.

**Erosion Control Plan** - See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 216.46 for details regarding information required in the Erosion Control Plan as part of a complete permit application. Sections include:

- Site-specific plans.
- Compliance with construction performance standards in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 151.11.
- Details about the site and the project.
- List and schedule of construction activities.
- Site map(s) with site, project, and erosion and sediment control details.
- Description of temporary and permanent erosion and sediment controls.
- Compliance with material management, velocity dissipation, and inspection schedule requirements.

**Storm Water Management Plan** – See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 216.47 for details regarding information required in the Storm Water Management Plan as part of a complete permit application. Sections include:

- Compliance with applicable post-construction performance standards in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 151.121 through § NR 151.128.
- Description of permanent storm water management practices at the site and technical rationale.
- Groundwater and bedrock information if using permanent infiltration devices.
- Separation distances of permanent storm water management practices from wells.
- Long-term maintenance agreement for site vegetation and any other permanent storm water management features.

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