

September 14, 2016

Mr. Daniel Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: **Marshall Solar, LLC – Marshall Solar Energy Project**  
**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: IP-6941/GS-14-1052**  
**August – Sept. 2016 - Monthly Status Report - Site Permit Stipulation 8.4**  
**August – Sept. 2016 – Monthly Complaint Summary – Complaint Procedure Paragraph G**

Dear Mr. Wolf,

Marshall Solar, LLC ("Marshall Solar") provides its August-September 2016 Monthly Status Report as required by Section 8.4 of the Site Permit issued for the Marshall Solar Energy Project on May 5, 2016, as well as the Complaint Summary as required by Paragraph G of the Complaint Procedures.

**August – September 2016 – Monthly Status Report:**

Major construction activities that took place from August 15, 2016 through September 15, 2016 include the following:

1. Low voltage cable (DC underground collection network) installation continues and will conclude in the next few weeks. Inverter concrete foundation installation and backfill completed the first week of September.
2. Solar panel deliveries continue at a rate of approximately 24,882 each week. As of 9/13/2016 Marshall Solar has received a total of 218,312 panels and is on track to finish panel deliveries as scheduled on 9/30/2016.
3. Marshall Solar construction personnel have continued to maintain 290<sup>th</sup> St. and surrounding roads in accordance with Stanley Township requirements. The road surface remains in good shape.
4. All planned installation and re-routing of drain tile is complete. Construction personnel will continue to repair any sections of drain tile as needed when damage is discovered.
5. Pile installation is nearly complete on across the entire Project. Pile installation progress at a rate of 700-800 per day. This activity is expected to finish ahead of schedule by 9/16/16.
6. Solar panel racking, solar panels, and wire management installation activities are underway and will comprise the bulk of the work remaining at the Marshall Solar Project. Panel racking installation is also expected to finish slightly ahead of schedule around the week of 9/23/16. Solar panel installation is

progressing and accelerating with the addition of nearly 100 construction workers to focus on this task, bringing Marshall Solar's total workers up to 265 personnel as of 9/13/16. Panel crews are installing approximately 5,000-6,500 solar panels each day. As of 9/13/16 there are 93,442 panels installed out of the 282,296 panels that will be installed upon completion

7. As panel crews ramp up in production, GE (General Electric) mobilized to the Marshall Solar Project in September to begin initial commissioning (testing and equipment checkouts) activities and will continue throughout the months of November and December. Substation testing is underway and is expected to finish on 9/15/16 with end to end testing completion between Marshall Solar's Clover Substation and Northern States Power's Lyon County Substation.
8. Storm water BMP's (primarily silt fence) were completed on the Project in early June and continue to be adequately inspected, maintained, repaired, and documented throughout the course of construction.

Major activities planned for the upcoming September-October reporting period include:

1. Pile, solar panel racking, panel installation, and wire management will continue throughout the Project.
2. Commissioning and testing of the solar array, including all panels and inverters, will commence in September and continue through Project conclusion.

**September 2016 – Complaint Summary:**

During this reporting period, Marshall Solar construction personnel received a total of 3 complaints from neighboring landowners. These complaints are summarized in Enclosure 1 – Complaint Summary (September 2016).

Your primary point of contact for this matter is Mr. Travis Baukol at 320-226-2097 or [travis.baukol@nee.com](mailto:travis.baukol@nee.com). Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Brandon Stankiewicz  
Marshall Solar, LLC

Attachments:

Enclosure 1 – Complaint Summary (August-September 2016)

Email cc:

Ms. Tricia DeBleekere – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
Ms. Suzanne Steinhauer – Minnesota Department of Commerce - EERA

**Complaint Report Form, Monthly Report to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

Version: 02/26/2014 Developed by Minnesota Department of Commerce Staff

**Complaint Reporting**

We are providing this standard format so that we can make comparisons to the permit, review for accuracy and use the data more effectively. Please report all complaints from preceding months.

Complaint Summary Report for (Insert Month, Year)	<b>September, 2016</b>	Company Complaint Representative Contact Information:	
Project Name	Marshall Solar	Name:	Travis Baukol
Project Owner	Marshall Solar, LLC	Address:	700 Universe Blvd, CPM/JB, Juno Beach, FL 33408
Company Address	Street 700 Universe Blvd	Phone Number:	office 320-226-2097
	City, State Juno Beach, FL 33408		mobile <a href="mailto:travis.baukol@nee.com">travis.baukol@nee.com</a>
Docket Number	IP-6941/GS-14-1052	E-mail:	

Complaint Log #	Call Received By	Date Received	Complainant Information: Name, Address, Phone number, E-mail address	Property/ Parcel No.	Complaint Description: Include Complaint Details	General or Substantial? Does the complaint reference a permit condition? If yes, complaint is substantial. List permit condition.	Complaint Assigned to:	Actions Taken to Resolve Complaint	Status of the Complaint: Pending or Resolved	Final Disposition of Complaint: Include Date Resolved
Current Complaints-- for the month this report covers										
4	Email received by Tricia DeBleekere and Ryan Jones	8/25/2016	Chuck Muller 2924 Cty Rd 9 Marshall, MN 56258 507-829-0660	18-028008-0	<p><b>Part A.</b> Chuck Muller complained about the lack of weed control on a topsoil berm on the west boundary of Marshall Solar's temporary laydown yard that is approximately 30' away from the east edge of the Muller property boundary. Mr. Muller states Ryan Jones (Construction Manager for Marshall Solar) mowed the weeds down once previously (reference to complaint #3 resolution completed on 8/16/16), but did not spray the area with any herbicide as Mr. Muller said Marshall Solar should be doing. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Muller if a particular herbicide (product specs were included in an email sent to Chuck on 8/12/16) would be acceptable to use in case of any incidental contact were to occur on his property. Muller gave verbal approval to Mr. Jones over a phone conversation on 8/15/16 for the herbicide use. Per Site Permit Stipulation 4.2.12 in Docket # IP6941/GS-14-1052, Marshall Solar is required to wait 14-days after receiving landowner approval to use herbicides. In that timeframe, Marshall Solar decided to not use the herbicide in anticipation of meeting with MN DNR at the project site on 8/30/16. The reason for this decision relates to the potential effects herbicide may have on native prairie growth which will be planted in upcoming months. Marshall Solar elected to continue to mechanically remove any future weed growth with a skid steer utilizing a mower attachment.</p> <p><b>Part B.</b> Mr. Muller also complained about not getting a response when he offered to complete the weed control himself on Marshall Solar property (if Marshall Solar were to provide him with a tiller for his tractor).</p>	General	Travis Baukol	<p><b>Part A.</b> Due to the steep grade of the topsoil berm, Marshall Solar's EPC contractor decided it would be safer to use a dozer to strip all of the vegetation off of the topsoil berm in order to prevent further growth that Mr. Muller was concerned about spreading into his yard. The vegetation on the topsoil berm consisted of primarily of oats that were planted shortly after all the topsoil was placed on the berm. These oats were a temporary seeding BMP for erosion control per section 4.1.3 - "Timing of Seeding" of the Agricultural Mitigation Plan. The few weeds that were present on the topsoil berm consisted primarily of waterhemp, which is not listed on the State of MN Noxious weed list (described in Appendix B of the Agricultural Mitigation Plan for Marshall Solar). The EPC contractor re-seeded the topsoil berm on 9/13/16 with Wheat Grass (a cover crop commonly used in similar erosion control applications) instead of oats, since the wheat crop will germinate faster than oats and also because it possesses fuller growth coverage characteristics. This re-seed will support continued compliance with the temporary seeding BMP outlined in the Agricultural Mitigation Plan in which Marshall Solar states that it will utilize a cover crop to temporarily control erosion on the site during construction until prairie grass can be established.</p> <p>It is important to note that the DNR visited the site on 8/30/16 and found the site to be in good condition. The temporary cover of oats was helping to control weeds and improve the soil prior to the upcoming prairie seed planting. DNR noticed a few small patches of sporadic common weeds (lamb's quarter, giant ragweed and mulein), but they did make note of any noxious weeds. DNR did not see a need for herbicide application at this time as in that the cover crop of oats (that suppresses most weed growth) will help continue to die off weeds. Marshall Solar is working with DNR to develop educational materials for the neighboring landowners pertaining to weeds as well as materials to educating them on the establishment of the prairie that will be occurring on the Marshall Solar site.</p> <p><b>Part B.</b> Mr. Jones communicated to Mr. Muller via email on 8/15/16 that it was Marshall Solar's decision to plant prairie grass around the rows of trees as the long-term solution to prevent</p>	Resolved	9/1/2016
5	Email received by Tricia DeBleekere and Travis Baukol	9/5/2016	Janelle Geurts 2954 Cty Rd 9 Marshall, MN 56258	18-028002-0	Mrs. Geurts expresses concern for the viability of Marshall Solar's newly planted trees serving as a visual barrier to the Marshall Solar Site located on the south side of the Geurts property boundary. Her concern is due to the emergence of weeds around the trees and she would hate to see Marshall Solar incur additional cost if the trees need to be re-planted.	General	Travis Baukol	On 9/7/2016, Marshall Solar's EPC contractor mowed the weeds in the Mrs. Geurts' area of concern, which resolved the complaint pertaining to the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan Section 4.2-Vegetative Maintenance and 4.3-Noxious Weed Control as well as the Site Permit stipulation 4.2.11 - Vegetative Management. Periodic mowing of future emergent weeds will be utilized to resolve this issue until the native prairie grass is established. Emails including pictures confirming the completion of corrective action were sent via email by Travis Baukol to Tricia DeBleekere on 9/8/2016. As above, Marshall Solar will have Prairie Restoration Inc. evaluate this area specifically to ensure no harm is being done to the recently planted landscaping	Resolved	9/7/2016
6	Email received by Tricia DeBleekere, Suzanne Steinhauer, Kevin George	9/8/2016	Chuck Muller 2924 Cty Rd 9 Marshall, MN 56258 507-829-0660	18-028008-0	<p><b>Part A.</b> Mr. Muller is concerned primarily with the area surrounding his property to the south and east where Marshall Solar planted rows of trees as a visual barrier to the Marshall Solar Site. Mr. Muller claims that mechanically removing the weeds by mowing isn't adequate enough to control the spread of weeds and asks if there will be some sort of natural grasses planted.</p> <p><b>Part B.</b> Mr. Muller is concerned with the weeds that are emerging around the temporary MET station equipment located on the NE 1/4 of the portion of the Project south of 290th St. Mr. Muller goes on to suggest that only he has read the section of of the Agricultural Mitigation Plan and/or Docket #IP6941/GS-14-1052 pertaining to preventing the spread of noxious weeds on the Project.</p>	General	Travis Baukol	<p><b>Part A.</b> Marshall Solar's EPC contractor was instructed to mow the weeds around the newly planted trees intended as a visual screen for the landowner. On 9/8/16, Travis Baukol confirmed that the weeds were mowed via an email, which included pictures, sent on 9/8/2016 to Tricia DeBleekere and Suzanne Steinhauer.</p> <p><b>Part B.</b> The weeds Mr. Muller refers to around the met station were primarily common Brome Grass. This vegetation was removed from the area around the temporary MET station fence and within the 12' x 12' chain link fence equipment enclosure. This action was completed on 9/09/2016. <b>Note:</b> To date, the only noxious weed that has been identified on the project is Canada Thistle, which is listed on Appendix B-Noxious Weed List of MN within the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan. This was encountered in June of 2016 and was removed from the site immediately. Marshall Solar will continue to mechanically remove weeds as needed in order provide prevent the spread of these weeds and provide the best conditions for native prairie to grow.</p>	Resolved	9/08/2016 and 9/09/2016

