

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

* * * * *

In the matter of the application of)	
BIRCH VALLEY SOLAR, LLC)	
for a Renewable Energy or Storage)	Case No. U-22072
Siting Certificate to construct a solar)	
energy facility.)	
_____)	

APPLICATION

Birch Valley Solar, LLC (“Birch Valley Solar”) respectfully requests that the Michigan Public Service Commission (“MPSC” or the “Commission”) approve its Application for a Renewable Energy or Storage Siting Certificate (the “Application”). In support of its revised Application, Birch Valley Solar states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Birch Valley Solar submits this Application for Solar Energy Facilities for the Birch Valley Solar Project (the “Project”).
2. The Project is proposed for development by Ranger Power, LLC (“Ranger Power”).
3. Ranger Power is a utility-scale renewable energy development company focused on delivering cost-effective, clean renewable energy projects across the United States.
4. Ranger Power’s team of experienced developers and renewable energy specialists have successfully developed early-, mid-, and late-stage solar projects throughout the country.
5. Since 2017, Ranger has permitted more than 3,800 megawatts (“MW”) and executed over 4,300 MW of utility-scale Power Purchase and Build-Own-Transfer agreements with leading power providers throughout the region.
6. Over 3 gigawatts (“GW”) of solar projects developed by Ranger have moved into construction, 1,298 MW of which are now commercially operating. The Ranger Power team has

approximately 13 GW under development. By the end of 2026, over 1,700 MW of projects developed by Ranger Power will be in commercial operation.

II. PROJECT OVERVIEW

7. Birch Valley Solar has made a comprehensive and diligent effort in designing and siting a facility that meets or exceeds the requirements and standards for approval for Solar Energy Facilities set forth in Public Act 233 of 2023 (“PA 233”), as implemented by the MPSC, and to meet all statutory and regulatory requirements in connection with same.

8. Birch Valley Solar has acquired the rights to develop, construct, and operate an up to 162-MW solar project within 26 parcels of land owned by 10 private landowners. These land rights are granted by easement agreements or by purchase option agreements.

9. The Project, which exceeds the 50-MW size threshold, is a proposed approximately 150-MW solar energy generating facility located within Arbel Township, Tuscola County, Michigan.

10. The Project will utilize approximately 844 acres of fenced-in area located on approximately 1,446 acres of participating land (the “Project Area”).

11. Three of the 26 participating parcels only contain proposed underground collection line, or partially contain collection only, and will not contain panels.

12. Two small parcels that are included in the Project do not have any proposed infrastructure at this time.

13. Land use within the Project Area is primarily agriculture and undeveloped woodlots.

14. The Project Area was selected based on land use, interest from landowners, proximity to existing electrical grid infrastructure, and proximity to large energy load centers throughout Michigan.

15. The Project will consist of solar panels and inverters arranged in photovoltaic (“PV”) arrays. Associated facilities and infrastructure include the Project substation, operations and maintenance building (“O&M”), gen-tie to point of interconnection (“POI”), underground electrical cables (collection) to the Project substation, perimeter fencing, landscape screening, county drain improvements, and gravel access roads to each PV array and the Project substation.

16. Construction is expected to begin in 2027, with commercial operation anticipated in 2029. Exact construction and operation dates are dependent on receipt of necessary permits, equipment, and approvals. Construction is expected to take approximately eighteen months.

17. As sited, the Project optimizes efficient use of land to generate solar power while avoiding impacts to natural resources or existing land uses. Additionally, as designed, the Project avoids impacts to wetlands, streams, and floodplains to the greatest extent practicable.

18. Birch Valley Solar anticipates that the Project will benefit the local community through the creation of local jobs, tax revenue benefits, and energy needs contributions.

19. While Ranger Power is the developer of the Project, Birch Valley Solar is the owner of the Project.

IV. SUMMARY OF LOCAL TOWNSHIP PERMITTING EFFORTS

20. On December 4, 2024, pursuant to Section 233 of PA 233, Birch Valley Solar sent Arbelá Township its offer to meet to discuss the Project’s site plan.

21. On December 27, 2024, Arbelá Township advised that it had a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (“CREO”) under PA 233.

22. Despite the Township’s claim to have adopted a CREO under PA 233, Arbelá Township's zoning ordinance includes an acreage cap for solar energy systems that is smaller than Birch Valley's project footprint, and is, therefore, more restrictive than PA 233.

23. Nonetheless, since the Township claimed to have a CREO, Birch Valley Solar proceeded with the local process in good faith consistent with MPSC requirements, despite the fact that Birch Valley's special use permit application could not be approved locally without a variance due to the Project's exceedance of the Township's acreage cap.

24. Thereafter, on October 29, 2025, Arbel Township denied Birch Valley Solar's permit application despite the Project's compliance with the statute.

V. NARRATIVE, EXHIBITS, TESTIMONY, AND RESERVATION OF RIGHT TO AMEND

25. Concurrently with the filing of this Application, Birch Valley Solar is filing a summary Solar Energy Facility Siting Certification Narrative describing the Project (**Appendix 1**), supporting exhibits (**Appendix 2**), and written direct testimony (**Appendix 3**) in support of its Application. Reference to this material will provide additional details regarding the proposal and relief being sought. The relief described in the narrative, exhibits, and direct testimony should be considered as if specifically requested in this Application.

26. Birch Valley Solar reserves the right to revise, amend, or otherwise change the relief it is requesting in any way appropriate depending upon the duration and progress of hearings in this proceeding, the issuance of orders that have an impact upon this case, or the occurrence of other material events.

VI. REQUESTED RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Birch Valley Solar respectfully requests that the Michigan Public Service Commission approve the Application and grant Birch Valley Solar a Renewable Energy or Storage Siting Certificate consistent with the Project.

Dated: April 10, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH VALLEY SOLAR, LLC

/s/ Paul Harris

Paul Harris, Vice President
Birch Valley Solar, LLC

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

/s/ Salina M. Hamilton

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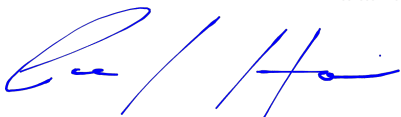
(517) 487-4724

Attorneys for Birch Valley Solar, LLC

VERIFICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF COOK)

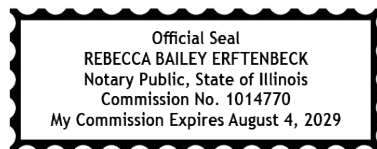
Paul Harris, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Vice President of Birch Valley Solar, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; that he is duly authorized to and has executed the foregoing Application for and on behalf of Birch Valley Solar, LLC; that he has read the same and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

By:  ID: 1775673961213
Paul Harris

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 8th day of April, 2026.


Notary Public

My Commission expires: August 4, 2029



This notarial act was an online notarization using audio-video technology.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 – Solar Energy Facility Siting Certification Narrative
2. Appendix 2 – Supporting Exhibits
3. Appendix 3 – Direct Testimony