



**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region  
P.O. Box 35800  
Billings, MT 59107-5800

B0400.BL

June 13, 2024

Dear Interested Parties:

This letter is to notify you about the proposed Fairview I Solar Project (Project) and to request your input on the Project. The Project would involve the construction of a 74.5-megawatt (MW) solar energy generating facility in Richland County, Montana. Other project components would include a 25-MW, four-hour battery storage initiative, overhead transmission line connecting to the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) transmission system, and internal access roads. When operational, the project is anticipated to generate approximately 350,000 megawatt hours (MWh) annually over its planned 35-year lifespan. The project is located on privately owned land approximately 2.5 miles west of the Town of Fairview adjacent to the North Dakota border in northeastern Montana (see enclosed map). The Fairview I Project Area is under full site control with a single landowner in Richland County.

The Project would interconnect at the Montana-Dakota Utilities Company/WAPA's Fairview West 115-kilovolt substation. Note that the project site is adjacent to MT Route 201 to the south and the substation is located directly across MT Route 201 to the north.

The proposed interconnection is a federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As a result, WAPA is providing federal oversight of the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) under NEPA. The EA will evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed Project on resources, including wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, and cultural and recreation resources, as well as other potential social, economic, and environmental effects.

WAPA is announcing a public scoping period for the Project. The scoping period provides an opportunity for the public, government agencies, and Tribal governments to identify issues and alternatives that will help WAPA define the scope of the EA. The public scoping meeting will be conducted in an open house format on July 11, 2024, from 5pm to 7pm Mountain Daylight Time (MDT), at the Fairview Senior Center in the Town of Fairview, Richland County. This meeting will provide an opportunity for interested parties to discuss the Project with resource specialists and submit comments or provide input regarding the Project.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- **By mail to:**  
Western Area Power Administration  
UGP NEPA Coordinator  
2900 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
PO Box 35800  
Billings, MT 59101-1266
- **By email to:** [NEPA@wapa.gov](mailto:NEPA@wapa.gov) with “Fairview I Solar Project Comment” in the subject line
- **In person at the public scoping open house meeting:**  
July 11, 2024  
5pm to 7pm MDT  
Fairview Senior Center  
217 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fairview, MT 59221

Additionally, a 30-day comment period will begin on July 11, 2024, and end on August 10, 2024, as part of the scoping process for the Project. For your input to be considered during preparation of the draft EA, WAPA requests comments be postmarked no later than August 10, 2024. For additional information, please visit our Project website: <https://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/ugp/fairview-solar-project/>. Thank you for your time and interest in the Project.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jackson-Baillie  
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosures (2): Project Overview Map  
Comment Form