

TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE

ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Whereas a 5,000-acre, 650-megawatt solar project currently known as The Ten Mile Creek Solar Project (the “Project”) is being proposed by Xcel Energy to replace its current power plant (Allen S. King) in Bayport, MN.

Whereas, the Town of Erin Prairie, St. Croix County, Wisconsin has prided itself in being an “Exclusive Ag Zoning” area with a right-to-farm mentality allowing for family farms to thrive without interference from neighboring parcels or competing interests impeding primary farm land use.

Whereas, the Town of Erin Prairie has adopted the Comprehensive Plan on January 13, 2010 with the goals of protecting and preserving the natural resources, farmlands, open/green spaces, and wildlife habitat that define the agricultural character of Erin Prairie and to promote sustainable agricultural practices that will preserve farming as a major economic activity as a way of life.

Whereas, the vast majority of the Town of Erin Prairie contains “Prime Farmland” and some of Wisconsin's best.

Whereas, most of the Town of Erin Prairie's land is part of the St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan Agriculture & Farm Preservation adopted January 3, 2012 recognizing “that agricultural land is not undeveloped land waiting for other uses, but is a valuable and productive resource that supports a healthy agricultural industry.”

Whereas, the residents of the Town have expressed concern about the impacts of a large solar project on the Town and Xcel Energy has not provided satisfactory information as to such impacts.

Now therefore to allow the Town Board and the residents to be fully informed and make decisions substantiated by factual information, the Town Board resolves that the residents of the Town desire full and complete information about the Project and directs Xcel Energy to provide to the Town within 30 days written responses with factual information supporting such responses to the following concerns:

1. Town of Erin Prairie sits in the watershed of the Willow River (a Class II trout stream), the Kinnickinnic River (a Class I trout stream), Baldwin Pine Lake (providing public fishing through St. Croix County's park and boat ramp) and Casey Lake Wildlife Area (a 364-acre WI DNR Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area allowing public hunting opportunities). What impacts will the Project have on these resources and what are being taken to ensure no

negative impacts on these important resources.

2. The Town is an area for family dairy farms. What measures will be taken to protect dairy farms from the danger of stray voltage negatively affecting dairy production and other livestock.
3. The Town of Erin Prairie is not immune from storms, including major damage caused by a 2008 storm and a recent tornado. What design elements would be installed to protect the Project from storm damage including damage to adjoining properties from shards from damaged solar panels that can get into hay fields without detection causing fatal injury to livestock and harming soils for future root crops.
4. The Town contains areas of shallow carbonate bedrock (limestone) allowing for past, current and future karst formations creating sinkholes, caves and underground drainage systems allowing rapid movement of underground water which is a super-highway of contaminants into groundwater. Describe the impact of the pounding of stakes or supports into project area over years will have on creating additional karst in the carbonate bedrock, causing additional and ongoing treatment to the Town of Erin Prairie's clean ground water for the life of the Project.
5. The Town is serviced by United Fire & Rescue and the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department. What support will be provided to ensure local fire departments which have the training, equipment or funding to handle any toxic, high heat and large-scale conditions created by a solar project fire. What discussions have taken place with local fire departments.
6. The Town is in close proximity to two airports (Baldwin Airport and New Richmond Regional Airport). Provide information on the impacts of the Project on glare, radar interference and wildlife impact on airplanes during takeoff and landing.
7. The Town has not been provided specific and sufficient information as to the location of the known placement of solar panels, provisions to protect the surrounding property owners, maintenance of the project, ground vegetation, soil erosion, and mitigation to prevent damage to lakes, rivers, creeks, and wildlife refuges.
8. The expansive nature, size and scope of the Project will forever change the Town of Erin Prairie from its agricultural roots and self-determined agricultural destiny. What are the benefits to the Town and its residents, both large and small landowners, of the Project.

Adopted by the Town Board on May 19, 2025.

Town of Erin Prairie

By:

John Van Dyk
John Van Dyk, Town Chairman

Attest:

Krista Johnson
Krista Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

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