



**GREAT
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ENERGY™**



12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718
763-445-5000
greatriverenergy.com

Contact: Therese LaCanne • 763-445-5710 • tlacanne@greenergy.com
Andrea Unger • 763-477-3113 • aunger@whe.org

Great River Energy, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative partner on large-scale solar project

MAPLE GROVE, Minn. (Feb. 3, 2016) – Great River Energy is currently developing a large-scale solar project to provide energy to its member cooperative Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH), based in Rockford.

The Dickinson Solar Project – a 2.25 megawatt solar array – will be a new generation resource that Great River Energy will use to provide wholesale power to WH. The project will partially replace a terminated contract Great River Energy had for fossil fuel electricity generation.

“This project responds to our members’ interest in more renewable energy offerings and allows us to diversify our power resource mix,” said Steve Nisbet, vice president of external relations and power solutions.

Both Great River Energy and WH already have experience with constructing and generating solar energy. Great River Energy completed a 250-kilowatt solar project at its headquarters in Maple Grove, as well as 19 smaller arrays across its membership in Minnesota. WH has built two community solar projects with a third expected to come online later this year. The Dickinson Solar Project will be the largest single solar resource to date for both cooperatives.

The Dickinson Solar Project will be located on 13 acres of land in Buffalo already owned by Great River Energy and be composed of 8,360 solar panels created by Heliene, a Canadian manufacturer commonly used for utility-scale solar development. The project’s principal contractor is Energy Concepts, headquartered in Hudson, Wis. Construction is set to begin in late March with full commercial operation expected in early July.

“This project provides another example of how Great River Energy’s power supply continues to evolve and include more renewable resources in response to member demand,” said project manager Andy Bergrud of Great River Energy. “It has also been an opportunity for us to expand our knowledge and experience with utility-scale solar development in collaboration with one of our member cooperatives.”

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About Great River Energy: Great River Energy is a not-for-profit cooperative that provides wholesale electric service to 28 distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Those



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member cooperatives distribute electricity to approximately 655,000 member consumers. With \$4 billion in assets, Great River Energy is the second largest electric power supplier in Minnesota and one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation. Learn more at greatriverenergy.com.

About Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association: WH is a member-owned nonprofit electric utility that provides electric power to Wright County and the western part of Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen in the area since 1937 and currently serves more than 50,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.



PHOTO CAPTION: This artist's rendering shows the Dickinson Solar Project, which will be composed of 8,360 solar modules on a 13-acre site in Buffalo, Minn.