

A bill for an act

relating to energy; providing for large solar energy electric generation demonstration conservation improvement project; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 216B.241, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5c. **Large solar electric generating plant.** (a) For the purpose of this subdivision:

(1) "project" means a solar electric generation project consisting of arrays of solar photovoltaic cells with a capacity of up to five megawatts located on the site of a closed landfill owned by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and

(2) "cooperative electric association" means a generation and transmission cooperative electric association that has a member distribution cooperative association to which it provides wholesale electric service in whose service territory a project is located.

(b) A cooperative electric association may include in its conservation plan purchases of electric energy from a project. The cost-effectiveness of project purchases may be determined by a different standard than for other energy conservation improvements under this section if the commissioner determines that doing so is in the public interest in order to encourage the use of solar energy. The kilowatt hours of solar energy purchased from a project may be counted toward the energy-savings goal required under subdivision 1c. Expenditures made by a cooperative electric association for the purchase of energy from a project may not be used to meet the revenue expenditure requirements of subdivisions 1a and 1b.