

Public questions and concerns about the project:	Project Team Response
1. Visual impacts of the solar array and the need for screening.	1. Visual impacts of the array were modeled and discussed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Section III, page 27 and Appendix G). Most of the array is screened by existing trees or topography in the area. At the invitation of the neighbors, the project team went to their locations and took photos from their viewpoints, which have been used to identify areas for vegetated screening as noted on the project plans. The project team will discuss with Ben and Town of Dunn about screening on the north side.
2. The consumption of prime agricultural land for the project.	2. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) describes soils and topography (Section II, page 15). USDA-classified "Prime" soils are approx. 3.5 acres of the site and less than the threshold amount in the Town of Dunn solar ordinance.
3. Proposed height of the panel equipment exceeding the 14-foot limit set by Town of Dunn's solar ordinance.	3. Please see page 9 of "Alliant UW Kegonsa REV9 Conceptual" design, which shows a side view of the Raised Fixed Tilt Racking. The top edge of the module (highest point of the array) is at 14'. SunVest will not design an elevated system with a top edge any higher than 14'.
4. What would the equipment and panels be made of, and can they be recycled? Could the equipment contaminate the soil, stream and groundwater?	<p>4. The proposed modules are Heliene 530W bifacial. They are manufactured using International Quality System Standards: ISO9001 and have the following certifications: UL61215, UL61730. They are recognized as a Tier 1 manufacturer and have been approved for use by the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They are made of low-iron anti-reflective glass, silica wafers, and an anodized aluminum frame.</p> <p>These materials can be recycled, and SunVest is familiar with companies that offer solar panel recycling/salvaging services. The project also has a Decommissioning Plan, which addresses end of life with the following requirements: "All recyclable materials, salvaged and non-salvage, will be recycled to the furthest extent possible. All other non-recyclable waste materials will be disposed of in accordance with state and federal law in an approved licensed solid waste facility. "</p> <p>With the proper end-of-life management, contamination to soil, streams, and groundwater is highly unlikely due to the minimal amounts of hazardous materials present within the modules, as well as the quality construction of the modules.</p> <p>Please see the module spec sheet for further information on the technical characteristics of these modules.</p>
5. Concerns that solar power facilities are experimental.	5. Silicon solar cells were created at Bell Laboratories in 1954. Since then, research and development has resulted in an iterative product type that has become more efficient with each passing year. While the building blocks of the solar panel have remained similar over time (glass, frame, and semi-conductor), the materials have become more advanced and the process of making silicon cells has simplified, thus increasing panel efficiency and reducing cost.
6. Have other locations been considered for the array that could be less impactful? >> Your team responded to this last night, use those points and any others you feel necessary.	6. This location was selected for its close proximity to the existing Physical Sciences Lab facilities, which will be used for visitor parking and connect to an access road for the array; the location was selected to avoid prime agricultural soils; to minimize visibility from the closest residents and from Schneider Drive and Green Road; to allow a buffer between the array and wetlands to the south, to allow for continued farming on surrounding areas.
7. Concerns about stormwater management / runoff.	7. The project team will contact Jason Tuggle to coordinate erosion control and stormwater management planning closer to applying for state and local environmental permits. Best management practices will be taken to control erosion. Surface water runoff from the proposed site work will be controlled during the construction phase. The project is not expected to increase stormwater runoff quantities or qualities due to the replacement of currently grown crops (corn, soybeans) with other vegetated cover (such as native vegetation, pollinator habitat) under the solar panels as planned. Addressed in Environmental Impact Assessment (Section III)
8. The loss of animal habitat.	8. Long-term adverse biological impacts to wildlife are not anticipated as the project site is agriculturally developed, and the proposed activities blend the current site use with solar energy production. Construction of the solar array is anticipated to cause short-term biological impacts. The potential disruption of native flora and fauna will be mitigated through the implementation of the recommended actions in WDNR's ERR response. Surveys to confirm the presence or absence of species will be completed before construction, and areas of occupied habitat will be fenced off to avoid adverse impacts during construction. Additionally, to the extent possible, work in suitable habitats will be avoided during the species nesting period using controls such as installing and maintaining exclusion fencing. If avoidance dates or fencing cannot be implemented, the areas will be gently disturbed immediately before construction activities to avoid animal take. (Environmental Impact Assessment Section II, Section III)
9. Whether UW students will visit the site for education and research activities as indicated, and are there safety concerns with doing so?	9. UW students will be invited to visit the site for education and research activities. Appropriate and safe access to project site facilities will be put in place for all users, which may include safety training and instructions, use of appropriate safety gear such as hats and gloves, and/or being accompanied by a trained professional from the project team or their designees.
10. The existing zoning code violation on the site related to the storage of UW Hoofers boats.	10. UW received the zoning code violation notification from Dane County on 11/14/22 and is in the process of addressing the violation.