

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COURT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC and Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 161-kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Martin County

**SUMMARY OF  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

This matter came before Administrative Law Judge Christa L. Moseng for two public hearings. The first public hearing was held at the Windom Community Center in Windom, Minnesota, on April 7, 2026. The second public hearing was held virtually via the WebEx platform on April 8, 2026. The written public comment period closed on April 20, 2026.

Christy Brusven and Ryan Cox, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., appeared on behalf of Big Bend Wind, LLC (Big Bend Wind) and Great River Energy (GRE) (collectively Applicants). Cezar Panait appeared on behalf of Public Utilities Commission (Commission) staff (Commission Staff).

These proceedings address the Applicants' application for a Route Permit (Application) to build a 4.5 mile, 161-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line and associated facilities in Martin County (Project) pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216I.07 (2024).<sup>1</sup> On March 24, 2026, the Commission issued an Order requesting that an Administrative Law Judge conduct public hearings on the Project and prepare a summary of testimony and comments.<sup>2</sup>

**I. Public Hearings**

The Commission held an in-person scoping and information meeting in Windom, Minnesota, on April 7, 2026.<sup>3</sup> A virtual scoping and information meeting was held on April 8, 2026.<sup>4</sup> At the Windom Public Hearing the Applicants provided a summary of the Project, and Commission Staff gave a procedural overview about the permitting process

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<sup>1</sup> Route Permit App. and Env'tl. Assessment for a 161-kV Transmission Line in Martin Cty., Minn. at 1 (Dec. 10, 2025) (eDocket No. 202512-225711-02).

<sup>2</sup> Order at 1 (Mar. 24, 2026) (eDocket No. 20263-229587-01). The Commission did not refer this matter to the Court for a full report on the Application.

<sup>3</sup> Order for Minn. Stat. § 216I.07 Public Hr'g. at 1 (Mar. 24, 2026) (eDocket No. 20263-229599-01).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

and their role in it.<sup>5</sup> Two members of the public attended the in-person meeting on April 7, 2026.<sup>6</sup> No members of the public attended the virtual meeting on April 8, 2026.<sup>7</sup> No members of the public offered comments or testimony at either hearing.<sup>8</sup>

## II. Written Comments and Testimony

On April 1, 2026, the Applicants filed written direct testimony from Brie Anderson, the Senior Director of Project Permitting at Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC.<sup>9</sup> Anderson's testimony provided the following updates:

- A. An overview and summary of the Project as a whole, and the Applicants' reasons for choosing the specific proposed route. The route "is well suited for development because it follows existing roads and/or parcel lines to the extent practicable, avoids residences, and minimizes impacts on the environment and the typical farming practices of the affected landowners for which Big Bend Wind has voluntary easements."<sup>10</sup>
- B. Information on the current status of the construction schedule and project design, which remain unchanged. Negotiations with Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) are ongoing. Applicants are also in ongoing communication with Randy Teboe, a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, regarding the Project.
- C. Information on contracts and hiring plans involved in the Project. Big Bend Wind has awarded engineering, procurement, and construction contracts for the Project to Blattner Energy, and anticipates that Blattner will work with local labor unions and other stakeholders in developing the necessary workforce and hiring plan.
- D. An update on Big Bend Wind's ongoing coordination with the Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office. This includes a copy of the most recent communication received from that office and a plan to complete further relevant field surveys in Spring, 2026.<sup>11</sup>

On January 26, 2026, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) filed written comments on the Project.<sup>12</sup> DNR raised three main points: (1) that tree removal should be avoided between June 1 through August 15 in order to minimize impact on bats, including federally endangered northern long eared bats; (2) that the Applicants

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<sup>5</sup> Windom Community Center 6:00 p.m. Public Hr'g. Transcript (Windom Hr'g. Tr.) (Apr. 7, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> Windom Hr'g. Tr. (Apr. 7, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> WebEx Virtual 6:00 p.m. Public Hr'g. Tr. (Virtual Hr'g. Tr.) (Apr. 8, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> Windom Hr'g. Tr. (Apr. 7, 2026); Virtual Hr'g. Tr. (Apr. 8, 2026).

<sup>9</sup> Direct Testimony of Brie Anderson (Test. of Anderson) (Apr. 1, 2026) (eDocket No. 20264-229908-01). Applicant Big Bend is an indirect subsidiary of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC.

<sup>10</sup> Test. of Anderson at 4.

<sup>11</sup> Test. of Anderson at 3-6.

<sup>12</sup> Public Comments by DNR (Jan. 26, 2026) (eDocket No. 20261-227416-01).

should continue to work with the Vegetation Management Plan Working Group on the Project's Vegetation Management Plan; and (3) that the Applicants should obtain all necessary permitting for lighting, dust, erosion control, water appropriation, and crossing of public waters or state lands.<sup>13</sup> Anderson's testimony states that Big Bend Wind agrees with all of the DNR's comments, will be limiting tree removal as requested, and will be obtaining all necessary permits and approvals from the DNR.<sup>14</sup>

On February 18, 2026, Commission Staff filed a review of the Project's progress through the scoping process and recommendations for the Project's draft route permit.<sup>15</sup> Three special permit conditions were recommended: (1) that Applicants be required to avoid tree removal from June 1 through August 15; (2) that the Applicants coordinate with the DNR and Martin County on a tree replacement plan for the Project; and (3) that the Applicants coordinate with Ceder Lutheran Cemetery regarding tree plantings to minimize the aesthetic impacts of the Project on anyone visiting the cemetery.<sup>16</sup> Big Bend Wind does not object to any of the recommended special permit conditions.<sup>17</sup>

Anderson's direct testimony also reiterated the Applicants' request that the PUC grant separate route permits for Big Bend Wind and GRE. Specifically, they would like separate permits for each company reflecting only the portions of the Project they own. Proposed, redlined copies of the Draft Route Permit filed by Commission Staff that match this request were attached to the testimony as Schedules C and D.<sup>18</sup>

Finally, Anderson's testimony included an update on Big Bend Wind's communications with Jeffrey and Dana Scholl about the Project.<sup>19</sup> Big Bend Wind has, as requested by the Commission, contacted them regarding the Commission's decision not to order an environmental assessment addendum study on their proposed alternative route.<sup>20</sup> They also updated the Scholls on the ongoing coordination with the Cedar Lutheran Cemetery Association regarding planting trees to minimize the Project's aesthetic impacts on the cemetery.<sup>21</sup>

On April 9, 2026, Brian K. Hansen, a landowner in the Project Area, submitted a written comment on the Project.<sup>22</sup> Mr. Hansen discussed his conversations with Big Bend Wind and GRE over the course of the route development process for the Project, indicating that they have been responsive to his input. He supports the route proposed for the Project in the Application. He also states that he has family members buried at

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<sup>13</sup> Public Comments by DNR (Jan. 26, 2026) (eDocket No. 20261-227416-01).

<sup>14</sup> Test. of Anderson at 7-8.

<sup>15</sup> Scoping Summary and Recommendations by Commission Staff (Feb. 18, 2026) (eDocket No. 20262-228314-01).

<sup>16</sup> Scoping Summary and Recommendations by Commission Staff (Feb. 18, 2026) (eDocket No. 20262-228314-01).

<sup>17</sup> Test. of Anderson at 8.

<sup>18</sup> Test. of Anderson at 8-9; Direct Testimony Schedule C by Applicants (Apr. 1, 2026) (eDocket 20264-229908-05); Direct Testimony Schedule D by Applicants (Apr. 1, 2026) (eDocket 20264-229908-06).

<sup>19</sup> Test. of Anderson at 9-10.

<sup>20</sup> Test. of Anderson at 9-10.

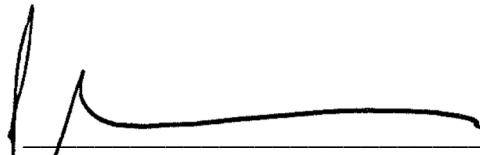
<sup>21</sup> Test. of Anderson at 10-11.

<sup>22</sup> Public Comment by Brian Hansen (Apr. 9, 2026) (eDocket No. 20264-230200-01).

Cedar Lutheran Cemetery and has no objection to the routing of the proposed transmission lines around those grounds.<sup>23</sup>

On April 20, 2026, the DNR filed another written comment, stating that DNR has reviewed the Application and agrees with “the draft permit language and has no additional comments at this time.”<sup>24</sup>

Dated: April 30, 2026



CHRISTA L. MOSENG  
Administrative Law Judge

### **NOTICE**

This Report contains a summary of public testimony. It is not a final decision. The Commission will make the final determination following a review of the record.

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<sup>23</sup> Public Comment by Brian Hansen (Apr. 9, 2026) (eDocket No. 20264-230200-01).

<sup>24</sup> Public Comments by DNR (Apr. 20, 2026) (eDocket No. 20264-230702-01).

April 30, 2026

See Attached Service List

**Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC and Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 161-kV high voltage transmission line and Associated Facilities in Martin County***


**CAH 22-2500-41594  
MPUC IP7013/TL-25-389**

To All Persons on the Attached Service List:

Enclosed and served upon you is the Administrative Law Judge's **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY** in the above-entitled matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 361-7970, [cara.hunter@state.mn.us](mailto:cara.hunter@state.mn.us), or via facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,



CARA HUNTER  
Legal Assistant

Enclosure

cc: Docket Coordinator

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COURT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
PO BOX 64620  
600 NORTH ROBERT STREET  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55164

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC and Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 161-kV high voltage transmission line and Associated Facilities in Martin County	CAH Docket No.: 22-2500-41594 MPUC IP7013/TL-25-389
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On April 30, 2026, a true and correct copy of the **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY** was served by eService, and United States mail, (in the manner indicated on the attached service list) to the following individuals:

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Brie	Anderson	brie.anderson@apexcleanenergy.com	Apex Clean Energy, Inc.		8665 Hudson Boulevard North, Suite 200 Lake Elmo MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List
2	Sasha	Bergman	sasha.bergman@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-389Official CC Service List
3	Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron		60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List
4	Mike	Bull	mike.bull@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-389Official CC Service List
5	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-389Official CC Service List
6	Ryan	Cox	rcox@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List
7	Richard	Davis	richard.davis@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place E, Suite 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List
8	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List
9	Christa	Moseng	christa.moseng@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	P.O. Box 64620 Saint Paul MN, 55164-0620 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-389Official CC Service List
10	Cezar	Panait	cezar.panait@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List
11	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-389Official CC Service List
12	Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix & Associates		7400 Lyndale Avenue South Suite 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-389Official CC Service List

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
13	Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com	Great River Energy		12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove MN, 55369 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-389Official CC Service List