

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie J. Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Red Rock Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 60-MW Red Rock Solar Project in Cottonwood County

Docket No. IP-7014/CN-19-486

SUMMARY OF FILING

On November 9, 2020, Red Rock Solar, LLC (“Red Rock”) filed an Application for a Certificate of Need (“CN”) for a Large Energy Facility with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 2. Red Rock is requesting a CN for the construction and operation of an up to 60 MW solar energy conversion facility. The power generated by the project will be offered for sale to wholesale customers, including Minnesota utilities and cooperatives, and commercial and industrial customers that have identified a need for additional renewable energy or set clean energy goals. The Red Rock solar facility would interconnect to the existing transmission grid through the 161 kV high voltage transmission line proposed by Big Bend.

Red Rock, together with Big Bend Wind, LLC (“Big Bend”) are proposing the state’s first utility-scale hybrid renewable energy facility and shared transmission line. Together, the Big Bend Wind Project and the Red Rock Solar Project represent Minnesota’s first potential wind-solar utility-scale hybrid renewable energy project. As proposed, the renewable energy generation could consist of up to 335 megawatts (“MW”) of renewable energy (275 MW of wind and 60 MW of solar), or up to 308 MW of only wind. If the Red Rock Solar Project is constructed, the overall size of the Big Bend Wind Project would decrease. Big Bend and Red

Rock would both interconnect to the existing transmission grid via a new approximately 18-mile 161 kilovolt (“kV”) high voltage transmission line. The table below summarizes the projects:

Project	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Approvals Sought (Docket No.)	Summary
Big Bend Wind Project	Certificate of Need (IP7013/CN-19-408)	Up to 308 MW large wind energy conversion system and associated facilities to be located in Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota and related 161 kV high voltage transmission line proposed in Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota.
	Site Permit (IP7013/WS-19-619)	Up to 308 MW large wind energy conversion system and associated facilities to be located in Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota.
	Route Permit (IP7013/TL-19-621)	Approximately 18-mile-long 161 kV transmission line proposed in Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota, to interconnect the Big Bend Wind Project and the Red Rock Solar Project to the transmission grid.
Red Rock Solar Project	Certificate of Need (IP7014/CN-19-486)	Up to 60 MW solar energy conversion facility and associated facilities in Cottonwood County, Minnesota, within the boundaries of the proposed Big Bend Wind Project site.
	Site Permit (IP7014/CN-19-620)	

REQUEST FOR JOINT PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 4 and Minnesota Rule 7849.1900, subpart 4, Big Bend and Red Rock are requesting that the Commission hold joint proceedings for the Certificate of Need, Site Permits and Route Permit for the Big Bend Wind Project, Red Rock Solar Project, and associated Transmission Line. Big Bend and Red Rock believe that a joint hearing is feasible, more efficient, and furthers the public interest. Holding joint proceedings will make it easier for members of the public to participate in the proceedings, provide a comprehensive record of all benefits, impacts and minimization measures related to this hybrid renewable energy project and related transmission line. Combining notices, filings, meetings and hearings will also improve administrative efficiency.