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January 21, 2022

- Via Electronic Filing -

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**RE: Extension Request
In the Matter of Great River Energy's 2022-2036 Resource Plan
DOCKET NO. E2/RP-17-286**

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

With this letter, Great River Energy (GRE) requests an extension to the due date for the filing of our Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023. We request the extension to provide the time needed to update the IRP to accurately reflect the timing of the closing of GRE's planned sale of Coal Creek Station and the high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) transmission system to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC and Nexus Line, LLC (Nexus), respectively (Sale Transaction), and to also incorporate a recently announced power purchase agreement for the supply of additional renewable energy.

GRE recently received two key regulatory approvals required for the Sale Transaction, including the Commission's recent approval of the transfer of the construction permit for the HVDC transmission system to Nexus.¹ We anticipate the closing of the Sale Transaction in 2022, but we do not yet know the exact closing date. GRE also recently announced that it has reached an agreement in principle with Apex Clean Energy for GRE's purchase of renewable energy from a 400 MW wind energy project (Discovery Wind) to be developed in McLean County, North Dakota. Discovery Wind is anticipated to be in commercial operation in 2025 and the wind energy it produces will be delivered to GRE in Minnesota over the HVDC transmission system. GRE's purchase of the output of Discovery Wind is subject to the approval of GRE's member-owners, who plan to consider the matter in early February.

As has been discussed in the attached press releases, the Sale Transaction and the power purchase agreement for the output of the Discovery Wind Project are major components of GRE's future power supply strategy. Given the importance of the portfolio changes, including the timing of the changes, we propose to extend the due date for the filing of the IRP for a period of time following the expected timeframe for the closing of the Sale Transaction. This will allow us to update the power supply portfolio, load forecast, and the related modeling.

¹ Commission Docket No. 21-434. The other key approval was the approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of an updated generator interconnection agreement for Coal Creek Station

One example of the importance of the timing of the Sale Transaction includes the effect of the Sale Transaction on the load forecast. Upon the sale of Coal Creek Station, GRE's fixed obligation members' demand and energy quantities may be reduced in accordance with the processes set forth in GRE's contractual arrangements with those members. Extending the due date for the filing of the IRP past the closing of the Sale Transaction will allow the IRP to accurately reflect the extent and timing of any reduction of the fixed obligation members' purchases from GRE.

If the IRP is not extended past the closing of the Sale Transaction, and GRE is required to file the IRP on April 1, 2022, it will immediately be out of date, necessitating supplemental filings with corrections and updates. We are mindful that the review of an IRP is a significant undertaking by the Department of Commerce and other interested parties. We suggest that filing due date of April 1, 2023 will allow us to present all parties with an IRP that accurately reflects GRE power supply portfolio and load forecast.

An April 1, 2023, submittal of the IRP will allow for a filing that is complete and inclusive of changes to the GRE power supply portfolio and member load forecast that we cannot accurately incorporate in an April 1, 2022 filing.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Zac Ruzycski at zruzycki@greenergy.com or (763) 445-6116.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Zac Ruzycski
Director, Resource Planning



January 18, 2022

CONTACT

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Cat Strumlauf, Apex Clean Energy, Inc., cat.strumlauf@apexcleanenergy.com, 703-304-1442 (c)

Great River Energy to sign agreement with Apex Clean Energy for 400-megawatt Discovery Wind Agreement will deliver power from one of the region's largest renewable resources to Twin Cities via high-voltage direct-current transmission line

MAPLE GROVE, MINNESOTA – Great River Energy has reached an agreement in principle with Apex Clean Energy to receive renewable energy from a 400-megawatt (MW) wind energy project in McLean County, North Dakota.

The Discovery Wind project, expected to reach commercial operations in 2025, will be the single largest wind project in North Dakota and will deliver renewable energy over the 436-mile high-voltage direct-current transmission (HVDC) system.

The project will fulfill a significant portion of the renewable energy needs for Great River Energy's power supply transition and deliver wind energy west of the Twin Cities. The electric cooperative announced in 2020 plans to phase out the remaining coal in its power supply portfolio and more than double its renewable energy.

"We are transforming the way we produce electricity and serve our member-owner cooperatives," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "Our members will enjoy stable wholesale electric rates for years while providing clean and reliable energy to Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin."

Great River Energy is also converting the coal-based Spiritwood Station power plant located near Jamestown, North Dakota, to be fueled primarily with natural gas and developing a 1-MW, multi-day grid battery in Cambridge, Minnesota.

Great River Energy has long had operations in McLean County through its 1,100-MW Coal Creek Station power plant and the western terminus of the HVDC transmission system. Great River Energy is in the process of selling the power plant and transmission system to Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line, respectively. The transaction will be finalized upon approval from Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives and progress toward successful implementation of the Discovery Wind project.

The agreement with Apex Clean Energy comes less than two weeks after Great River Energy announced it secured capacity on the HVDC transmission system for renewable energy development. Discovery Wind's location near an existing power plant provides a unique opportunity to interconnect a very large project to the constrained Midwest electric grid.

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“This announcement shows our dedication to being partners in clean energy with Great River Energy, and it delivers on verbal promises we made when we first announced our intent to purchase Coal Creek Station,” said Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line President Stacy Tschider. “This is just one of many carbon neutral objectives we intend to fulfill, culminating with the successful implementation of carbon capture and sequestration at Coal Creek Station.”

Great River Energy’s power supply transition has the cooperative on track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2025, achieving Minnesota’s emissions target decades ahead of schedule.

“Working with Great River Energy, Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line, not only will we deliver clean power to a major market, but we will be able to use capacity on an existing pathway to do so—a rare and valuable arrangement in the saturated MISO market,” said Apex Clean Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Mark Goodwin. “This innovative solution enables the Discovery Wind project, thereby delivering a multitude of benefits to its North Dakota community, including both preserving and creating critical local jobs.”

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About Great River Energy: Great River Energy, based in Maple Grove, Minn., is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving more than 700,000 families, farms and businesses. Learn more at greatriverenergy.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Apex Clean Energy: Apex Clean Energy was founded with a singular focus: to accelerate the shift to clean energy. Through origination, construction, and operation of utility-scale wind, solar, and storage facilities, distributed energy resources, and green fuel technologies, Apex is expanding the renewable frontier across North America. Our mission-driven team of more than 300 professionals uses a data-focused approach and an unrivaled portfolio of projects to create solutions for the world’s most innovative and forward-thinking customers. For more information about how Apex is building the energy company of the future, visit apexcleanenergy.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).