

Appendix G
**90-Day Pre-application Letter to Local Units of
Government**



October 16, 2019

Jan Johnson
Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer
900 3rd Avenue
Windom, MN 56101

**RE: Notice of Proposed Wind, Solar and Transmission Line Projects in Cottonwood, Watonwan and Martin Counties, Minnesota
MPUC Docket Nos. IP-7013/CN-19-408; IP-7014/CN-19-486; IP-7013/WS-19-619; IP-7014/GS-19-620 and IP-7013/TL-19-621**

Notice of Availability for Meeting: Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3

To Whom It May Concern:

Big Bend Wind, LLC (“Big Bend”) and Red Rock Solar, LLC (“Red Rock”), are indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC (“Apex”), and are proposing to construct up to 335 megawatts (“MW”) of new renewable energy generation in Cottonwood County, Minnesota. As proposed, the renewable generation could consist of up to 335 MWs of wind (the “Wind Farm”), or a combination of wind and up to 75 MWs of solar (the “Solar Project”). In addition, Big Bend is proposing to construct a 161 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line and associated facilities (“Transmission Line”) to support the Wind Farm and Solar Project.

The Transmission Line is needed to interconnect the Wind Farm and Solar Project to the transmission grid. The Transmission Line will consist of approximately 30 miles of 161 kV transmission line located in Cottonwood, Watonwan and Martin Counties, Minnesota. As proposed, the Transmission Line will extend south from the Wind Farm’s project substation to an existing 345 kV transmission line near the Great River Energy Lakefield Junction Station in Martin County. A switching station will be constructed to connect the proposed Transmission Line to the existing 345 kV transmission system. The enclosed Project Area map depicts the area within which routes may be proposed and the area where the Wind Farm and Solar Projects are proposed.

Big Bend and Red Rock must obtain a total of five approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the proposed Wind Farm, Solar Project and Transmission Line: (1) a Certificate of Need for the Wind Farm and Transmission Line; (2) a Certificate of Need for the Solar Project; (3) a Site Permit for the Wind Farm; (4) a Site Permit for the Solar Project; and (5) a Route Permit for the Transmission Line. In a certificate of need

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proceeding, the Commission determines whether a proposed project is needed and the appropriate size, type, and timing. In site permit and route permit proceedings, the Commission determines where the facilities should be located and what conditions should be included in the permits.

There are multiple opportunities for stakeholder and public input in these proceedings. Big Bend and Red Rock are currently gathering information in preparation for filing its applications and expect to file applications with the Commission early in 2020.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you regarding the proposed Wind Farm, Solar Project and Transmission Line.¹ If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (484) 364-9298 or dylan.ikkala@apexcleanenergy.com. We also welcome written comments, and I am available to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,



Dylan Ikkala
Development Manager
Apex Clean Energy

Enc. Project Area Map

¹ This letter is intended to serve as notice of the opportunity for a pre-application consultation meeting under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3a.

