

Appendix J

**90-day Pre-application Letter to Local Units of
Government and Affidavits of Mailing**

This page intentionally left blank

November 16, 2018



Jean Price
Redwood Cty Auditor/Treasurer
403 S Mill St, PO Box 130
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

RE: Notice of Certificate of Need Application for an up to 414 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System and 345 kV Transmission Line in Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood Counties, Minnesota, MPUC Docket No. TL-18-701

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC ("Plum Creek"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, LLC ("Geronimo"), is proposing to construct a 345 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line and associated facilities ("Transmission Line") to support the up to 414 megawatt ("MW") proposed Plum Creek Wind Farm ("Wind Farm").¹

The Transmission Line is needed to interconnect the Wind Farm to the transmission grid. The Transmission Line will consist of approximately 25 miles of 345 kV transmission line located within Redwood and Cottonwood Counties, Minnesota. As proposed, the Transmission Line will extend north from the Wind Farm's project substation to the existing Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line. Two alternative routes are currently being considered, each terminating at the existing Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line. A switching station will be constructed to connect the proposed Transmission Line to the existing Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line. The enclosed Project Area map depicts the area within which routes may be proposed and the area where the Wind Farm is proposed.

Plum Creek must obtain two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to construct the proposed Transmission Line: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. In the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission determines whether a proposed transmission line project is needed and the appropriate size, configuration, and timing. If the Commission determines that the Transmission Line is needed, the Commission will then determine the route for the Transmission Line. The Wind Farm will also require a Certificate of Need and a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit from the Commission. There are multiple opportunities for stakeholder and public input in these proceedings.

¹ A site permit application for the Wind Farm will be submitted to the Commission and is subject to a separate approval.

November 16, 2018

Page 2

Plum Creek is currently gathering information in preparation for filing an Application for a Route Permit for the Transmission Line. Plum Creek expects to file the Application with the Commission early in 2019 under its full permitting procedures, which will include a contested case.

Minnesota Statutes § 216E.03, subd. 3b provides local units of government the opportunity to request a consultation meeting regarding the proposed Transmission Line. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (952) 988-9000 or jenny@geronimoenergy.com. We also welcome written comments and I am also available to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Monson-Miller', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Plum Creek Wind Farm

Enc. Plum Creek Transmission Line Project Area Map