



December 24, 2020

ELECTRONIC FILING

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission
127 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: **Reply Comments on Application Acceptance**
Big Bend Wind Project and Big Bend HVTL
Docket Nos. IP7013/CN-19-408, WS-19-619, and TL-19-621

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached are the reply comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff on application acceptance in the following matter:

In the Matter of Big Bend Wind, LLC's Certificate of Need (LWECS & HVTL), LWECS Site Permit, and HVTL Route Permit applications for the Big Bend Wind Project and associated facilities in Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan counties in Minnesota

The applications were filed by:

c/o Apex Clean Energy, Inc.
Brenna Gunderson, Director of Development
8665 Hudson Blvd. North, Suite 110
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
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Fax: 434-220-3712
Email: Brenna.gunderson@apexcleanenergy.com

EERA staff has reviewed the comments submitted to the Big Bend Wind Project and Big Bend HVTL eDockets, and at this time we have not identified any specific comments that would change our comments and recommendations on application completeness submitted to the Commission on December 15, 2020. The comments submitted to date identify items that can appropriately and adequately be addressed throughout the permitting process and will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment, Preliminary Draft Site Permit, and Draft Route Permit to be prepared by EERA.

EERA staff recommends the Commission accept the applications for the proposed Big Bend Wind Project and Big Bend HVTL Project as complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Davis
Environmental Review Manager

Enclosure

cc: Louise Miltich, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
Mary Otto, Department of Commerce
Charley Bruce, Public Utilities Commission