

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
JIMMY MERRICK  
ON BEHALF OF TIMBERMILL WIND, LLC

NCUC DOCKET NO. EMP-118, SUB 1

**INTRODUCTION**

**Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

A. My name is Jimmy Merrick. I am a Development Manager for Apex Clean Energy, Inc. My business address is 310 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

**Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

A. I hold a B.S. in Integrated Science and Technology, with a concentration in Energy, from James Madison University. I started working professionally in the renewable energy industry in 2014 and have been working full time as a developer with Apex Clean Energy, Inc. since June of 2018. I have successfully permitted multiple solar projects in the state of Virginia, totaling approximately 310 MW<sub>AC</sub> of capacity. I currently manage a development pipeline of 889 MW<sub>AC</sub> of wind, solar, and storage assets across the states of Virginia and North Carolina.

**Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.**

A. As Development Manager, my responsibilities include managing all stages of development for projects in Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC's ("Apex") portfolio from concept to construction, including project origination, land leasing, transmission, public outreach, environmental permitting, and land use permitting. I also support engagement in the power marketing and financing of projects. I share responsibility for the development of the Timbermill Wind, LLC ("Timbermill") wind

23 energy facility that has a capacity up to 189 MW<sub>AC</sub> located in Chowan County, NC (the  
24 “Facility”).

25 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION?**

26 A. No, but I have also provided prefiled direct testimony to support the  
27 Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct the Facility  
28 (the “CPCN Application”), filed by Timbermill in docket EMP-118, Sub 0.

29 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

30 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application for Certificate  
31 of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity (the “CECPCN  
32 Application”) to construct an approximately 6 mile 230kV transmission line (the  
33 “Timbermill Line”) necessary to interconnect the Facility to the existing 230kV Winfall-  
34 Mackeys transmission line (the “Winfall Line”) owned by Virginia Electric and Power  
35 Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (“DENC”).

36 **Q. WERE YOU INVOLVED IN PREPARING TIMBERMILL’S CECPCN**  
37 **APPLICATION IN THIS DOCKET?**

38 A. Yes.

39 **Q. WHY IS TIMBERMILL REQUESTING THE COMMISSION GRANT THIS**  
40 **CERTIFICATE?**

41 A. The Timbermill Line is needed in order to interconnect the Facility, which  
42 is the subject of the CPCN Application, to the existing DENC electrical grid.

43 **Q. TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WILL TIMBERMILL FILE AND PROVIDE**  
44 **ALL INFORMATION, PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY THIS**  
45 **COMMISSION, AND OBTAIN ALL FEDERAL AND STATE LICENSES, PERMITS,**  
46 **AND EXEMPTIONS REQUIRED UNDER APPLICABLE LAW FOR CONSTRUCTION**  
47 **AND OPERATION OF THIS TIMBERMILL LINE?**

48 A. Yes.

49           **Q.     PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROCESS UTILIZED TO SITE THE**  
50 **TIMBERMILL LINE.**

51           A.     In 2013, Apex began approaching landowners along the most direct  
52 route from the Collector Substation to the Interconnection Switching Station about  
53 participating in the Facility. At the same time, Apex was conducting diligence to  
54 understand land use and environmental constraints along potential routes. As an  
55 independent power producer, Timbermill does not have eminent domain authority.  
56 Therefore, the route for the Timbermill Line was established through the entering of  
57 voluntary agreements with individual private landowners. Apex has entered into 37 site  
58 control agreements for the Facility, ten of which are specifically for the Transmission  
59 Corridor.

60           **Q.     DESCRIBE THE PERMITS AND APPROVALS ANTICIPATED TO BE**  
61 **NECESSARY TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TIMBERMILL LINE.**

62           A.     The anticipated local, state and federal permits required for construction  
63 of the Timbermill Line are set forth in Table 3.0-1 in the environmental report included as  
64 CECPCN Application Exhibit 3.

65           **Q.     WHICH PERMITS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED TO DATE?**

66           A.     A conditional use permit (“CUP”) from Chowan County was obtained for  
67 the Facility in 2016 and amended for the current Facility configuration in 2018. The CUP  
68 allows for the construction of the Timbermill Line. All other permits remain in process at  
69 this time.

70           **Q.     DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

71           A.     Yes.