

## **Exhibit 12**

### **Matt Eberl Pre-Filed Direct Testimony**

**BEFORE THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**HOMESTEAD WIND, LLC  
HOMESTEAD WIND PROJECT – WILLIAMS COUNTY  
SITING APPLICATION**

**CASE NO. PU-26-086**

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF MATT EBERL  
ON BEHALF OF HOMESTEAD WIND, LLC**

**September 18, 2026**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**Q. Please state your name, employer, and business address.**

A. My name is Matt Eberl. I am employed by Apex Clean Energy, Inc. ("Apex"). My business address is 120 Garrett Street, Suite 700, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

**Q. What is your position with Apex?**

A. I am a Senior Development Manager for Apex.

**Q. Briefly describe your work history and education.**

A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental engineering from the State University of New York School of Environmental Science & Forestry. I have over 20 years of experience in engineering and development and have worked on several wind projects in North Dakota. A copy of my resume is attached as proposed Exhibit 12-A.

**Q. What is your role with respect to the Homestead Wind Project ("Project")?**

A. I am the Project manager.

**Q. Who will construct, own, and operate the Project?**

A. Homestead Wind, LLC ("Homestead Wind") will construct, own, and operate the Project.

**Q. What is the relationship between Homestead Wind and Apex with respect to the Project?**

A. Homestead Wind is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Apex. Apex is assisting Homestead Wind with development of the Project.

**Q. Please describe Apex's experience in the renewable energy industry.**

A. Apex is an independent renewable energy company based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Since its founding in 2009, Apex has evolved into one of the fastest-growing

companies in the industry. Apex has commercialized more than 50 projects totaling nearly 12 gigawatts (“GWs”) of capacity. Operating assets under management have grown to more than 2 GW with nearly another GW under construction.

**Q. What proposed hearing exhibits are you sponsoring in your testimony?**

A. I am sponsoring the following proposed hearing exhibits:

- Exhibit 1: Certificate of Site Compatibility Application
- Exhibit 2: Updated Figure 4 (Avoidance Areas), Updated Figure 5 (Constraints), and Updated Figure 11 (Newspaper Map)
- Exhibit 3: Tree and Shrub Clearing Request Figure
- Exhibit 6: Project Receptor Chart
- Exhibit 10: Signed Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Wind Energy Conversion Facility Siting, with accompanying Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications
- Exhibit 11: Summary of Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
- Exhibit 12: Eberl Testimony
- Exhibit 12-A: Eberl Resume

**Q. What is the purpose of your Direct Testimony?**

A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide an overview of the Project’s development history, including: site selection; landowner coordination; site analysis; layout and facility design; land use compatibility; and local permitting and coordination. I will also provide an overview of Project construction, operation, and decommissioning.

**II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

**Q. Please provide a general description of the Project, including where it is located, its proposed output, and facilities.**

A. The Project is within an approximately 25,000-acre Project Area (“Project Area”) located in Williams County, North Dakota. As currently designed, the Project

nameplate capacity will be up to 256.5 megawatts (“MW”), with up to 255 MWs of electricity delivered to the grid. The Project’s facilities would include:

- 81 wind turbine locations, of which up to 67 wind turbines and related equipment will be constructed (depending on the turbine model ultimately selected);
- new gravel access roads and improvements to existing roads (as needed);
- underground 34.5 kilovolt (“kV”) electrical collection lines connecting the turbines to the Project substation and associated facilities;
- underground fiber-optic cable for turbine communications co-located with the collection lines;
- one meteorological tower (“MET”) and temporary Light Detection and Ranging (“LiDAR”) technology;
- Project substation;
- operations and maintenance (“O&M”) facility;
- light-mitigating technology and related equipment; and
- temporary construction facilities, including a concrete batch plant, laydown areas for equipment and construction management facility, intersection improvements to facilitate over-length turning, crane paths and working pads, and staging areas for turbine structure delivery.

**Q. Where will the Project interconnect to the grid?**

A. The Project will interconnect via an approximately 0.2-mile (approximately 850-foot) 115 kV transmission line extending from the Project substation to the point of interconnection to the grid at the existing Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative Strandahl 115 kV substation (“Strandahl Substation”), located within the Project Area along 151st Avenue Northwest. The transmission line has been permitted through Williams County.

**Q. Since Homestead Wind’s Application for Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Project (“Application”) was filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“PSC”) on March 4, 2026, have there been any updates to the Project layout?**

93 A. No.

94  
95 **Q. Is the layout shown on Figure 2 filed with the Application (proposed Exhibit 1)**  
96 **the current layout?**

97 A. Yes.

98  
99 **Q. Since filing the Application, has Homestead Wind updated Figures 4 (Avoidance**  
100 **Areas) and 5 (Constraints) filed with the Application to show nonparticipating**  
101 **occupied residences?**

102 A. Yes. Figures 4 and 5 have been updated to show nonparticipating occupied  
103 residences, and are provided as proposed Exhibit 2.

104  
105 **Q. Has Homestead Wind executed a Generator Interconnection Agreement**  
106 **("GIA")?**

107 A. Yes. Homestead Wind executed a GIA with Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative  
108 and Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") in June 2025.

109  
110 **Q. Has Homestead Wind identified an off-taker for the Project?**

111 A. Homestead Wind is in the process of identifying an off-taker for the Project's output.  
112 Potential off-takers include utilities and commercial and industrial customers seeking  
113 physical or virtual power purchase agreements ("PPA").

114  
115 **Q. What is the anticipated schedule for the construction and in-service of the**  
116 **Project?**

117 A. Project construction is anticipated to begin as early as the 3rd Quarter of 2027 and  
118 the Project is anticipated to be operational no later than the end of 2028.

119  
120 **Q. What is the estimated total cost of the Project?**

121 A. The estimated total cost to construct the Project is approximately \$750 million.

**III. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL OUTREACH, AND PROJECT AREA SELECTION**

**Q. Please provide an overview of the Project's development history and outreach with the local community and local governments.**

A. Homestead Wind's development of the Project began in 2015 and included changes and refinements to the Project boundary over the course of the following ten years. The history is outlined in more detail in Section 1.2.5 of the Application (proposed Exhibit 1), but the following provides a high-level overview.

- In 2015, Homestead Wind identified a general area of wind development interest in the northwest corner of Williams County and began its community outreach and site control efforts. By 2016, Homestead Wind had installed two temporary METs and began collecting and assessing wind resource data.
- In 2018, Homestead Wind filed its interconnection queue position with SPP.
- In 2022, Homestead Wind initiated coordination with Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative, the utility owner of the Strandahl Substation.
- Beginning in 2023 and into 2024, in response to strong landowner support, Homestead Wind expanded its area of interest and conducted additional environmental studies and surveys of the expanded area. Homestead Wind also continued to progress through the interconnection queue process.
- In 2025, Homestead Wind refined the Project Area by working closely with participating landowners, the surrounding community, wildlife agencies, Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative, and other stakeholders. Homestead Wind continued collecting site-specific data and conducting additional environmental surveys to further inform Project design to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife, wetlands, and sensitive habitats. Also in 2025, Homestead Wind executed its GIA with Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative and SPP.
- In January 2026, Williams County approved a conditional use permit and two associated variances for the Project.

**Q. What factors make the Project site a good site for wind development?**

A. Homestead Wind selected the Project Area because of its extraordinary wind resource, proximity to accessible electrical infrastructure for interconnection to the grid, strong landowner support, and compatibility with existing land uses and environmental features.

**Q. Has Homestead Wind obtained the necessary property rights to construct the Project within the proposed Project Area?**

A. Homestead Wind has executed agreements with all private landowners within the Project Area. These agreements consist of wind energy leases, except for one easement (covering two parcels) for underground collection lines and one easement for the transmission line. The Project Area also includes four North Dakota Department of Trust Lands ("NDDTL")-owned surface trust land parcels that Homestead Wind expects to secure an agreement for upon completion of the PSC process. The NDDTL parcels are depicted as "pending" on the figures included with the Application.

**Q. Please discuss Homestead Wind's coordination with the NDDTL regarding the Project and easement acquisition.**

A. Homestead Wind initiated coordination with NDDTL in May 2023 as part of the land leasing effort for the Project. Homestead Wind has submitted an application to the NDDTL for a Wind Farm Right-of-Way on the four NDDTL-managed parcels, and NDDTL staff have reviewed proposed infrastructure locations. Based on coordination with NDDTL, Homestead Wind understands the agreements cannot be finalized until after Homestead Wind concludes the PSC process. However, the department has expressed a desire for the parcels to be included in the Project. NDDTL has noted that the Project as proposed will allow for adequate preservation of grassland assets while allowing NDDTL to fill its constitutional mandate to maximize economic returns.

**Q. Did Homestead Wind also take private landowner input into consideration in the Project's design?**

A. Yes. Homestead Wind has coordinated with landowners regarding infrastructure placement and has utilized existing roads, driveways, field edges, and other previously disturbed areas for access roads to the extent practicable. Comments and suggestions made by participating landowners were considered and incorporated into the final layout, when possible. Homestead Wind has worked and will continue to work diligently with its landowner partners throughout Project development.

**Q. Were any concerns raised by the community regarding the Project?**

A. In addition to typical questions we received regarding wind projects, there were some concerns raised regarding setbacks from nonparticipating residences. Homestead Wind has listened to those concerns and sited turbines even farther from nonparticipating residences than is required by the PSC or Williams County.

**IV. PROJECT LAYOUT AND DESIGN**

**Q. Please describe the factors considered when developing the Project layout.**

A. In addition to landowner input, Homestead Wind identified preliminary turbine locations based on a wind resource analysis, engineering considerations, site inspections, topography, known environmentally sensitive areas, and input from local, state, and federal agencies and stakeholders. The design of the proposed layout optimizes the wind resource, minimizes impact on existing resources, infrastructure and land use, complies with the PSC's setback requirements and all applicable local zoning requirements (unless a variance has been obtained), and incorporates stakeholder and landowner input.

**Q. Has Homestead Wind determined what turbine model it will use?**

A. No. Homestead Wind is still determining what turbine model to use for the Project.

**Q. What turbine models are currently under consideration for the Project?**

A. Homestead Wind is considering the Vestas V163 4.5-MW turbine and the General Electric ("GE") 154 3.8-MW turbine, and both turbine models were used throughout

the Application for analysis purposes. Homestead Wind plans to select the most appropriate technology for the Project in terms of cost efficiency and optimization of wind and land resources and in consideration of landowner input, setback requirements, and other constraints.

**Q. Are the turbine sites dependent upon which model or models you select?**

A. No. Homestead Wind has designed the turbine layout based on the taller turbine (a turbine with a tip height of 194.5 meters (638 feet) and a rotor diameter of 163 meters (535 feet). Accordingly, all proposed turbine locations meet the PSC and Williams County setbacks regardless of the turbine model selected. Both turbine models also meet the sound requirements and shadow flicker commitments.

**Q. Is the total number of turbines that will be constructed for the Project dependent upon which model you select?**

A. Yes. Although a total of 81 potential turbine locations are proposed, only up to 67 turbines would be installed. The Vestas V163 4.5-MW turbine model would require installation of fewer turbines (57 turbines) than the GE 154 3.8-MW turbine model (67 turbines) to reach the Project's up to 256.5 MW nameplate capacity.

**Q. Regardless of the turbine model or models selected, will Homestead Wind limit the total number of turbines constructed within the Project Area to up to 67 turbines?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Will Homestead Wind limit the total MW of wind energy constructed within the Project Area up to 256.5 MW?**

A. Yes.

**V. ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONAL DESIGN**

**Q. Will the collection system be installed underground?**

A. Yes, with the exception of any required above-ground junction boxes, the collection system will be installed underground.

**Q. Please describe the foundations that will be constructed for the turbines.**

A. Final size and design for foundations are dependent on geotechnical analyses and turbine model selection, but it is estimated that the foundation will be approximately 60 to 80 feet in diameter and up to 15 feet in depth.

**Q. How wide will the access roads be?**

A. During construction, access roads will be up to 150 feet wide. After construction, the permanent access roads will be approximately 20 feet wide.

**Q. Please describe the location selected for the O&M facility.**

A. The O&M facility will occupy an approximately 10-acre area including the associated parking area, and is proposed to be located in the west central portion of the Project along the north side of 69th Street Northwest between 150th Avenue Northwest and 151st Avenue Northwest, as shown on Figure 2 to the Application (proposed Exhibit 1).

**Q. Please describe the location selected for the Project substation.**

A. The Project substation will occupy an approximately 9.25-acre area adjacent to the existing Strandahl Substation. The Project substation location was selected in part to minimize the length of the overhead transmission line needed to connect to the Strandahl Substation.

**Q. Please describe the meteorological monitoring technology Homestead Wind will utilize during operation of the Project.**

- A. Homestead Wind will utilize both a permanent MET and temporary LiDAR technology for meteorological monitoring during operations. The MET will remain in place for the life of the Project and will provide data critical to assessing the performance of the Project and aid in short-term forecasting for the Project. Within one year of commencing operation, up to two LiDAR sensors on portable trailers may be installed within the Project Area for a period of six to nine months to collect measurements of wind speed, direction and other characteristics such as turbulence intensity. Once sufficient data has been collected, the LiDAR technology will be removed.

## VI. AVIATION AND LIGHT-MITIGATING TECHNOLOGY

### **Q. Did Homestead Wind consider airports in the siting of the Project?**

- A. Yes. The Project is not anticipated to have any impacts on airports. The closest public airport, the Williston Basin International Airport, is approximately 7.2 miles southeast of the Project Area.

### **Q. Does Homestead Wind commit to utilizing a light-mitigating technology that is consistent with NDCC § 49-22-16.4 and NDAC Chapter 69-06-11, subject to Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") approval?**

- A. Yes. Homestead Wind will use commercially reasonable efforts to install a light-mitigating technology that is consistent with applicable requirements. Currently, Homestead Wind plans to utilize Aircraft Detection Lighting System ("ADLS"), subject to FAA approval.

### **Q. With respect to the light-mitigating technology to be used for the Project, what is the status of obtaining FAA approval?**

- A. Homestead Wind submitted its proposed turbine layout to the FAA for Determinations of No Hazard and filed its request to utilize ADLS on the Project. The FAA is conducting its review and Homestead Wind anticipates a final determination in early 2027.

**VII. PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

**Q. Discuss the personnel that will be involved in the construction of the Project.**

A. The Project is expected to employ up to 250 temporary workers, both skilled and unskilled, to support Project construction.

**Q. Please provide an overview of the sequence of Project construction.**

A. A variety of activities must be completed to carry the Project through construction. Prior to commencement of construction, Homestead Wind will prepare detailed engineering design plans of the Project electrical components, substation, access roads, and turbine foundations. During the construction phase, Homestead Wind will start by preparing laydown yards. Homestead Wind will then construct access roads and install collection lines. Following that, Homestead Wind will construct the Project substation, the ADLS and MET, and the O&M facility. Following that, Homestead Wind will install tower foundations and electrical connections to the collection system and erect towers and set turbines. Upon completion of construction, heavy equipment will be removed from the Project. Following completion of construction, Homestead Wind will restore disturbed areas not hosting permanent aboveground facilities, test Project facilities, and begin commercial operation.

**Q. Has Homestead Wind developed a noxious weed management plan?**

A. Yes. Homestead Wind has developed a Noxious Weed Management and Control Plan which is included as Appendix K to the Application (proposed Exhibit 1).

**Q. Has the Williams County Weed Board approved the noxious weed management plan?**

A. Yes. Documentation of the approval is included in Appendix D.2 (Agency Correspondence) to the Application (proposed Exhibit 1).

**VIII. PROJECT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

**Q. Discuss the personnel that will be involved in the operation and maintenance of the Project.**

A. There will be between four and eight full-time workers at the Project during operations. Specifically, Homestead Wind will employ a full-time site manager and the turbine manufacturer will employ three to seven full-time technicians on site.

**Q. Will there be routine, scheduled inspections of the Project to ensure it is operating appropriately?**

A. Yes. Following construction, the Project will undergo detailed inspection and testing procedures before becoming operational. Inspection and testing will occur for each component of the wind turbines, as well as the associated communication, meteorological, collection and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition ("SCADA") systems. Once operational, the Project will undergo routine inspections consistent with industry standards. For more information on these routine inspections, see Section 5.3 of the Application (proposed Exhibit 1).

**Q. How will the Project be monitored between inspections?**

A. The Project will be monitored via a SCADA system by operations staff on-site and the Remote Operations Control Center ("ROCC"), an off-site operations center. The SCADA system provides information on generation, availability, meteorological conditions, and communications for each turbine, allowing for remote monitoring, reporting, troubleshooting, and control of turbine equipment and performance. The SCADA system enables constant monitoring of the Project at the ROCC. Permanent operations staff will perform maintenance and service for the Project with the aid of this system.

**Q. Will the Project be designed, constructed, and operated in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Will Homestead Wind develop an emergency response plan for the Project?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Will Homestead Wind coordinate with local first responders on development of the emergency response plan?**

A. Yes

## **IX. DECOMMISSIONING AND RESTORATION OF PROJECT AREA**

**Q. What is the estimated life of the Project?**

A. The expected life of the Project is 30 years; however, the Project may operate beyond this timeframe through equipment replacement/upgrades, in coordination with landowners and stakeholders.

**Q. Please discuss Homestead Wind's plans for decommissioning and restoration of the Project site.**

A. In accordance with the PSC's decommissioning rules, Homestead Wind will file a decommissioning plan with the PSC for review prior to the commencement of operations and will comply with the applicable financial assurance provisions during construction and operation of the Project. When the Project is decommissioned, Homestead Wind will restore the site in accordance with the PSC's decommissioning requirements.

## **X. PROJECT BENEFITS**

**Q. What are some of the benefits of the proposed Project?**

A. The Project offers participating landowners the opportunity to generate additional income with minimal disruption to their existing agricultural use, which allows these landowners to diversify their agricultural operations, and provides a steady income source. Additionally, the Project will generate tax revenue both locally and for the State. Over the life of the Project, Homestead Wind would pay approximately \$35 million to state and local taxing authorities (including approximately \$11.74 million to

the State of North Dakota, approximately \$3.72 million to Williams County and approximately \$15.44 million to Grenora School District).

The Project will also provide temporary and long-term employment opportunities. During construction, the Project is anticipated to increase spending/revenue in the vicinity of the Project due to increased demand for lodging, food services, fuel, and general supplies.

## **XI. LOCAL PERMITS AND APPROVALS**

### **Q. Has Homestead Wind obtained the necessary zoning approvals from Williams County?**

A. Yes. Williams County approved a conditional use permit and two associated variances for the Project in January 2026.

### **Q. Will Homestead Wind coordinate with all applicable road authorities?**

A. Yes. Homestead Wind has been coordinating with Williams County on a Road Use and Maintenance Agreement, a draft of which has been approved by the county attorney and is expected to be finalized and executed as part of the building permit process. Homestead Wind will also negotiate a Road Use and Maintenance Agreement with the townships, as needed.

## **XII. CERTIFICATION RELATING TO ORDER PROVISIONS FOR WIND ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY SITING**

### **Q. Has Homestead Wind provided a signed Certification Relating to Order Provisions for Wind Energy Conversion Facility Siting, with accompanying Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications ("Certification")?**

A. Yes. The Certification is proposed Exhibit 10.

### **Q. Who executed the Certification on behalf of Homestead Wind?**

A. Kurt Friesen.

**Q. Does Mr. Friesen have authority to bind Homestead Wind with respect to the commitments made in the Certification?**

A. Yes.

**Q. With respect to tree and shrub clearing, is Homestead Wind requesting the ability to clear an area wider than 50 feet in some locations within the Project Area?**

A. Yes. Homestead Wind is requesting authorization to clear trees and shrubs in the Project Area up to 100 feet in up to five areas where it is necessary to collocate multiple facilities (e.g., access roads, crane paths, and/or collection lines) and the workspace associated with each, and/or in order to safely stage and lift turbine components and blades.

**Q. Are these five locations where Homestead Wind is requesting the ability to clear trees and shrubs up to 100 feet shown on proposed Exhibit 3?**

A. Yes.

**Q. With the exception of this requested modification, will Homestead Wind comply with the PSC's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications?**

A. Yes.

### **XIII.CONCLUSION**

**Q. Based on the studies and analyses conducted, and the testimony you have presented today, what are some of the conclusions Homestead Wind has reached regarding the proposed Project?**

A. Homestead Wind has sited the Project to comply with applicable local zoning and the PSC's siting requirements, as well as to minimize potential impacts to existing land uses, cultural resources, natural resources, and existing infrastructure. The Project

459 has strong landowner and community support and will provide significant benefits to  
460 the local community and the state. Therefore, Homestead Wind respectfully requests  
461 that the PSC issue a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Project.

462  
463 **Q. Does this conclude your Testimony?**

464 A. Yes