

Apex Inks Deal Selling Rest Of 300-MW Wind Project's Power

By Igor Kossov

Law360, New York (November 13, 2013, 6:19 PM ET) -- An Apex Clean Energy unit will sell the remaining 100 megawatts of wind energy capacity from its 300-megawatt Balko wind project through a power purchase agreement with the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Apex said Tuesday.

The deal, struck by Balko Wind LLC, concludes the parceling out of the Oklahoma project's combined 300 megawatts, expected to come online in 2015. The Public Service Company of Oklahoma, an American Electric Power subsidiary, already bought the other 200 megawatts last month. Apex and WFEC didn't disclose any dollar amounts related to the agreement.

"The Balko wind project will generate 300 MW of clean, renewable, homegrown energy in Oklahoma," Apex President Mark Goodwin said in a statement. "We are pleased to begin our relationship with WFEC, which will help bring this energy to Oklahoma homes and businesses."

The total Balko project will produce the energy to power 110,000 homes, and Apex can now expect full utilization. WFEC's total power capacity will rise to 1,850 megawatts.

It will also double Apex's Oklahoma portfolio. It already has a separate 300-megawatt Canadian Hills wind project outside Oklahoma City, launched in 2012.

The company is also active in Kansas, planning another 300 megawatts through its Kay wind project. Apex already sold 200 megawatts from the upcoming Kay farm to gridline Westar Energy last week.

WFEC, which owns 3,700 miles transmission lines and several power plants, buys energy from four other wind sources, it said. It was the first Oklahoma cooperative to sign a power purchase agreement with a wind farm developer in 2003.

"Wind is an important part of WFEC's diverse mix of generation, and plays an integral part in our overall commitment to renewable energy, as well as enabling the ability to reduce fossil fuel emissions," WFEC CEO Gary Roulet said in a statement.

Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Montana and the Dakotas have the highest potential to capture wind in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Oklahoma's maximum wind potential is an annual 1,521,652 gigawatt-hours, a third of the total national demand.

Oklahoma has a goal to generate 15 percent of all electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar

by 2015. In 2012, wind power formed just over a 10th of its total generation, according to the DOE.

Jeffrey Chester, Elizabeth Sluder, Julia Schiesel, Michael Ginsburg, Zori Felkin and Michelle Jewett of Morrison & Foerster LLP represented Apex Clean Energy.

--Editing by Jeremy Barker.

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