NATIONAL WIND COORDINATING COLLABORATIVE
Business Meeting #39

May 22, 2008

The Steering Committee of the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (NWCC) convened its 39th Business Meeting on May 22nd, 2008 in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Highlight the results and initiatives stemming from key NWCC activities.
- Receive updates on developments and issues influencing wind power development to inform decision making.
- Provide updates on 2008 NWCC activities, evaluate progress to date, and consider any changes to the current work plans.
- Think strategically about NWCC's value and roles in the mid and long-term and lay the groundwork for these future directions.

The following potential NWCC next steps were discussed during the business meeting. The NWCC Steering Committee will develop a schedule for activities that are subsequently refined and adopted.

NWCC NEXT STEPS:

- **Setting the Stage: Policies, Regulations, Practices, and Trends Influencing Wind Power**
  - Outreach
    - Engage in higher-level information sharing. Consider technical background of the audience and prepare informational materials at a corresponding level.
    - Seek speaking roles at stakeholder meetings, e.g. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions, National Conference of State Legislatures, and Council of State Governments, to discuss the NWCC, share expert information from the NWCC's publications and membership, and highlight ways Public Utility Commissions and legislators can get involved with the NWCC's mission of supporting sustainable wind power development.
    - Public Utility Commission (PUC) Outreach
      - Link wind to priority PUC interests, e.g. energy efficiency, demand resources, workforce issues and manufacturing opportunities, electric rates and delivery, fuel diversity, and climate change.
      - Provide information about solutions to common wind integration challenges.
      - Discuss approaches to addressing "base load" concerns, e.g. Stanford study which found that 10 wind farms, when linked together, could be considered "base load power".
    - Legislator Outreach
      - Illustrate link between wind energy and air quality, i.e. wind as an alternative to fossil-fuel generation.
    - Consumer Outreach
      - Reach out to consumer advocates to re-establish communication about wind's impacts on consumers, e.g. potential to lower electric rates and decrease demand for and price of natural gas.
      - Make information available to consumer groups about how wind energy may serve as a price hedge.
  - Potential NWCC Contributions (brainstormed list to be refined)
    - Consider what role, if any, NWCC can play in communicating results of the Department of Energy's *20 Percent Wind Energy by 2030* report.
    - Explore and evaluate various credit trading and related regulatory structures.
    - Consider reinstating the NWCC Siting Workgroup, and potentially re-structure the Wildlife Workgroup to be a siting subgroup.
    - Explore addressing transmission siting concerns, including wildlife.

- Investigate concerns about wind energy's variability and its ability to play a significant role in energy production. Potentially convene a workshop on incorporating variability into utility systems; invite Brookings, Resources for the Future, World Resources Institute, and other policy groups.
- Explore whether market incentives and costs levied account for environmental impacts and other externalities.

❖ **Wildlife**

- Explore addressing wildlife concerns associated with transmission siting.
- Continue planning for *Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VII*, including an optional introductory session.
- Convene Wildlife Workgroup Meeting in fall 2008.
- Continue subgroup coordination:
  - Grassland and Shrub Steppe Species Collaborative
    - Continue coordination with Kansas State University to study the potential impacts of wind power development on prairie chickens.
    - Consider and devise next steps for gathering information on potential wind development impacts to sage grouse
  - Habitat Subgroup
    - Consider state wildlife agencies' interest in a regional approach to landscape habitat issues.
  - Key Research Topics
    - Publish *Wind and Wildlife: Key Research Topics* on the NWCC website; encourage Workgroup members to distribute as appropriate
  - Mitigation Toolbox
    - Incorporate and publish updates to *Mitigation Toolbox*. In six months, solicit and incorporate updates to the document.
  - Outreach Audit
    - Move forward in assessing outreach tools available to workgroup members. Utilize findings to develop a proposed approach to improving workgroup outreach.
  - RfP Oversight
    - When subcontracts have been issued, assist NREL in oversight of revisions to *Studying Wind Energy/Bird Interactions: A Guidance Document* (aka "Methods & Metrics document") and *Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds and Bats: A Summary of Research Results and Remaining Questions* (aka "Birds and Bats Factsheet")

❖ **Transmission**

<u>Short-term</u> (Now – December 2008)

- Continue education and information dissemination role through Transmission Updates and meetings.
  - Consider wide range of audiences and in some circumstances, tailor information to certain audiences (e.g. commissioners, legislators, etc.) or knowledge levels (101-type, transmission experts, etc.). Use messaging that resonates with specific audiences.
  - Transmission topics to explore: financing, ownership, services, system operations, planning for energy resources.
- Pursue options for increasing Transmission Update accessibility like podcasts.
- Diversify audiences by disseminating announcements through network channels such as listservs of NARUC, NCSL, UWIG, EEI, etc.
- Complete Layperson's Guide to Wind Integration.
- Convene 2008 Midwest and Western transmission forums.

Mid-term (2009)

- In 2009, re-evaluate the need for NWCC regional transmission meetings. Consider convening other dialogues such as across regions and national topics. Possible national meeting topics include: market design, transmission planning for renewables, wildlife concerns with transmission, and renewable energy zones.
- Find channels for communicating transmission planning lessons learned and best practices. Possibilities include Transmission Updates, case studies, or a national meeting.
- Consider dialogue around the question of how transmission investments should be made, i.e. what capacity lines do you build and when?
- Convene another strategic discussion about taking fresh approaches to overcoming transmission challenges.
- Explore opportunities to include other renewables.

Long-term (2010 and beyond)

- Explore whether to ask DOE to form a Renewables Transmission Workgroup, possibly organized by EERE/OE.

❖ **Environmental Benefits and Costs (EBC) Workgroup**

- Convene small forum to discuss and evaluate current models for assessing environmental impacts of energy production technologies, specifically wind power.
- Seek to inform the National Academy of Sciences' comparative assessment of the environmental benefits and costs of various energy generation technologies, possibly by identifying information resources, flaws or gaps in current models, and informational and study gaps.

❖ **NWCC In Perspective: Convener and Results**

- Engage Steering Committee and other NWCC members in sector outreach; prepare outreach tools that would be available on the website.
- Consider posting *NWCC Creating RESULTS* on NWCC website; incorporate concept that NWCC provides a one-of-a-kind forum for discussion between sectors that rarely communicate.
- Consider developing a relationship map of the organizations NWCC reaches through its activities.

❖ **Steering Committee Structure**

- Restructure Steering Committee to allow for fuller representation of and better balance between sectors

❖ **Financial Report**

- After September 2008, additional funding will be required to meet the remaining budget (until December 6, 2008). NWCC staff will also submit a 2009 budget to DOE for new contract year beginning December 6, 2008.
- Tom Gray, Ed DeMeo and Jim Ploger , Ron Lehr, and Charlie Smith will collaborate to develop a proposed long-term strategy for the NWCC

APPENDIX: Meeting Agenda

National Wind Coordinating Collaborative
Business Meeting #39

Thursday, May 22, 2008

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Room 6E-069
Washington, DC 20585

FINAL AGENDA

Purpose:

- **To highlight the results and initiatives stemming from key NWCC activities.**
- **To get updates on developments and issues influencing wind power development to inform decision making;**
- **To provide updates on 2008 NWCC activities, evaluate progress to date, and consider any changes to the current work plans.**
- **To think strategically about NWCC's value and roles in the mid and long-term and lay the groundwork for these future directions.**

8:00 am	**Registration** ***Please arrive no later than 8:30 am as everyone participating needs to be checked-in and go through a metal detector. You must have GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO ID to be admitted.***	**Location: DOE Lobby**
9:00 am	**I. Welcome, Introductions & Meeting Purpose**	**Location: Room 6E-069** *Abby Arnold, RESOLVE*
9:15 am	**II. Setting the Stage: Policies, Regulations, Practices, and Trends Influencing Wind Power** *Ramping up to 20% wind power:* ▪ *From each of our perspectives, what does it mean for each of us to scale up?* ▪ *What are the motivations for our sector to engage in achieving this vision? What are the obstacles?* ▪ *What can a national forum like the NWCC do to catalyze action within or across our sector, within or across regions, and/or nationally?*	*Facilitator: Abby Arnold, RESOLVE* *Tom Gray, AWEA* *Drew Ronneberg, DOE* *Miles Keogh, NARUC* *Glen Andersen, NCSL*
10:30 am	**BREAK**	

10:45 am	**III. <u>Wildlife*</u>** **Discussion of various wind/wildlife related activities and how NWCC fits into the broader context of ramping up to 20%** *Representative questions to begin the discussion:* ▪ *How might the American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI) and NWCC intersect moving forward? What are synergies, complimentary activities, and potential duplications to avoid?* ▪ *What does the Wildlife Workgroup need to concentrate on in order to address issues that will arise in ramping up to 20%* ▪ *Report on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Federal Advisory Committee*	*Facilitator: Abby Arnold, RESOLVE* *Wayne Walker, AWWI (by phone)*
11:45 pm	**LUNCH – on your own**	
1:00 pm	**IV. <u>Transmission*</u>** **Discussion of future transmission activities and how NWCC fits into the broader context** *Proposal for what contributions the Transmission Workgroup can make to ramping up to 20%* ▪ *How can NWCC add to its work influencing transmission planners by adding work on transmission investment decisions and regulatory approvals?* ▪ *Can the NWCC contribute to overcoming cost allocation hurdles and if so, how?*	*Facilitator: Katie Kalinowski, RESOLVE* *Ron Lehr, AWEA* *Charlie Smith, UWIG* *Rob Gramlich, AWEA* *Ed DeMeo, Renewable Energy Consulting Services* *Lynn Coles, NREL*
2:00 pm	**V. <u>Environmental Benefits and Costs (EBC) Workgroup*</u>** *Review plans of NAS, UCS, and others, followed by a facilitated discussion amongst the Steering Committee about NWCC EBC forum concept.*	*Facilitator: Abby Arnold, RESOLVE* *David Policansky, NAS* *Jeff Deyette, UCS*
3:00 pm	**BREAK**	
3:15 pm	**VI. <u>NWCC In Perspective: Convener and Results</u>** ▪ *Review of NWCC staff draft of NWCC products and results* ▪ *Great Lakes Wind Collaborative report* ▪ *Discussion by Steering Committee about how to brand and communicate the value of the NWCC more broadly.*	*Facilitator: Katie Kalinowski, RESOLVE*

* The NWCC workgroup blueprints will be handed out and referenced but not reviewed in detail.

4:10 pm	**VII. <u>Financial Report</u>** *Report on current status of the NWCC and discussion by the Steering Committee about future funding*	*Facilitator: Abby Arnold, RESOLVE*
4:45 pm	**VIII. <u>Wrap-Up and Next Steps</u>**	*Facilitator: Abby Arnold, RESOLVE*
5:00 pm	**ADJOURN**	