

CREBS AND PTC: WEBINAR UPDATE

The seventh in the series of webinars co-sponsored by NWCC, WAPA, NRECA and others is scheduled for June 24, 2009 from 12-2pm Eastern (11am-1pm Central, 10am-12pm Mountain, 9-11am Pacific). Congress recently passed appropriations for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) and Production Tax Credits (PTC). Learn which technologies are eligible, how to apply and the best strategies for securing an award. To participate in this webinar, please contact Ryan Harry, BCS, Inc., at rharry@bcs-hq.com.

TRANSMISSION AND WILDLIFE INTERFACE

NWCC FINALIZING PLANS FOR LANDSCAPE LEVEL TRANSMISSION PLANNING WEBINAR SERIES

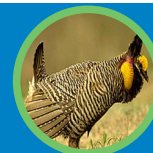
The NWCC will host a series of webinars examining various regional and state transmission planning exercises that sought to incorporate wildlife and other land use factors at the landscape level early in the economic transmission planning process. These webinars will highlight tools used, data requirements and availability, and opportunities for improvement and application in other states and regions. Space for these webinars will be limited, so please stay tuned for a list of upcoming dates!

FEATURE

NWCC TO EXPLORE STATE OF ART WIND SITING TOOLS

NWCC staff are currently consulting with siting experts to identify topics and research that would supplement and update the information presented at a December 2005 NWCC technical siting meeting. A meeting in 2009 will present the “state of the art” in wind siting considerations, such as visual and sound impacts, lighting and air hazards, regulations, electromagnetic interference, and safety impacts. Additional topics will include: community acceptance, cultural resources, and property values. Preliminary consultations with leading siting experts support the proposal that the NWCC host a meeting in 2009.

Stay tuned for specific dates, draft meeting agendas, and registration announcements. To suggest topics or speakers for inclusion, please email Taylor Kennedy, tkennedy@resolve.org.



TRANSMISSION

TRANSMISSION WORKGROUP CALL

The Transmission Workgroup call on May 14th featured regional updates from the Southwest Power Pool and Midwest. Participants were also briefed on the upcoming Wildlife and Transmission Workgroups webinar series Exploring the Transmission and Wildlife Interface: Landscape Level Planning and Creating Renewable Energy Zones.” A summary of that call has been distributed to the Transmission Workgroup. To join, please email James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org.

LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO WIND INTEGRATION AVAILABLE FOR USE

Layperson's Guide to Wind Integration, a resource that explains in lay terms issues associated with integrating wind to the transmission grid, developed in coordination with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), is available. Stay tuned for when it is available to download online.

TRANSMISSION UPDATES

The next Transmission Update call will be held on June 16 at 1:00PM Eastern (12pm Central, 11am Mountain, 10am Pacific) and will focus on transmission developments in the Upper Midwest. Laura McCarten of Xcel Energy will be on the call to talk about the latest with the CapX 2020 project, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in the Upper Midwest dedicated to expanding transmission in the region to maintain reliability by 2020 and beyond.

The Midwest ISO is conducting a Regional Generation Outlet Study (RGOS) focused on the development of a regional transmission system to support the 15,000 MW of renewable energy capacity that is estimated will be needed to meet state renewable portfolio standard policies in the western half of the Midwest ISO footprint. The RGOS is intended to bridge the planning gap between the short term studies done in the generation interconnection queue process and the long term studies done in the Midwest ISO's Transmission Expansion Plan. Jarred Miland of the Midwest ISO will be on the call to talk about the RGOS.

Please contact James Damon if you wish to subscribe to these bi-monthly transmission update briefings. For past update summaries, visit the NWCC website at www.nationalwind.org

NWCC CONFERENCE CALLS

Transmission Update call – Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 pm ET

CREBS and PTC Webinar (cosponsored by WAPA and others)
Wednesday, June 24, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET

Steering Committee call – Thursday, June 25, 1:00 pm ET

Transmission Workgroup call – Tuesday, July 21, 2:00 pm ET

Wildlife Workgroup call – Wednesday, July 22, 2:30 pm ET

WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE WORKGROUP CALL

The Wildlife Workgroup participated in a May 13th call featuring updates on workgroup activities and information about sector initiatives. Callers shared updates on recently published studies, upcoming events, and new tools available for avoiding impacts to wildlife from wind development. A summary of that call has been distributed to the Wildlife Workgroup. To join, please email Taylor Kennedy at tkennedy@resolv.org.

WEBINAR SERIES ON COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

The NWCC Wildlife Workgroup will host a series of webcasts on compensatory mitigation for impacts to wildlife from wind energy development. The webinars will examine the various conceptions of compensatory mitigation, methods for evaluating and comparing impacts and compensation, legal considerations, and how other industries have approached the issue. NWCC staff will distribute a more detailed series concept and schedules to the Wildlife Workgroup in June.

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GRASSLAND SHRUB STEPPE SPECIES COLLABORATIVE

On May 26, the Grassland Shrub Steppe Species Collaborative (GS3C) heard from Kansas State University (KSU) staff about progress on a KSU study investigating potential impacts to the Greater Prairie Chicken from wind energy development. The study has entered its fourth field season and first year of post-construction observation. KSU announced that it has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, enabling a fifth year of study. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) staff briefed the Collaborative on a literature review of impacts of wind development on sage grouse – stay tuned for publication of this review. Callers also received an update on considerations involved in the ongoing discussions about a collaborative, modeled after the GS3C, investigating potential wind energy impacts to sage grouse. The next call will be scheduled following the 2nd quarterly report, likely in late July or early August.

