

**National Wind Coordinating Committee
Business Meeting 36
November 30, 2005
Washington, D.C.
RESOLVE, Inc.**

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Abby Arnold, Senior Mediator for NWCC, welcomed participants to NWCC Business Meeting 36, an opportunity to outline NWCC activities for 2006, as well as think strategically about 2007 and beyond. Attendees in the room, as well as those joining by phone, introduced themselves. See Appendix D for the participant list.

Ms. Arnold reviewed the day's agenda. An update on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 2006 budget was added to the agenda.

NWCC Evaluation Results

DOE-NREL Evaluation: Ed DeMeo, Renewable Energy Consulting Services

During August 2005, two evaluations of the NWCC were conducted. Ed DeMeo of Renewable Energy Consulting Services, on behalf of the DOE and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) wind energy program, conducted a review of NWCC and what it offers as a non-advocacy forum. Faced with reduced funds for 2006, the DOE-NREL wind program wanted to assess the best allocation of its resources.

Mr. DeMeo interviewed 15 people from a cross section of sectors involved in the NWCC and asked the following 7 questions:

- How important and appropriate is the continuation of non-advocacy discussions and activities? What is their importance relative to activities to promote wind power?
- If you think NWCC-type activity should be continued, what specific issues should receive attention over the next several years and why?
- If you think such activity should be continued, what specific changes would you recommend?
- Should organizations other than DOE contribute funding? If so, which ones?
- To what extent has the work of NWCC been taken over by other entities?
- If you think the need for NWCC-type activity has passed, explain why; and indicate what you would recommend instead.
- What additional relevant views would you like to share?

Survey respondents overwhelmingly said that the non-advocacy forums and products are important and of great value. Respondents said that while advocacy activities are important, there are many other parties doing advocacy; therefore, some found maintaining a non-advocacy opportunity more important than adding more advocacy. All respondents noted that continuation of a non-advocacy forum is needed and that the need is growing.

All survey participants indicated the current workgroup areas—wildlife, siting, and transmission—as the key issues for NWCC attention. Other areas mentioned for NWCC attention were:

- NIMBY (not in my back yard) issues

- Emissions credit trading, as others did not adopt this topic when NWCC discontinued its credit trading work
- Positive aspects of wind power
- Offshore wind power
- Mitigation measures

Individuals also wanted more involvement in NWCC from higher-level managers and officials, as well as greater follow-through with regional groups after NWCC events.

Professional facilitation and effective logistics organization were identified as key factors in NWCC's success. In his personal recommendations, Mr. DeMeo endorsed continuation of a non-advocacy medium, noting the opportunities for relationship-building and communication provided therein. While he recommended continuing activity in the current areas, he recognized that NWCC could play an important role on other topics and should remain open to such opportunities. Finally, he suggested that the NWCC Steering Committee serve as more of a board of directors to guide activity and evaluate the organization's progress.

The full report presented by Mr. DeMeo to DOE-NREL and NWCC staff is available at <http://www.nationalwind.org/about/evaluation/default.htm>.

Business meeting attendees discussed the question of NWCC funding. Mr. DeMeo said most survey respondents felt the U.S. government provides the "cleanest" source of funds, but that some foundations could also be a good resource. Using wind industry money was seen as high-risk. Meeting participants recognized that a continuum of funding resources would be needed to maintain the non-advocacy approach. Others mentioned that NWCC might consider charging more for its meetings; however, this could inhibit some parties from attending, even with the scholarships NWCC provides. Currently budget discussions are between staff at RESOLVE and NREL but greater involvement by the Steering Committee on budget matters should be considered.

NWCC Self-Evaluation: Katie Kalinowski, NWCC

At the request of the DOE wind program, NWCC staff designed and distributed a self-assessment questionnaire. A similar exercise was carried out in 2003, with a corresponding report at <http://www.nationalwind.org/about/evaluation/default.htm>. The 2005 Self-Evaluation covers not only the questionnaire results, but also provides an overview of NWCC, its products and activities, new directions since 2003, and forecasted areas for an NWCC active role. Ms. Kalinowski presented the survey results at the business meeting, with full report available on the NWCC website.

Like Mr. DeMeo's inquiry, a sample representing the NWCC sectors responded to the NWCC survey. The overall response rate was 64%, with 23 of 36 people participating. A series of multi-part questions were asked, which addressed the following subjects:

- Involvement with NWCC
- NWCC document use
- Workgroup usefulness
- Business meeting and steering committee value
- Fulfillment of NWCC's defined objectives
- Strengths & areas for growth/improvement
- Suggested changes

Good information appeared to be NWCC's largest draw, followed by networking opportunities, interesting meeting topics, and opportunities for dialogue. Many respondents helped create NWCC documents; the publications are highly used, with respondents referencing them in their daily work and

recommending them to others including legislators and the media. Participants cited too many emails and letters as NWCC's primary downside. They also wanted to see calls and meetings become more efficient and less time-consuming.

Responses indicated the NWCC objective to "identify issues that affect the use of wind power" has been well met. Good progress is being made on the second objective, "establishing dialogue among key stakeholders," although some respondents would like to see greater participation by certain sectors such as NGOs, state agencies, PUCs, academics, RTOs, FERC, and elected officials. The final NWCC objective is to "catalyze appropriate activities to support the development of sustainable wind power." Again the value of NWCC forums was stressed, noting that more follow-up is desirable.

The top recommended change encouraged finding additional funds for research and technical work. Other suggestions included restructuring workgroups to better use member expertise, increased contact with decision makers, and quicker response to fast-developing issues.

The following clarifications were made based on participant questions:

- The survey comment to "avoid getting sidetracked by local and regional issues" refers largely to the fact that some NWCC meetings are attended by individuals interested in just one wind project, not wind in general. However, there are certainly issues like transmission that are, by nature, regional.
- The key roles that respondents identified were:
 - Convening multi-party meetings on issues of concern
 - Producing resource documents that are accessible and well-respected.

Meeting attendees offered the following comments:

- The number of emails is not a serious concern—better to have more information rather than less.

DOE 2006 Budget Update

Peter Goldman, DOE Office of Wind and Hydropower Technologies

NWCC is in the third year of a 3-year contract with NREL, which is overseen by DOE. Funds for DOE and NREL are determined through Congressional appropriations and the 2006 budget represents a significant cut from the preceding year. In 2005, DOE received approximately \$40 million, of which about \$6 million was earmarked for specific tasks. For 2006, the overall budget is \$39 million but approximately one-third (\$13 million) is earmarked. This significant shortfall means DOE is canceling contracts, letting employees go, and other cost-saving measures. It is unclear whether 2006 is an aberration or if this funding level will also occur in 2007. DOE believes in the value of NWCC and finds it important to continue its work; however, like the other program areas, NWCC should expect a reduction in funds for 2006 activities. The DOE final budget has not yet been received, but the impact for NWCC looks like a 20-25% cut through October 31, 2006.

Peter Goldman responded to comments and questions with the following:

- 17 projects comprise the earmarked funds—while the recipient is specified, the nature of the project is not necessarily clear. DOE must figure out who put in the project and who the recipient is, then agreements will be negotiated between DOE and the recipient.
- Working with FERC on defining policy issues is a high priority for DOE; however, money for this work was also heavily earmarked.
- In the next 10 years, wind energy is expected to grow on land but there will be increasing focus on offshore, particularly beyond the horizon line where they cannot be seen from shore.

- DOE wants to develop closer ties with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Minerals Management Service (MMS) and Department of the Interior (DOI) to coordinate on wind-based activities.

Proposed Guidance for NWCC

Laura Miner-Nordstrom, DOE Wind Program

At DOE, the NWCC program is in a slot that spans the Systems Integration and Wind Powering America programs. The DOE sectors wanted to come to agreement on what they see as NWCC direction and compiled guidance on funding, scope, and logistics (see Appendix A for draft guidance distributed at the meeting). DOE would like the NWCC Steering Committee to review the guidance and consider formalizing some or all of it.

Ms. Miner-Nordstrom went through each section of the guidance with the meeting participants. The guidance specifies that DOE plans to be a primary, though perhaps not the sole, funder of NWCC for the next four years. For research activities, the guidance recommends management by a project manager with NWCC providing advisory and logistical support.

A national scope, with regional activities as they affect the national picture, is expected to continue. In line with DOE's priorities, environmental issues and tasks like wildlife have top priority, with transmission taking a secondary role. For siting, the recommendation is to wrap up current activities and pursue other siting topics if a critical need arises.

Logistical points fall in line with the recommendations from the Fall 2005 Evaluation conducted by Ed DeMeo including:

- Strengthening of the Steering Committee as an advisory body
- Greater environmental group participation in wildlife activities
- Establish relationships with working-level people and follow-through on NWCC recommendations
- Engage more leaders and decision makers in wind power discussions
- Coordinate events with other wind organizations like WPA, Utility Wind Integration Group (UWIG), etc.

The following points were clarified by Ms. Miner-Nordstrom and others who contributed to the guidance:

- Environmental issues have top priority because DOE does not have much environmental budget except for NWCC. Also, significant controversy can arise in the environmental area that requires a facilitation or mediation aspect that transmission may not call for.
- It is ideal to have local organizations in regions to coordinate with, whether that means an organization that is already thriving or a group that NWCC can assist in strengthening

Meeting attendees offered the following comments:

- Prioritizing wildlife over transmission does not represent a big change—NWCC's resources have already been divided in this manner for the last year or longer.
- AWEA has doubled its transmission effort and NREL does transmission work, so it is beneficial to have NWCC focus on wildlife more than transmission.
- NWCC should do more to engage transmission policy makers like the directors of MISO and SPP and the people who tell engineers how to solve problems
- Guidance on working with regional groups should be expanded to include Wind Working Groups, advocates, etc.
- For small states, NWCC plays an important role in getting things off the ground.

- Transmission is not just about getting wind on the grid but also system reliability. It would be beneficial if NWCC and FERC got together and discussed how to anticipate technical issues that will arise down the road.
- NWCC might want to address why some people would like wind power to go away, such as misinformation about small wind versus large wind integration.

The guidance will be shared with the NWCC Steering Committee on its December conference call. Based on the feedback provided at the business meeting and on the Steering Committee call, DOE staff will reconvene to update the guidance and discuss next steps.

Transmission Workgroup

Discussion of Transmission Activities, Important Issues, and the NWCC 2006 Blueprint

During 2005, NWCC held a regional transmission workshop in the West, Midwest, and SPP regions. It also continued hosting Transmission Update calls in coordination with Kevin Porter at Exeter Associates. Draft case studies on unique approaches to making transmission capacity available for wind projects are at or nearing completion. NWCC staff will work with Transmission Workgroup members on finalizing the case studies (on Buffalo Ridge, MN; Lamar, CO; McCamey, TX; and Tehachapi, CA) in 2006.

On November 29th, the day before this business meeting, the NWCC provided a forum for transmission advocates from across the U.S. to share observations about major transmission issues, remaining gaps, and advice for 2006 NWCC transmission pursuits. Participants from this transmission strategy session brought up the following items:

- The meeting provided a clearer picture of the scope of activities going on.
- Need to identify and engage higher-level decision makers, as well as those who are influencing decision makers.
- Reiteration of NWCC's value as a convener, which the advocates could not do themselves.
 - NWCC could have a national coordination meeting on lessons learned from different areas.
 - SPP still needs more help to reach the level of the West and Midwest on wind and transmission.
- Move away from information exchange towards coordination on transmission policy. Consider how to better use NWCC documents as policy tools.

Although NWCC hosted this initial meeting, generally a broader audience representing various views is sought for NWCC events. Business meeting attendees discussed this point and a recommended alternative was to provide opportunities for caucus discussions prior to meetings, e.g. transmission advocates, environmental groups, etc. meet on their own to exchange information and solidify perspectives.

Business meeting attendees were given a chance to suggest other transmission items for NWCC to consider in 2006. Participants suggested:

- Focus on a more realistic goal of adding 10% wind in the near term, rather than goals like 30-40% wind.
- Do a critical review of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) work and discuss it in a broad arena.
- Get transmission operators in touch with their managers, the wind industry, and environmentalists to talk about how to integrate large amounts of wind.
- Explore the tradeoffs between short and long transmission lines.
- Topic of coal versus wind:

- Could wind displace imported heating fuels for home heating? Would wind partner with coal and nuclear to install electric furnaces?
- Is partnering with coal important to reach high wind penetration levels or would environmental opposition thwart such efforts?
- NWCC could convene a meeting with the primary coal, nuclear, wind interests, and NCSL to talk about what policies can be advocated and what studies are needed to convince the Bush administration to reduce the import of fuel products
- Utility commissioners are thinking about green house gases, but they want to know about ways to make coal and nuclear power work. Imported fuel like liquefied natural gas comes largely from secure nations friendly to the U.S., so it may be difficult to sell a transition away from imported home heating fuels.
- This issue is larger than the NWCC; need to focus instead on what new transmission building is needed to take penetration to desired level.
- Reluctant to jump into bed with the fossil fuel industry. Would encourage dialogue about coal and nuclear but not hand-in-hand with them. More interested in looking at wind storage options.
- Could convene a discussion amongst NWCC members about how energy developers, legislators, utility commissioners, and environmental leaders are looking at this issue.

This discussion closed with Ed DeMeo from Renewable Energy Consulting Services recapping yesterday's transmission strategy session. He emphasized that while the session focused on the near-term, NWCC generally takes a longer view and works on changing mindsets. Candidate activities for the 2006 NWCC Transmission Blueprint included:

- Conduct periodic forums on key issues, activities, and advancements for national audiences and regionally on an opportunity basis
- Hold workshops on controversial wind-transmission issues
 - Wind and coal partnership to justify transmission
 - Transmission lines just for wind
 - Impacts of increasing control area sizes (hold jointly with UWIG, AWEA, WGA?)
 - Integrating large amounts of offshore wind
- Organize and host periodic coordination meetings like the strategy session
- Distill the wind integration story for non-technical decision makers
- Finish transmission case studies and continue transmission update calls, as outlined on the draft blueprint provided in the meeting packets (see Appendix E for final 2006 Workgroup Blueprints)

Comments from participants after Mr. DeMeo's slides included:

- NWCC needs to keep working on dispelling wind myths but flirt less with being an advocacy organization by bringing in more sides. This also involves using the advocates already involved better. Might consider adding a bullet about educating and developing better wind champions.
- Perhaps the AWEA Transmission Committee or the Energy Foundation should host future events like yesterday's transmission session.

Meeting participants supported continuing the transmission update calls, finishing the case studies, and continuing outreach into the West, Midwest, and SPP regions. NWCC staff, with input from the strategy session participants and Transmission Workgroup members, will update the 2006 blueprint.

Member Updates

Before member updates began, RESOLVE staff and NWCC members recognized Miles Keogh for his contributions as NWCC Senior Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Keogh left the outreach coordinator position

in October to become the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioner (NARUC) Director of Grants and Research, but he will continue to participate in NWCC as the NARUC subcontractor.

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Update—Jenn DeCesaro

NCSL continues to conduct general education and outreach for legislators about wind power. Recent scoping meetings indicate energy is a big issue for legislators, driven by constituent concerns about rising home heating costs. No wind-specific meetings are planned for 2006, but NCSL is working on an emissions reduction project funded by EPA and is waiting to hear about funding for other endeavors from DOE. NCSL's next meeting is December in Chicago, followed by a spring forum during April in Washington DC and its annual meeting in Nashville, TN in August. For more information about upcoming NCSL events is available at http://www.ncsl.org/public/meet_profdevel.htm.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Update—Miles Keogh

NARUC just had its annual meeting in Palm Springs, CA. Comments on a transmission siting primer for commissioners came in and will be revised based on this feedback. NWCC members may be asked to assist in this task. After its winter meeting on February 12-15 in Washington DC, NARUC is co-sponsoring an electric deliverability forum on February 15-16. The forum will look at ways to fix the transmission system and increase reliability. For more details about both events, go to <http://www.narucmeetings.org/>. Finally, NARUC is planning to file comments on the FERC backstop order.

Windustry—Lisa Daniels

Community Wind Energy 2006 is being held March 7-8 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, IA. The meeting is an opportunity for elected officials, landowners, economic development people, and others in the Midwest to learn more about community wind opportunities. For more information, see <http://www.windustry.com/conferences/march2006/default.htm>.

American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)—Tom Gray

AWEA is holding an Asset Management Workshop on January 10-11 in San Diego, CA. An invitation-only wind and wildlife workshop will also be held by AWEA in California on those dates. The next siting workshop is February 22nd in Washington DC, followed by a members-only forum on community relations. AWEA events are available at <http://www.awea.org/seminars/>.

Other activities include a new initiative on electricity industry practices and a coalition of wind energy advocates launched this summer called Wind Energy Works! which focuses on countering misinformation about wind power; its website is <http://www.windenergyworks.org/>.

Western Resource Advocates—Susan Innis

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is hosting a wind power and wildlife symposium on Jan 23-25 in Ft. Collins, CO. The agenda and registration information are available at http://wildlife.state.co.us/species_cons/WindPowerWildlifeSymposium.asp.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)—Michael Pehosh

NRECA developed a Distributed Generation Toolkit. Other efforts include coordination with WPA, meeting with cooperatives in New Mexico and Colorado, and working to understand bond issues that put co-ops on better standing with investor-owned utilities. Learn more at <http://www.nreca.org/>.

Utility Wind Integration Group (UWIG)—Ed DeMeo

UWIG recently changed the "I" in its name from "Interest" to "Integration." In November, UWIG held a fall workshop in Sacramento, CA which included meetings of its user groups.

The November/December 2005 issue of IEEE's *Power and Energy* magazine is devoted to the integration of wind power into the transmission system. Charlie Smith from UWIG and Brian Parsons from NREL served as guest editors for the issue. For more on this issue, visit <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/pes/public/2005/nov/index.html>.

Wind Powering America (WPA)—Larry Flowers

WPA expects to reach 30 Wind Working Groups by 2006. Idaho, Montana, and New Jersey just had their first commercial wind projects and the advent of taller turbines may bring commercial wind to other new states. Several states are considering a new 100 MW wind target and there is a big focus on the agricultural sector. A dialogue is being planned on offshore wind in the Great Lakes. Net metering and air quality are other topics WPA is looking at.

2006 WPA priority states include Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Nevada. NWCC usually holds its business meetings in priority states. WPA staff indicated Tennessee, Nebraska, Indiana, or Nevada would be good business meeting locations and will coordinate with NWCC staff on possible 2006 meeting dates and locations.

The group transitioned here from member updates to a discussion about net metering. As one attendee described, net metering becomes an issue as more small wind comes on line because someone must pay for the energy. Legislation can be written designating which entities, such as co-ops, are responsible for paying, or utilities can voluntarily make arrangements such as paying back at avoided wholesale cost and ignoring turbines under 2 MW. The suggestion was made to have an issue forum on net metering at an upcoming business meeting. Some attendees commented that net metering is not a major enough issue to warrant a forum, while other voiced the opposite, saying net metering looms large in cooperatives minds.

Siting Workgroup

Discussion of Siting Activities, Important Issues, and the NWCC 2006 Blueprint

On Dec 1-2, NWCC hosts a workshop on technical issues related to siting wind facilities. Development of meeting proceedings is a 2006 Siting Workgroup activity.

Another item on the proposed 2006 blueprint is the state siting factsheets. The factsheets provide a representative view of siting processes, featuring 9 states with varied approaches to turbine siting. The Siting Workgroup and Steering Committee will review the factsheets before their release as a joint NWCC/NCSL resource document.

Included in the meeting packets was a concept for regional dialogues going beyond the basics of wind power to take the conversation to the "next level" without getting too technical (see Appendix B). The idea is to convene stakeholders to discuss region-specific issues. Comments received on the concept prior to the business meeting were reviewed. Meeting attendees responded to the meeting concept as follows:

- In the past, WPA has focused on individual states' agendas but is planning on doing more regional initiatives in 2007.
- Working with local wind working groups is key to keeping the message going after NWCC leaves.
- A meeting on ridgetop siting would be helpful, while the Midwest is the lowest priority on siting.
- Siting issues in North Dakota and Illinois need attention.

The group expressed interest in a regional dialogue in the Appalachian region, discussing energy alternatives and where they fit into the siting conversation.

Wildlife Workgroup

Discussion of Wildlife Activities, Important Issues, and the NWCC 2006 Blueprint

Wildlife is a big issue right now. The National Academy of Sciences is doing a study on wind power's environmental impacts, focusing on the mid-Atlantic. During January, there is an AWEA/Audubon meeting in California and a Colorado Wind Power and Wildlife Symposium. IAFWA is also planning a March meeting for state agencies on wind and wildlife. In June, FWS is meeting on avian near-shore impacts. Also, a collaborative lead by representatives from FWS, AWEA, CESA, and IAFWA is convening to review and possibly revise the FWS voluntary guidelines on wind power and wildlife. Several states are considering developing or revising guidelines that relate to wildlife impacts from wind development. NWCC has introduced an electronic activities and events table for wildlife to track these happenings, which was shown to the group.

The group discussed the need for NWCC to reengage Wildlife Workgroup representatives in the Steering Committee and at business meetings. Some attendees highlighted the importance of having workgroup members report back on the meetings they attend, while others felt reporting back was reactive and that a more proactive approach should be taken to have NWCC plugged in to the planning process for the upcoming meetings.

NWCC staff reviewed the activities of the Grassland/Shrub Steppe Species (GS3) Subgroup. The GS3 Subgroup wants to support a 4 year research plan to study the potential impacts of wind power on prairie chickens. The wind industry came forward with \$75,000/yr for 4 years, but this pledge only meets about half of the project cost and is contingent on matching funds coming from non-industry sources. Another subgroup activity is a literature review on grassland avian species being conducted by the Ornithological Council.

Attendees asked about technical management of NWCC research activities, including who would manage funds and who could file funding proposals. Currently RESOLVE staff conducts these tasks; NREL could take over some of these roles.

Suggestions related to NWCC wildlife activities included:

- Keeping wildlife issues as a NWCC priority because not much money is being spent by others to obtain quality data, which can lead to guesswork on effects.
- Brainstorm about how to generate more research dollars.
- Go to the Energy Foundation or others and ask them to sponsor all NWCC wildlife research endeavors.
- Contact wildlife representatives in wind working groups and find out what issues are important to them, as well as what needs they have.
- Visit with the Secretary of the Interior on research priorities and try to get biologists shifted to that work.
- Become engaged with mitigation toolbox efforts again and try to plug into the efforts of others.

No major revisions to the proposed blueprint were suggested by meeting attendees.

Statistics on Website Use

Katie Kalinowski, NWCC Outreach Associate, presented a summary of statistics chronicling use of the NWCC website (see Appendix C). The website gets an average of 5,690 hits and 693 visitors per day. The total visitor count since October 2003 is 532,965. The most downloaded publications are the Avian

Collisions document, Permitting Handbook, and Birds and Bats Factsheet, with the online calendar of upcoming activities the most visited page.

Economic Development

During 2005, the NWCC release its second volume of the Economic Development (ED) Brief, providing links and brief descriptions of recent presentations, publications, and other items related to the economic development impacts of wind power. Attendees felt that NREL could adequately compile this information and that NWCC no longer needed to do the ED Brief.

Attendees talked about NWCC hosting a gathering of parties working with economic development to share information on wind power. Some participants liked the idea, but others were uncertain what could be distributed to such a group.

Overall, given funding cutbacks, the group decided not to have NWCC conduct economic development-related activities in 2006.

Major Issues Beyond 2006

The floor was opened for brainstorming about the big issues NWCC could consider becoming involved in for 2007 and beyond. Responses included:

- Becoming reengaged with Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).
- Strategizing about the larger picture, including how to change the U.S. energy picture.
- Investigate the implications of wind energy demand as projected by models like Windforce 12.
- Look into electric hybrid cars as a driving force for wind energy expansion.
- Offshore and near-shore wind.
- Playing a role in solving the intermittency problem for wind.
- Transitioning to regional NWCCs.
- Talking more about wind's benefits while keeping objectivity aims in mind.
- Take part in roadmapping exercises.
- Work on building bridges between large and small wind.
- Investigating mitigation measures.
- Communicating more with higher level decision makers.

Appendix A: Proposed Guidance for NWCC

U.S. Department of Energy Wind Energy Program Guidance for the National Wind Coordinating Committee 2006 and beyond

FUNDING

- The DOE Wind Program expects to continue as a major funder of the NWCC's activities for at least the next four years.
- Baseline funding for NWCC (i.e., the traditional funding for staff, workshops and limited, broadly based project activity) will be provided through NREL until October 2006. Subsequently, it is planned that this funding will be provided directly from DOE. If high priority NWCC activities are undertaken that require Lab support, co-funding for these efforts will be provided separately.
- In general, specific research activities in which NWCC participates should be managed by the funding collaborators - through a project manager - for the respective activities. NWCC should provide an advisory function for these activities, and NWCC staff should serve as logistical support.

SCOPE

- DOE funds should be applied to issues that either have national significance or could become nationally significant if not properly addressed in a specific region, or present major impediments to substantial deployment of wind power.
- NWCC and its staff are encouraged to participate in, and when appropriate conduct, important and relevant regional activities. Whenever feasible, without creating a conflict of interest, such work should be carried out under the NWCC umbrella.
- In the near-term, NWCC should focus on relevant issues and needs in the wildlife (first priority) and transmission (second priority) arenas.
- NWCC should complete its siting work underway in 2005, and continue involvement with DOE support only if critical needs are subsequently identified.
- In coordination with DOE, NWCC is encouraged to address other key issues for wind expansion as needs arise and as sources for additional funding are identified.
- If NWCC is to work on offshore issues, it should be in coordination with the DOE Wind Program and MMS.

LOGISTICS

- NWCC should strengthen the function of its Steering Committee so that it provides a strategic advisory function for the entire NWCC.
- NWCC is encouraged to expand the engagement of key environmental groups in its wildlife work. Their involvement in transmission work may also be beneficial.
- NWCC should continue to develop effective relationships with individuals and organizations in key wind regions at the working-staff level. In addition, NWCC should strive to engage regional leaders and decision-makers from these organizations.
- Whenever NWCC engages in a particular region, it should ensure that some entity exists that is operating "on-the-ground" in that region that can follow through on NWCC recommendations.
- NWCC is encouraged to coordinate its meetings with the broader wind community (ie WPA, UWIG) as appropriate given issues, schedules and funding.

Appendix B: Regional Dialogue Concept

ACTIVITY IDEA FOR 2006 SITING WORKGROUP BLUEPRINT *BEYOND WIND BASICS: REGIONAL DIALOGUES*

The purpose of these NWCC regional dialogues is to get participants beyond the basics of wind power, to take the conversation to the “next level.” This regional approach will allow participants to learn of, coordinate with, and build on regional wind development work. This forum is an opportunity to expose parties still learning about wind power to information at a higher, yet less technical, level than at other NWCC events, drawing on the expert, credible resources that NWCC provides. For example, it is important for legislators and local decision makers to understand the issues associated with wind development in their state and region so as to make informed policy decisions. While the meetings would be hosted by the NWCC, NCSL staff would assist in agenda development, as well as identifying and recruiting legislators and legislative staff to participate in the meetings.

Proposed parties to include:

- State legislators and legislative staff
- Wind developers
- State energy office staff
- State environmental office staff
- Local government authorities
- Other interested parties

Proposed topics:

- Technical siting considerations
- Public reaction
- How wind plays into the regional picture
- Transmission’s role in wind development
- Wildlife impacts

Concept Comments:

Jeff Anthony, We Energies:

Excellent, excellent idea -- this would be ideal for the current state of (wind) affairs in Wisconsin in 2006 !!

Hap Boyd, GE Wind Energy:

I think this format is a good idea. I would also invite the Governor's policy staffer(s). I would also add the economic impact of wind in a state as a topic. It sells well with state legislatures.

Mike Jacobs, AWEA:

In short, this is a very good idea. As wind (and all energy) topics become more visible to policymakers, a forum for policymakers is very wise.

To keep these meetings accessible to legislators, I think your support from NCSL and a close link to the habits of legislators look to be key.

Heather Rhoads-Weaver, AWEA:

This sounds like a great idea! This would be very helpful here in the Northwest.

I would recommend including economic development officials as invitees, and adding both economic and economic development impacts as discussion topics - as you are aware, benefits to the local economy and energy costs are major considerations that relate to siting and transmission issues.

Rich Sedano, The Regulatory Assistance Project:

First, it should be evident that there are some national themes and then some region-specific themes. It is important to be clear about this, about what they are, which they are, and about what local folks should know and do as they consider wind development and siting.

I want to make some suggestions about New England. New England is having significant problems siting wind machines.

Problems emerge because:

local people (in West Virginia, yes, New England, no) do not see the alternatives and the despoilment they produce;

utility resource planning is gone (in restructured states, because they no longer seem to have that responsibility, in RPS states because we rely on competition to let the "best" renewables win, and in other states because utility planning was never very integrated in the first place), so there is no one to help balance these dilemmas,

and state planning has also been curtailed in most states due to budget issues;

people discount that wind development will do anything about reducing the need for other sources (it only addresses the edges of fossil fuel demand, according to this fatalistic view);

wind will not reduce air pollution from pollutants that are capped (people do not appreciate the opportunity to reduce the cost of compliance);

people want to protect specific places, and then speak against all wind development (there has been no effort to identify the appropriately protected places, probably because of the political sensitivity of telling some after an inventory that their view or vision of natural resource protection is not sufficient to merit public protection as a scenic or natural resource);

offshore siting practices are unresolved (many think that ridgeline development is a drop in the bucket compared to offshore, so why ruin a view with machines that might not make the difference that offshore development would make);

small scale machines that exist elsewhere are deemed by developers to be uneconomic to develop in New England;

there is no "community development" model that would have towns and cities working individually or in groups developing "community scale" (i.e. smaller) projects on land they set aside for that purpose to

invest in a sustainable energy strategy (Europe seems to have this, with significant support from a central government -- it would be interesting to sketch out what a state would have to do to replicate this "grassroots" emphasis); and some believe all supply is bad, and that until we maximize cost effective energy efficiency and see how that does (expecting all growth to stop and for trends to reverse), all investments in supply just make it easier to avoid making the EE investments (sound in principle, but unrealistic in the near term, at least)

Some of these issues will be important, though perhaps to a lesser extent, in all other US regions.

While your topics are important, a lot has been done with them, and while it is important that legislators and other state and local officials contend well with these important topics you list, I think some of the ideas I have set down would cut to the quick of the concerns many hear in their communities. And this truly gets to the *Beyond the Basics* theme. Please let RAP know how we can help.

Susan Shingledecker, Maryland Energy Administration:

I think this is an excellent idea. Oftentimes it seems to me that the nature of NWCC discussions are too technical or detailed for the needs of most policy makers. I think the NWCC/NCSL Regional Legislative Wind Institute that was held in Richmond last June was very good. I think that model could be replicated and expanded upon. It would have been great to see more local government representation at the Richmond meeting.

Steve Ugoretz, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources:

ACTIVITY IDEA FOR 2006 SITING WORKGROUP BLUEPRINT

BEYOND WIND BASICS: REGIONAL DIALOGUES

The purpose of these NWCC regional dialogues is to get participants beyond the basics of wind power, to take the conversation to the "next level." This regional approach will allow participants to learn of, coordinate with, and build on regional wind development work. This forum is an opportunity to expose parties still learning about wind power to information at a higher, yet less technical, level than at other NWCC events, drawing on the expert, credible resources that NWCC provides. For example, it is important for legislators and local decision makers to understand the issues associated with wind development in their state and region so as to make informed policy decisions. While the meetings would be hosted by the NWCC, NCSL staff would assist in agenda development, as well as identifying and recruiting legislators and legislative staff to participate in the meetings.

Proposed parties to include:

- State legislators and legislative staff
- Wind developers
- State energy office staff
- Public utility commission staff
- State natural resource and environmental agency staff
- Local government authorities and planning agencies

Comment [u1]
Become involved in" rather than "coordinate with"

Comment [u2]
It is vital that the NWCC and associates understand that state energy offices and utility commissions are not the same entity, and may have very different functions and lines of communications.

Comment [u3]
In addition, these agencies are not always the same - there are more states with separate wildlife management and environmental protection agencies (sometimes one agency for each environmental medium - air, water and land)

Appendix C: Statistics on Website Use



Report for nationalwind.org: General Statistics

Powered by
WebLog Expert

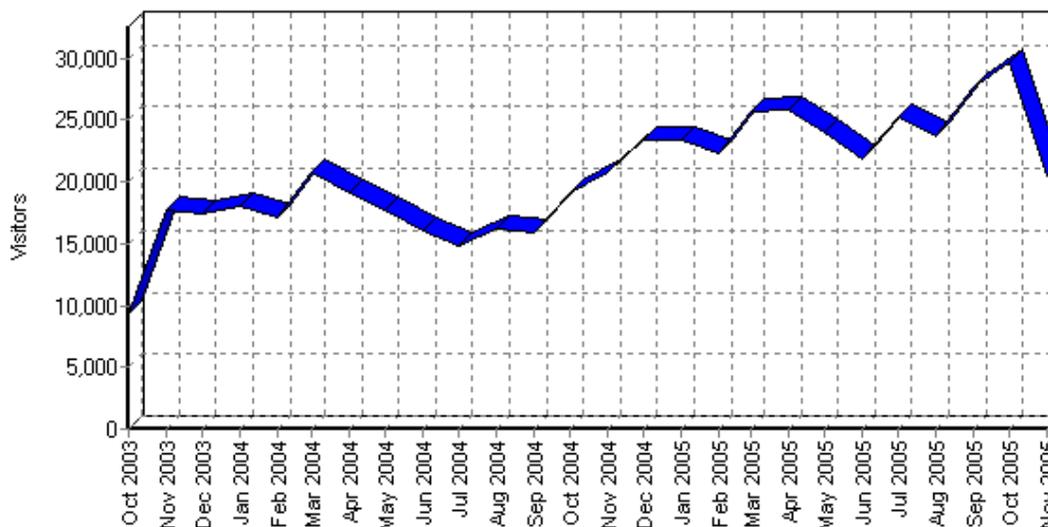
Time range: 10/16/2003 16:31:27 - 11/22/2005 02:17:59

Generated on Tue Nov 22, 2005 - 02:19:55

Summary

Hits	
Total Hits	4,376,212
Average Hits per Day	5,690
Average Hits per Visitor	8.21
Cached Requests	657,911
Failed Requests	314,881
Page Views	
Total Page Views	1,273,487
Average Page Views per Day	1,656
Average Page Views per Visitor	2.39
Visitors	
Total Visitors	532,965
Average Visitors per Day	693
Total Unique IPs	132,897
Bandwidth	
Total Bandwidth	64.39 GB
Average Bandwidth per Day	85.74 MB
Average Bandwidth per Hit	15.43 KB
Average Bandwidth per Visitor	126.69 KB

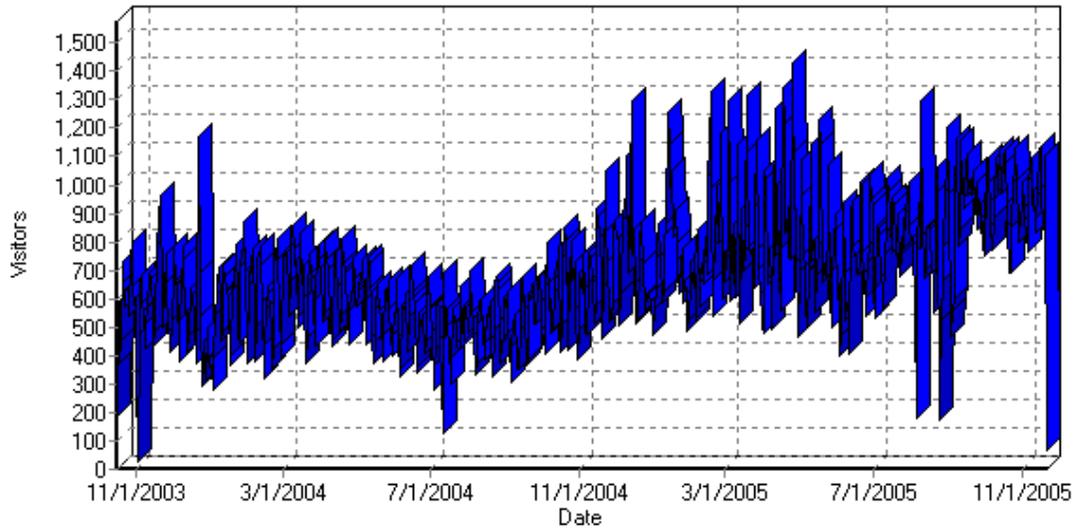
Activity by Month



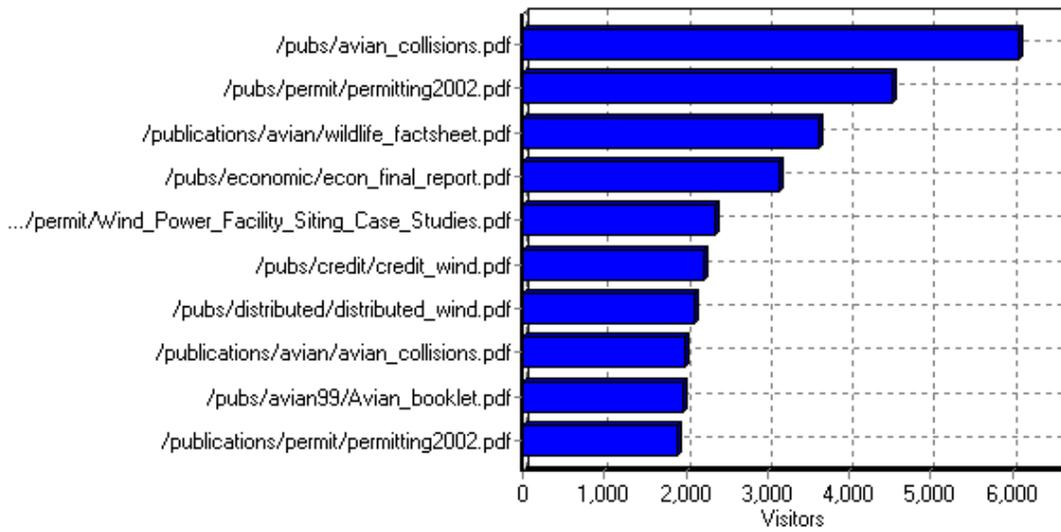
Activity by Month

Month	Hits	Visitors	Bandwidth (KB)
Oct 2003	86,289	9,362	0
Nov 2003	152,913	17,732	0
Dec 2003	139,473	17,418	0
Jan 2004	174,809	18,040	0
Feb 2004	163,836	17,123	0
Mar 2004	172,928	20,709	0
Apr 2004	199,453	19,072	0
May 2004	259,011	17,708	0
Jun 2004	141,163	16,013	0
Jul 2004	117,250	14,744	0
Aug 2004	145,532	16,121	0
Sep 2004	148,648	15,880	0
Oct 2004	184,420	19,166	0
Nov 2004	202,519	20,699	6,461,713
Dec 2004	189,264	23,437	6,788,777
Jan 2005	179,901	23,355	4,064,292
Feb 2005	179,897	22,351	4,725,246
Mar 2005	189,329	25,664	4,642,315
Apr 2005	180,391	25,826	4,294,254
May 2005	172,597	23,958	4,950,801
Jun 2005	145,320	21,902	4,458,048
Jul 2005	164,825	25,269	4,898,105
Aug 2005	157,070	23,706	4,910,458
Sep 2005	185,020	27,716	5,660,846
Oct 2005	205,797	29,576	6,912,957
Nov 2005	138,557	20,418	4,751,557
Total	4,376,212	532,965	67,519,376

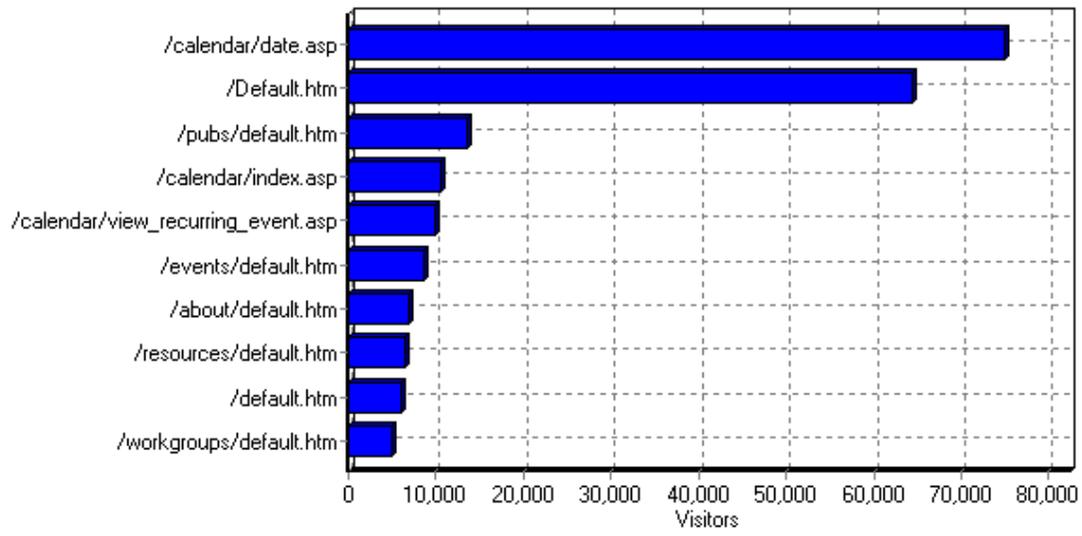
Daily Visitors



Most Downloaded Files



Most Popular Pages





Appendix D: Final Participant List

NWCC BUSINESS MEETING #36

Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Washington, DC

Final Participants List

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Appendix E: 2006 NWCC Workgroup Blueprints

Transmission Workgroup Proposed Products and Activities – January 2006 and Beyond

Proposed Products and Activities

Outreach

- **Conduct regularly scheduled conference calls** (every 8 weeks & coordinated with the Transmission Update) to brief participants on relevant issues and activities.
- **Continue outreach into the West, Midwest, and Southwest Power Pool regions** to effectively address key issues in these regions, potentially through presentations, briefings at business meetings, web casts, or other outreach avenues.

2006 Projects

- **Edit and Publish Case Studies** that identify unique approaches to making transmission capacity available for wind projects, including a commonalities analysis. Three case studies are ready to be edited
 - Buffalo Ridge, MN
 - Lamar, CO
 - McCamey, TXThis case study needs closer review and a decision regarding next steps.
 - Tehachapi, CA
- **Continue to produce the Transmission Update**, a bi-monthly update of activities underway in the transmission world across the country, focusing on specific geographic regions and critical issues that affect wind energy.
- **Conduct three regional workshops** as follows:
 - In the SPP region, a workshop to follow-up on prior SPP workshops. The agenda would be designed at the request and support of regional stakeholders.
 - In the West - In June or July convene a workshop, at the request and support of regional stakeholders, to develop a strategy for implementing WGA's Clean Energy Plan report expected for release in June 2006.
 - In the Midwest - convene a workshop at the beginning of December 2006, at the request and support of regional stakeholders, to discuss regional transmission issues.
- **Organize and host periodic coordination meetings.**

Possible Activities, 2006 or Future

- Hold a workshop on national wind-transmission issues. The agenda for the national workshop would be informed by the requests of stakeholders in the West, SPP, and Midwest regions. These ideas would come out of the regional workshops (above). Topics for consideration include:
 - Wind-coal collaboration for transmission justification
 - Consideration of lines for wind alone
 - High wind penetration scenarios and issues
 - Control area impacts, consolidations, transitions, and alternatives

Wildlife Workgroup Proposed Products and Activities – January 2006 and Beyond

Proposed Products and Activities

Outreach

- Coordinate with Core Group about progress made on projects below and to find out about what issues need to be addressed.
- Conduct regularly scheduled conference calls (at a minimum of every 6-8 weeks) to keep Core Group, Associate Members, and others updated on relevant issues and activities and to offer the Core Group an opportunity to guide various initiatives.
- Update event table on workgroup conference calls and post on the NWCC website to track and coordinate with other wind/wildlife initiatives.
- Plan and host national Wildlife Research Meeting VI, November 2006.
- Coordinate and support newly established collaborative to reducing the risk of wildlife impacts from the siting and operation of wind power projects.
- Continue to conduct outreach to parties interested in getting more information about wind and wildlife issues.

2006 Projects/Subgroups

- Grassland/Shrub Steppe Species (GS3) Subgroup
 - Pursue funds and conduct research on potential impacts of wind power on grassland and shrub steppe species, particularly prairie chickens
 - Complete contract with the Ornithological Council to conduct a critical literature review on the impacts of energy-related activities on grassland and shrub steppe avian species.
- Nocturnal Methods and Metrics
 - Contract with selected consultant to develop an Update to the *Methods and Metrics* document to address nocturnal birds and bats.
- Risk Assessment
 - Finish white paper describing ecological risk assessment and its potential application to wind power.
 - Convene a meeting to discuss ecological risk assessment and possible related activities
- Mitigation Toolbox
 - Create Mitigation Toolbox based on experience in the US and internationally.
- Explore ways to incorporate peer review processes into publication activities.
- Raise additional funds for research and other activities.

Possible Activities, 2006 or Future

- Revise the birds and bats factsheet.
- Identify and explore other wildlife issues related to near-shore and offshore wind facilities
- Publish proceedings from Wildlife Research Meeting VI (May extend to 2007)

Siting Workgroup Proposed Products and Activities – January 2006 and Beyond

Proposed Products and Activities

Outreach 2006

- **Conduct regularly scheduled conference calls** (every 8 weeks) to brief participants on relevant issues and activities.

2006 Projects

- **Publish proceedings** from meeting on technical considerations for siting wind facilities.
- **Approve and distribute state-by-state siting factsheets** that provide an overview of state guidelines, model rules, or regulations that govern wind energy for ten states.