National Wind Coordinating Collaborative

Monthly Update

March 2010

NWCC ACTIVITIES

NWCC Renewables and Transmission Forum

Over 70 leaders from the transmission, renewables, and wildlife communities met in Washington, DC, on February 22 for the *Renewables and Transmission Forum: Transition to a Reduced Carbon Energy Economy,* hosted by the NWCC. Participants had the opportunity to engage in a focused dialogue with representatives from DOE's Offices of Electricity and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, wildlife and conservation interests, as well as representatives from the hydropower, geothermal, solar, and wind industries and about the inter- and intra-regional opportunities and challenges to integrate renewables on to the grid. Key messages from the forum include the need for national standards to address transmission siting and planning and more coordination between renewables, transmission planners, wildlife, and water interests. A summary of the meeting is under development and will be available on the NWCC website in the coming weeks.

Co-collaborators for the Forum included: AWEA, U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, National Hydropower Association, Interwest Energy Alliance, Midwest Governors' Association, Great Lakes Wind Collaborative, Western Area Power Authority, National Association of State Energy Officials, National Conference of State Legislatures and others.

NWCC Business Meeting #41 Held in Washington, DC

On February 23, NWCC held its 41st Business Meeting in Washington, DC. Steering Committee members reflected on the previous day's Renewables and Transmission Forum and identified additional opportunities and actions the NWCC can carry forward in 2010. The The Steering Committee will discuss potential new activities on their monthly call on March 25.

NWCC Staff Presents on the Sage Grouse Collaborative at the AWEA Siting Workshop

On February 17 and 18, NWCC staff attended the AWEA Wind Power Project Siting Workshop in Denver, CO. The workshop covered visual impacts and stakeholder relations, regional permitting structure for wind projects, regional transmission initiatives, sage grouse and prairie chicken, and site construction. NWCC staff presented an overview of the new NWCC Sage Grouse Collaborative and distributed a fact sheet introducing the Collaborative. The fact sheet can be viewed at http://www.nationalwind.org/sagegrouse.aspx.

February Transmission Update Features Tres Amigas and RETPP

The February Transmission Update featured an introduction to the proposed Tres Amigas superstation in New Mexico and an overview of the California ISO's Renewable Energy Transmission Planning Process. Frank Barbera, the Director for Reliability Assurance at Tres Amigas, LLC, was on the call to discuss the proposed Tres Amigas superstation. Tres Amigas is a proposed multi-terminal AC/DC transmission superstation located in Clovis, New Mexico, that will interconnect to America's three main power grids – the Eastern, Western, and Texas Interconnections. Cynthia Hinman, a Senior Market Design and Policy Specialist from the California ISO, joined the call to explain the Renewable Energy Transmission Planning Process (RETPP). RETPP is the result of a stakeholder process launched in September 2009 regarding the actions necessary to meet a 33% RPS requirement in California. A summary of the call is under development and will be posted on the NWCC website soon. To receive notices for the Transmission Update, visit: http://www.nationalwind.org/members/register.aspx

Sage Grouse Collaborative Convenes First Steering Committee Meeting

The first Sage Grouse Collaborative Steering Committee meeting was held in Boulder, CO, on February 3 and 4. Participants finalized operating protocols, discussed research protocols, reviewed a list of possible study sites, and discussed the Collaborative's fundraising strategy. A Steering Committee call is scheduled for March 12 at 4:00 PM Eastern. For more information, contact Jennifer Bies at jbies@kearnswest.com.

Birds & Bats Fact Sheet Finalized

Throughout 2009 and early 2010, a subset of volunteers from the Wildlife Workgroup has worked with a technical team of experts to update a fact sheet summarizing what is known about impacts to birds and bats from wind development. The final draft of the new edition, entitled "Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds, Bats, and their Habitats: A Summary of Research Results and Priority Questions," has been approved by the Wildlife Workgroup Core Group and the volunteers. The final version will soon be available on the NWCC website.

OTHER UPDATES

DOE Job Posting

The Wind Technology Acceptance Team Lead position (#0565) is open now until 3/15. It is a Federal Supervisory GS-15 position at Headquarters which leads all Market Adoption activities including; workforce development, education, and outreach; supporting Tribal and community wind projects; mitigating environmental, radar and other siting issues; and addressing other challenges to deployment on Private, Federal, and Tribal lands. Outreach and Leadership experience is of the highest importance.

Department of Energy Releases New Estimates of Nation's Wind Energy Potential

In February, U.S. DOE released new estimates of the potential for wind-generated electricity in the U.S. Estimates show a tripling of previous estimates with a potential of up to 37 million annual gigawatt hours in the contiguous 48 states. The new estimates are accompanied by a wind resource map, which can be viewed at http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/wind_maps.asp.

LBNL Releases New Report on Exploration of Resource and Transmission Expansion Decisions in WREZ

In February the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) released a report, "Exploration of Resource and Transmission Expansion Decisions in the Western Renewable Energy Zone Initiative." The report considers how various assumptions and policy decisions related to renewable resource selection, transmission expansion, and renewable supply costs affect the potential to meet Western renewable energy targets. The report can be downloaded at http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/reports/lbnl-3077e.pdf.

National Wind Coordinating Collaborative

Upcoming Dates to Remember

NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Call
Wednesday, March 10, 2:30-4:00 Eastern

NWCC Sage Grouse Collaborative Steering Committee Call
Friday, March 12, 4:00-5:00 Eastern

NWCC Transmission Workgroup Call
Rescheduled Tuesday, March 16, 3:00-4:00 Eastern

NWCC Steering Committee Call
Thursday, March 25, 1:00-2:00 Eastern

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