

National Wind Coordinating Collaborative

Monthly Update

MAY 2010

TRANSMISSION

NWCC, DOE, AND NREL TO HOST FORUM ON TRANSMISSION AND RENEWABLES

INTEGRATION IN THE WEST

In collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the US Department of Energy's Wind and Solar Technologies program, the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (NWCC) is hosting Increasing Renewables and Transmission in the Western Grid: a Dialogue among Stakeholders. On May 10-11 in Denver, Colorado, leaders from the solar, geothermal, hydropower, and wind industries and technologies, as well as utility and conservation representatives, will explore synergies and opportunities for collaboration among renewable energy resources in the West and discuss expanding the scope of the NWCC Transmission Workgroup to include the interests of other renewables in the Western Interconnection. For more on this important event, contact James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org.

PLANNING FOR THE LEGISLATORS' "TRANSMISSION POLICY INSTITUTE" GAINS MOMENTUM

The Transmission Policy Institute, a two-day workshop that will provide state lawmakers with the foundation needed to understand issues surrounding wind integration, transmission planning and siting, and how to appropriately allocate transmission costs is scheduled for June 17-18 in Denver, Colorado. This workshop will convene state lawmakers and transmission experts. It is intended to explore ways to promote collaboration between states and regions, and help lawmakers formulate policies that can assist states in ensuring that transmission development promotes clean, reliable electricity sources. The agenda is undergoing final review by the planning committee the week of May 3 and will be available shortly thereafter. This is an invitation only event and is being co-hosted by the National Conference of State Legislatures and NWCC. For more information, contact James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org or Glen Anderson (NCSL) at glen.andersen@ncsl.org.

NWCC TO DEVELOP STRAW-MAN PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING METRICS

The NWCC will develop a straw-man proposal for National Transmission Planning Metrics. The document will propose a set of criteria and metrics to be considered in transmission system planning and was first introduced at the NWCC Renewables and Transmission Forum held in February. The NWCC will convene a strategic conversation with stakeholders in late June to discuss the proposal. For more information, contact James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org.

RENEWABLES AND TRANSMISSION FORUM SUMMARY NOW AVAILABLE!

The summary for the "Renewables and Transmission Forum: Transition to a Reduced Carbon Energy Economy" is final and available on the NWCC website at: <http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/2010transmissioninterconnectionplanningforum.aspx>.

APRIL TRANSMISSION UPDATE

The April Transmission Update explored the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on integrating variable generation, which was issued in January 2010. The NOI was issued to solicit public comments on the barriers that impede variable generation integration and whether reforms to FERC's rules or procedures may be necessary. Mk Shean of FERC stated that each region faced unique challenges, which were apparent in the 2,800 pages of comments on issues such as data reporting and forecasting, scheduling practices, reliability assessments, balancing authorities and others. FERC will review the comments and make a decision whether a rulemaking is necessary.

Stephen Beuning, the Director of Market Operations at Xcel Energy, discussed the proposal to develop a real-time energy balancing tool in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). The proposal consists of two parts: a Seams Coordination Tool that would calculate relief from transmission congestion through various actions and an Energy Imbalance System (EIS) tool that would rely on a regional security-constrained economic dispatch for balancing energy. WECC recently approved a proposal to undertake a cost benefit analysis of EIS and the Seams Coordination Tool.

A summary of the call is under development and will be posted to the NWCC website when it becomes available. To sign up to receive information on the NWCC's bi-monthly Transmission Updates, visit: <http://www.nationalwind.org/members/register.aspx?>

WILDLIFE

ABSTRACTS FOR THE WIND WILDLIFE RESEARCH MEETING VIII DUE MAY 10

The call for abstracts for the Eight Wind Wildlife Research Meeting was widely distributed on Monday, March 29. The call for abstracts and the abstract submission form can be found on the meeting website: <http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/researchmeetingviii.aspx>.

Abstracts are being solicited in the following categories, with submissions due by May 10, 2010.

1. Fatality Impacts to Birds and Bats
2. Cumulative and Landscape-Scale Impacts to Specific Species or Groups
3. Impacts to Wildlife Habitat and Behavior
4. Mitigation Techniques and Technology
5. Understanding of the Current Knowledge of Offshore Wind and Wildlife Issues

We would like to recognize our current cosponsors for the meeting:

U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Stantec
Horizon Wind Energy
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative
American Wind Wildlife Institute
U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative
Great Lakes Wind Collaborative

Parties interested in co-sponsoring the meeting should contact Lauren Flinn at lflinn@resolv.org.

GRASSLAND SHRUB STEPPE SPECIES (GS3C) GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN COLLABORATIVE CALL

On April 12, the Grassland Shrub Steppe Species (GS3C) Greater Prairie Chicken subgroup held a call to discuss the current status of the research being conducted by Kansas State University (KSU). The GS3C Oversight Committee discussed a draft information release, which is intended to apprise the public of pre-construction findings and the project's adjusted timeline. The Committee also discussed KSU's 2009 Annual Report and a proposed abstract for presentation of the Greater Prairie Chicken research at the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VIII. KSU updated callers on upcoming changes to the research team and highlighted that the current field season has been highly successful.

WIND TURBINE GUIDELINES FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

The recommendations of the Wind Turbine Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee have been transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior. To read the press release and the recommendations, please visit: http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/windpower/wind_turbine_advisory_committee.html.

MAY WILDLIFE WORKGROUP CALL

Please note that the May Wildlife Workgroup call, previously scheduled for May 12, has been rescheduled to May 19 from 2:30-4pm ET. An agenda for the call will be distributed closer to the call date. To ensure that you receive the agenda, please register to receive Wildlife Workgroup updates through our new website account management system at: <http://www.nationalwind.org/members/login.aspx>.

NWCC BUSINESS

DATE AND LOCATION ANNOUNCED FOR BUSINESS MEETING #42

The NWCC Steering Committee will convene in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, October 6, 2010, to discuss objectives and activities for 2011 and learn more about important NWCC transmission initiatives, among other items. The meeting will follow an event hosted by the Clean Energy States Alliance. For more information about this meeting, contact James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org.



MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

Increasing Renewables in the Western Grid

May 10-11, Golden, Colorado

NWCC Transmission Workgroup Call

Tuesday, May 18, 2:00-3:30 Eastern

NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Call

Wednesday, May 19, 2:30-4:00 Eastern

NWCC Steering Committee Call

Thursday, May 20, 1:00-2:00 Eastern

VISIT THE NWCC AT WINDPOWER

The National Wind Coordinating Collaborative will once again host a booth at this year's WINDPOWER conference in Dallas, Texas, hosted by the American Wind Energy Association from May 23-26. Stop by our redesigned and improved booth to learn more about the NWCC mission, upcoming events and activities, and review our most recent publications. The NWCC booth number is 303. For more information, contact Lauren Flinn at lflinn@resolv.org.

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