

Michigan Update for GLWEI 2010 Annual Meeting

PA 295 Implementation

Wind development in Michigan is driven by our 10% RPS by 2015. We expect over 2,000 MW of wind to meet this PA 295 requirement. Right now Michigan has 144 MW of wind power, but many projects are in the pipeline. PA 295 also included a Wind Energy Resource Zone Board. The Board identified 4 regions for expedited transmission siting and the Michigan Public Service Commission designated 2 regions – parts of the Thumb & Allegan County. Net metering was also included in PA 295. The law established “true net metering” or a “retail payment credit” for 20 kW and under and “modified net metering” or a “wholesale payment credit” for systems up to 150 kW. The law has made a difference. The number of net metering customers increased from 53 in 2007/08 to 137 in 2008/09. Wind was the most popular increasing from 29 to 96 during the period.

Tall Towers Project

With DOE support via the Wisconsin PUC Michigan installed anemometers at 60, 80, and 100 meters on a state police tower in Southwest Michigan less than a mile from the shoreline. Using ARRA SEP dollars, the project is now being expanded to a total of 10 state police towers spread throughout Michigan. Installation of the new anemometers will begin in the spring.

Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council

The Great Lakes Wind Council was created by Governor Granholm early in 2009. A September 1, 2009 report to Granholm had recommendations for 1) mapping criteria, 2) permitting criteria, 3) legislation, and 4) public engagement. The report identified that 20% of the 38,000 square miles of Michigan-owned Great Lakes bottomlands has a depth of 30 meters or less. Within this area, 323 square miles are considered to be most favorable for development.

On October 8, 2009 Governor Granholm issued a new Executive Order extending the Council through December 31, 2010. Tasks include: 1) Identify the most favorable areas to lease, 2) Inform, engage, and solicit feedback from citizens, 3) Recommend options for how the state could be compensated, and 4) Recommend legislative language. Five wind resource areas have been identified and 3 community meetings are planned for March, April, and May. The Council will make a second report to the Governor by November 15, 2010. Meanwhile, Scandia, Norwegian wind developers, has proposed a 1000 MW project in Lake Michigan and this has generated a lot of controversy.

Wind Working Group

The Michigan WWG has an email roster around 475 and meets every 2-3 months. For example, the Jan. 28 meeting covered renewable energy programs for schools, tall towers project, Wind Energy Resource Zones, and off-shore wind energy. The State Wind Outreach Team (SWOT), composed of 16 persons from universities, state agencies, and non-profits, has been active since it began in Sept. 2007 making over 300 presentations. The SWOT was formally requested by the Great Lakes Wind Council to develop an off-shore wind energy education & outreach plan and that planning has begun. We just recently established two technical work groups – Health & Sound and Wildlife to assist the WWG. The technical work groups will meet quarterly to review research and the latest information and then, if needed, suggest topics for WWG meetings or suggest changes to our Sample Zoning Language.

Michigan Wind Conference in Detroit on April 20-21 www.glrea.org