Workshop | Deployment Barriers to Distributed Wind Energy

Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver, CO, USA

Overcoming Obstacles with Federal Policy and Educated Local Organization

Overview:

The US DoE's Wind Power Program would like to develop a list of immediate high impact, top down solutions (federal policy, legislation, and actions) to streamline distributed wind (small and midsize) turbine deployment for policymakers and DoE upper management to consider. Specifically the Program is interested in the following deployment barriers: zoning, permitting, installation, site assessment, interconnection, net metering, standards, and certification.

You are invited to brainstorm and develop concepts for federal legislative involvement in the distributed wind landscape that you believe would accelerate distributed wind deployment. In addition, you will be asked to develop and consider strategies for bringing distributed wind energy education to local officials.

The 'Deployment Barriers to Distributed Wind Energy' workshop is open to the public. Registration is free but required to attend. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

Logistics:

Upon arrival attendees will pick up their name tags and workshop agendas over breakfast. Each name tag will be labeled 'small' or 'midsize' to indicate the attendee's preferred breakout group. After top level presentations on the DoE Wind Program's involvement in distributed wind technology (DWT) and deployment barriers, workshop attendees will join their breakout group (either 'small' or 'midsize'). Breakout sessions will be lead by a facilitator equipped with inspirational questions and examples of policy concepts such as the one shown below:

"Require all organizations that receive Rural Utility Service (RUS) loans to have a "true" net metering and streamlined interconnection policies."

By directly requiring those Rural Electric COOPs (RECs) and other public power entities who are receiving federal funds to have favorable net metering and streamlined interconnection policies, distributed wind markets could open up across the rural United States.

After three breakout sessions of brainstorming solutions to deployment barriers, each breakout group will consolidate their results and the facilitators will present their major finding to attendees. Please see Agenda for further details.

Agenda | Deployment Barriers to Distributed Wind Energy

Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver, CO, USA

8:00 am **Breakfast**

8:30 am **Opening remarks and overview of DOE Wind Program efforts in DWT**
Jim Ahlgrimm, Technology Acceptance Team Lead for DOE Wind Power Program

8:40 am **Discussion of Barriers**
Trudy Forsyth, Senior Project Leader, National Wind Technology Center

8:55 am **Workshop and Breakout Session Instructions**
Ian Baring-Gould, Technical Director, Wind Powering America

- Small wind brainstorming group facilitated by Ian Baring-Gould
- Midsize wind brainstorming group facilitated by Larry Flowers

9:00 am **Breakout session - Zoning and Permitting**

- *What can be done to reconcile the differences between federal/state policies and local jurisdictions to empower users of distributed wind systems?*
- *How do we educate local officials on distributed wind technology and applications?*
- *How do we address aesthetic concerns such as tower height? How do convert people from NIMBY to IMBY?*
- *Should zoning officials require wet stamps for engineering requirements when evaluating a project?*
- *Should a home owner or community need general liability insurance for a permit?*

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Breakout session - Installation and Site Assessment (small wind) or Standards (midsize wind)**

Small Wind Questions:

- *Should a site assessment certification be required for site assessors?*
- *How do we accelerate the use of educated site assessor and installers for publically funded projects, communities, and home owners?*
- *How can we use certification for installers and site assessors to streamline the zoning and permitting?*
- *Should there be a standardized national template for site assessment?*
- *Can the site assessor and installer be the same person?*
- *How do we motivate manufactures to encourage site assessors or installers to become certified?*

- *How can incentives be used to motive DWT consumers to use certified site assessors and installers?*

Midsize Wind Questions:

- *Should there be an IEC Midsize Turbine Design and Safety Standard?*
- *Should the SWCC expand its scope to become the Distributed Wind Certification Council (DWCC) in order to accommodate midsize turbine technology?*
- *Could midsize turbine certification be a useful tool for policy makers, regulators, local organizations, and consumers?*
- *What other deployment barriers are there for midsize turbine technology?*
- *What are other federal policy actions that would help remove midsize turbine technology barriers?*
- *What types of outreach and education are needed to help remove midsize turbine deployment barriers?*

12:15 pm **Lunch**

1:15 pm **Breakout session - Interconnection and Net Metering**

- *How do you breakdown net metering barriers in RECs?*
- *How do you develop a business model for RECs to succeed with net metering?*
- *RECs receive federal loans from USDA, should there be policies or requirements for renewable distributed generation in place for RECs to receive loans?*
- *How can you use RECs policies regarding distributed wind to influence zoning policy?*
- *What would the Federal model for interconnection and net metering look like?*
- *Is there any difference between solar and small wind with regard to interconnection and net metering?*
- *What information (deliverable) could be provided to the utilities (RECs and otherwise) that outlines standard practices?*
- *How does DWT help meet RPS goals?*
- *What net metering policy helps the midsize turbine market expand the most?*

2:45 pm **Break**

3:00 pm **Breakout session - consolidation of results**

Each working group will read through their notes with the facilitator to ensure accuracy, and will prepare their key finding to present to the larger workshop audience.

4:00 pm **Presentation of brainstorm findings**

Each group's facilitator has 30 minutes to present their major findings, including Q&A.

5:00 pm **Conclusion and wrap-up**

Ian Baring-Gould

5:05 pm **Adjourn**