

STATE / FEDERAL RPS COLLABORATIVE

WEBINAR #5:

“OVERCOMING TRANSMISSION CONSTRAINTS IN MEETING RPS TARGETS”

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2-4 PM EST

AGENDA

Welcome and Webinar Overview

Charlie Kubert, Clean Energy Group

“Getting Renewable Energy to Market in the Northeast: A Wind Developer’s Perspective”

Mike Jacobs, Vice President-Transmission, First Wind

Mike Jacobs will address the particular challenges of transmission development and cost allocation issues in the Northeast where getting the lines sited is difficult and generation can be several states away from load centers. Mike is Vice President of Transmission for First Wind, an independent developer and owner of wind energy projects throughout North America including the 42 MW Mars Hill project in Maine.

Prior to joining First Wind, Mike was Acting Policy Director with the American Wind Energy Association in Washington, D.C. and member of the board of wind industry advocacy groups Wind on the Wires, Interwest Energy Alliance, and Texas-based Wind Coalition.

“Expanding Transmission for Renewables in the Great Plains”

Natalie McIntire, Policy Consultant, Wind on the Wires

Natalie will discuss the ongoing planning efforts at MISO and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to build additional transmission to move renewable energy from the Dakotas and western Minnesota to the Twin Cities and beyond. Natalie works as a consultant with Wind on the Wires, a regional technical and policy organization playing a leading role in advancing access to transmission for wind energy in the Midwest. Winds on the Wires members include wind developers, environmental organizations and tribes.

“Competitive Renewable Energy Zones: The Texas Experience”

Jess Totten, Texas Public Utilities Commission

Texas has vast wind resources in the western part of the state and big population centers to the east. In addition, Texas is a transmission “island”, cut off from the rest of the country. In anticipation of future wind energy development, the Texas legislature developed a planning mechanism to site and build transmission lines ahead of anticipated wind energy development. Jess Totten will speak about the CREZ process in Texas.

“Western Renewable Energy Zones”

Dave Hurlbut, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

The Western Governors Association and U.S. Department of Energy are working together on a project to develop conceptual transmission plans to move up to 30,000 MW of renewable energy to load centers within the Western Interconnect. This planning process is also based on the identification of Renewable Energy Zones. Dave Hurlbut will discuss that process and its usefulness as a model for the rest of the country. Dave is a Senior Analyst in the Strategic Energy Analysis and Applications Center of NREL and was formerly a Senior Economist with the Texas Public Utilities Commission.

“A New Federal-State Approach to Transmission Planning for Renewables”

Bill White, Sr. Vice President-David Gardiner & Associates

States are resistant to FERC assuming more authority over transmission siting and cost allocation issues. At the same time, it has been difficult for states to cooperate among themselves to develop and pay for new transmission lines that essentially benefit all citizens in all states. Bill White will discuss a new proposed transmission planning process which would occur at the regional Interconnection level with oversight by FERC. Bill has more than fifteen years experience developing and implementing public-private partnerships advancing action on energy and climate change. Prior to joining DGA, he represented EPA's Energy Star program in New England and served as Senior Advisor for Climate Change to EPA Administrator Carol Browner.