

Project Summary: Wind Energy policy issues evaluation

Project Sponsor: EETF

Project Managers: EETF Steering Committee

Policy Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none">As wind energy develops as a resource large wind developers appear to dominate development causing the potential for a large vs. small conflict to develop. There appear to be barriers to entry for small developers which frustrate small wind development. Policy questions and options to facilitate the continued development of wind energy should be explored.	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review current policy and linkages to regional electric infrastructure issues and development incentives. Compare and contrast the customer cost, economic development attributes, barriers to entry and electric infrastructure policy implications of large Commercial and small or community based wind energy project development.	Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none">EETF will use a working group and public meeting format which will seek stakeholder perspectives on these issues. These public meetings will be held in locations to facilitate a wide range of analysis and public policy input.
Workplan Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a compendium of existing projects and policies related to wind energy developmentHold public information gathering meetings to learn:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Relative consumer cost impact of large and small wind energy development.Relative economic development potential of large and small wind energy development.Barriers to entry for wind development:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Relative barriers for small and large projectsFERC queuing issuesInfrastructure capacity issuesInterdependence on neighboring states infrastructure		Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none">An inventory of current wind projects in Minnesota and the surrounding states by size, in-service date, ownership, customers and location.An inventory of current Minnesota, Federal and neighboring state policies which seek to facilitate wind energy development.Identify policy alternatives which minimize consumer cost while maximizing the economic development potential for both small and large developers.Identify ways to ensure that the costs of wind-related economic development are borne by the communities where the economic development is likely to occur.Identify opportunities for investment or ownership of wind projects on the part of local landowners, cooperative investors, or utilities and their customers.