

Opportunities in Midwestern Renewable Energy

October 6 – 8, 2008 | Minneapolis, MN

Main Summit

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

8:00-8:15 Administrative announcements and opening remarks by the Summit Chair

Pauline Doohan, *Partner*, Baker & McKenzie LLP

Renewable Initiatives in the Midwest—Identifying the Opportunities
--

8:15-9:00 **Overview of Midwestern State Renewable Initiatives**

Many Midwestern states have implemented Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and other renewable energy initiatives but no two are identical. There are differences state-to-state as to what is considered a renewable, how incentives work, and who retains the resultant RECs. This presentation will provide an overview of Midwestern states' RPS and initiatives, comparing their provisions and how they might affect the development of renewable energy projects.

Mike Bull, *Regional Policy Manager*, Wind on the Wires

9:00-10:15 **Panel Discussion: Impacts of RPS and Other Initiatives on Project Development in the Midwest**

The Midwest has perhaps the biggest fundamental upside for the development of renewable energy in the nation and has recently moved to encourage development. In addition to state RPS initiatives, the Midwestern Governors Association is working on implementing climate change initiatives, which will have the concomitant effect of pushing the development of renewable energy. This panel will examine the various state RPS programs in the Midwest and assess how these policies are affecting the development of new renewable energy projects.

Moderator:

Joe Thompson, *Partner*, Stoel Rives LLP

Panelists:

Morten Lund, *Partner*, Foley & Lardner LLP

Phyllis Reha, *Commissioner*, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Susan Wefald, *President of the Commission*, North Dakota Public Service Commission

10:15-10:45 Morning refreshment & networking break

Purchasing and Developing Renewable Energy in the Midwest

10:45-Noon **Panel Discussion: Dealing with Transmission Issues in the Midwest**

As in much of the nation, the Midwest is characterized by a grid that was developed primarily to service large load centers with conventional generation, making the relationship of renewable assets to the transmission system a key determinant of project success. Complicating this, much of the Midwest is served by two large ISOs, MISO and the PJM, which obviates the need for PPAs in many areas. What kind of experiences are developers having in these markets? This panel of developers, utilities and ISO personnel will examine transmission issues, as well as the use of synthetic PPAs and other constructs to arrange financing.

Moderator:

William Holmes, *Partner*, Stoel Rives

Panelists:

Denise Hill, *Director, Transmission*, Horizon Wind Energy

Clair J. Moeller, *Vice President of Transmission Asset Planning*, Midwest ISO

Kristine Schmidt, *Director, Transmission Business Development*, Xcel Energy Inc.

Noon-1:30 Group Luncheon

1:30-3:00 **Panel Discussion: Utility Perspectives on Renewable Energy Development Plans, Programs, and Progress**

This panel of Midwestern utility executives will examine the challenges and opportunities presented by renewable portfolio standards. They will discuss their collaborations with elected and regulatory officials, environmental groups, and consumer advocates to establish RPS and enhance the commitment to renewable energy. They will discuss the work being done to meet the challenge of introducing more renewable assets into the power system and how they are managing their renewable programs going forward.

Moderator:

Daniel A. Yarano, *Renewable Energy Group Chair*, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Panelists:

Jon Brekke, *Vice President, Member Services*, Great River Energy

Irene Dimitry, *Director, Renewable Energy*, Detroit Edison

David Rich, *Manager*, NPPD Renewable Energy Development

Scott Wilensky, *Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs*, Xcel Energy Inc.

3:00-3:30 Afternoon refreshment & networking break

3:30-5:00 **Panel Discussion: Developers' Perspectives on Renewable Energy Plans, Programs and Initiatives in the Midwest**

This panel of renewable energy developers will explore how the various state RPS' are affecting development and present their views on how to surmount the key hurdles to implementing the ambitious goals for introducing renewable power across the Midwest.

Moderator:

Michael Fieweger, *Partner*, Baker & McKenzie LLP

Panelists:

Katie Clark, *Director of Community Relations*, National Wind LLC

Kevin Helmich, *Renewables Origination*, Iberdrola Renewables

Brian Lammers, *Director of Development, Midwest*, Horizon Wind Energy

Joel Link, *Vice President of Business Development*, Invenergy LLC

Eric Luesebrink, *Director of Development*, Edison Mission Energy

5:00-5:15 Summary Remarks by the Summit Chair

5:15-6:30 Cocktail Reception

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

9:00-9:45 **Community Wind Project Development**

There are several federal and state policies driving the development of small- to mid-sized community wind developments. These projects face some unique development and financial hurdles but comprise a growth segment in the renewable energy market. In particular, getting local support for developments in the Midwest is a key component for their success. This presentation will discuss approaches to developing projects

at the local level and will provide real life examples of how to make community-driven projects successful.

Cynthia Crooks, *Development Director*, OwnEnergy, Inc.

9:45-10:15 Morning refreshment and networking break

10:15-11:45 **Panel Discussion: Assessing the Financing Market for Renewable Energy Projects in the Midwest**

This panel of private equity, institutional investors, and commercial lenders will examine the current market for getting renewable projects financed, including the importance of obtaining long term contracts, getting short term financing on renewable projects, debt vs. equity financing, and mitigation of risk in renewable projects.

Moderator:

Terry Hall, Baker & Daniels LLP

Panelists:

James F. Duffy, *Partner*, Nixon Peabody LLP

Yale Henderson, *Managing Director*, JPMorgan Capital Corporation

Ray Weber, *Senior Vice President, Renewable Energy Origination & Central Region Manager*, GE Energy Financial Services

11:45 Summit Adjourns