

Opportunities in Midwestern Renewable Energy

October 6 – 8, 2008 | Minneapolis, MN

Monday, October 6, 2008

Pre-Summit Workshop: Renewable Energy Development & Finance Issues in the Midwest

This pre-summit workshop will address specific issues and development “wrinkles” that renewable energy projects are likely to encounter in the Midwest.

8:00-8:15 Opening Remarks by the Pre-Summit Chair

Pauline Doohan, *Partner*, Baker & McKenzie LLP

8:15-9:00 **Trends in Midwestern Electric Rates, Power Prices and Contract Terms**

This presentation will project electric rates and power prices in the near- to mid-term as well as review the types of contract terms being negotiated.

Katrina Bond, *Senior Consultant in Energy Consulting*, Ventyx

9:00-9:45 **Working with State Community-Based Energy Development (CBED) Programs**

The Midwest features a number of states that have established CBED provisions in their renewable energy legislation. This presentation will provide an overview of these programs and how to establish community-based developments.

Lisa Daniels, *Executive Director and Founder*, Windustry

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

Dealing with Local & State Permitting Issues
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10:15-11:00 **Understanding the Impacts of Local and State Permitting Requirements on Renewable Energy Development in the Midwest**

Many states and local regulations can complicate the development of renewable energy projects. This presentation will review how issues such as drainage requirements, noise and setback requirements, protected species legislation, and other provisions affect development in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and other Midwestern states.

Larry Hartman, *DOC Staff Member*, Minnesota Department of Commerce

11:00-Noon **Panel Discussion: Working with Permitting, Environmental and Wildlife Protection Agencies in the Midwest**

This panel of developers, permitting, and environmental protection agency personnel will discuss practical approaches to dealing with permitting issues. They will discuss how an ideal development would look, when they should and should not come to regulators, and other steps that should be taken to effectively and efficiently negotiate the permitting process.

Moderator:

Doug Sanders, *Partner*, Baker & McKenzie LLP

Panelists:

Joe Henderson, *Supervisor, Biofuels Sector*, Minnesota Pollution Control

Dave Siebert, *Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis*, WI Dept. Natural Resources

Ruth Silman, *Partner*, Nixon Peabody LLP

Noon-1:30 Group Luncheon

Clearing Siting & Development Hurdles in the Midwest
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1:30-2:15 **Dealing with Interconnection Queuing in the Midwest**

One of the toughest issues facing prospective developers is negotiating the queuing process in the Midwest. This presentation will discuss some of the difficulties in getting projects into and through the queuing process for transmission interconnection and practical measures project developers can take to overcome these difficulties.

Speaker TBA

2:15-3:00 **Dealing with Tribal Land and Allotted Land Issues**

Many of the sites in the upper Midwest with the highest potential for wind development reside on or adjacent to tribal lands. This presentation will provide an overview of tribal and allocated land issues and the practical steps a developer might take to deal with them.

Pauline Doohan, *Partner*, Baker & McKenzie LLP

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

Financing Issues in Midwestern Renewable Energy Projects
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3:30-4:15 **Issues in Converting Brownfield Sites for Biomass Projects**

Many developers are considering converting existing brownfield industrial sites into biomass facilities. However, myriad issues surround these conversions, from feedstock supply issues to tax code considerations in qualifying conversions for incentives. This presentation will examine the legal, cost, and logistical challenges in developing such a project.

Bruce Keyes, *Partner*, Foley & Lardner LLP

4:15-5:00 **Financing a Renewable Energy Project in the Midwest**

This presentation will provide an overview of how best to tap the community-based and national sources of capital for a renewable energy project in the Midwest.

Eli Katz, *Tax Counsel*, Chadbourne & Parke LLP