Massachusetts Wind Working Group

Long Term Contracts & Coordinated Regional Procurement

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

1. **Good Morning – first, I want to thank Jody Lally and the Planning Committee for organizing today’s event. These MA Wind Working Group events continue to play a pivotal role in policy development and furthering dialogue and awareness regarding wind energy.**

1. **I also want to acknowledge other members of our EEA clean energy team present today . . .**

**For MassCEC: Nils Bolgen, Peter McPhee, Tyler Studds and Rachel Ackerman.**

1. **We have a great panel today, composed of people who are on the frontlines growing our clean energy sector and utilizing innovative policies to help New England reach its ambitious clean energy and GHG emission reduction targets.**
2. **Before we start, I want to very briefly provide some context and highlight some of the great progress, thanks in large part to many of you, we have made the past few years, but also identify the remaining challenges we must surmount in order to make our electricity sector carbon free.**
3. **Massachusetts now has over 100 MW of wind energy installed throughout the Commonwealth. When the Patrick administration first took office, there were 3 turbines and 3 MW of wind energy installed statewide.**
4. **In just 5 years we have experienced an over 30 fold increase in our wind energy capacity installed and one of the fastest growth rates of any state in the nation for our wind energy sector.**
5. **The largest wind energy project in southern New England came online last year, the 28.5 MW Hoosac project, and there is enough wind energy installed in MA to power over 42,000 homes, or over 75% of all the households in Berkshire County.**

1. **None of this, happened by accident – Governor Patrick, early on, made wind energy a top priority for his administration, and signed the GCA and GWSA into law, as well as announced an ambitious 2,000 MW by 2020 wind energy goal in order to create a policy environment that would accelerate the growth of our wind energy sector.**

1. **In spite of the challenging political climate in Washington, wind energy is on a tear nationally as well:**
	1. **13,131 MW of new wind energy capacity was installed in 2012, which represents a 28% annual growth rate**
	2. **There are 60,007 MW of total installed wind capacity in the U.S. at the end of 2012, able to power the equivalent of roughly 15 million American homes.**
	3. **New England hosts 883 MW of that total**
	4. **This installed wind energy is avoiding over 95 million tons of carbon dioxide which represents approximately 4.4% of the US power sector emissions.**
2. **We have made very good progress, but much work remains to be done. GHG emissions continue to increase at a very high rate, and we are rapidly approaching 400 ppm of CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere, and time is running out to reduce our emissions and prevent the damaging effects of climate change.**
3. **Wind energy will play a critical role in mitigating climate change, both here in New England and nationally. Although we are fast approaching the 1 GW threshold of wind energy installed in New England, this is just a fraction of the 12 GW of wind energy ISO-NE concluded could be installed in New England without major upgrades to the grid.**
4. **In contrast to PV, where most of the facilities take advantage of net metering opportunities, most wind development is in the form of commercial projects which rely on long-term off-take agreements for energy and RECs to support project financing. Whether on land or offshore, we have a continued and growing need for the contracting opportunities that we’ll hear about today to support wind development.**
5. **Our panelists will address in greater detail how we will meet this challenge in the near future and utilize the long standing New England traditions of environmental innovation, stewardship, and leadership to expand wind development and safe-guard our clean air and water, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and further expand our rapidly growing clean energy revolution.**
6. **The panelists are:**
* **Barry Sheingold, President, New Energy Opportunities**
* **Heather Hunt, Executive Director, New England States Committee on Energy**
* **Mel Palmer, Senior Origination Manager, EDP Renewables North America**
* **Jeff Grybowski, CEO, Deepwater Wind**