



Watt's New? *Michigan Energy News*

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"According to the reports submitted by Defendants to the State of Michigan, The St. Clair, Belle River, Trenton Channel, and River Rouge Power Plants have violated their opacity limits on hundreds of occasions in recent years."

Sierra Club Complaint, page 13-14.

Highlights of MPSC Annual Report

The Michigan Public Service Commission files an annual renewable energy report with the Governor and the State Legislature regarding the implementation of 2008 PA 295, the *Michigan Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act*. The report for 2012 indicated:

- The 2008 renewable energy standard has resulted in \$1.79 billion of investment in Michigan through 2012;
- 964 MW of new renewable energy projects have been constructed;
- The weighted average cost of renewable energy contracts shows a downward trend, with new renewable energy contracts at \$82.54 per MWh average;
- New coal-fired generation is estimated to cost \$133 per MWh;
- A total incremental cost of \$74 million was spent on renewable energy through 2011; and
- All electric providers, except Detroit Public Lighting, are on pace to meet the 10 percent renewable target by 2015.

Good Neighbor Fund Payments Made

Consumers Energy has 56 wind turbines (100 MW) in its Lake Winds Energy Park. It has established a Good Neighbor Fund to distribute almost \$2 million to property owners located in close proximity (within 3000 feet) of one or more of the turbines. Two installment payments will be made to households: February 2013 and August 2013. The amount of payment depends on whether the distance to a turbine is 1500 feet, 2000 feet, or 3000 feet, and the number of turbines at these distances. For the February payment, 246 of 290 eligible property owners in Riverton and Summit Townships were registered. The Fund is also used to establish an endowment administered by the Community Foundation for Mason County to fund community projects in Summit and Riverton Townships.

Coal Plants Sued for Pollution Exceedances

On March 12 the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court against DTE Energy Company alleging violations of the federal Clean Air Act. The complaint cited 1499 instances between January 1, 2007, and June 30, 2012, in which the coal-fired plants of Belle River, River Rouge, St. Clair and Trenton Channel exceeded permitted opacity limits. These exceedances were measured by automatic continuous emission monitors and reported by the company in its required quarterly reports. For relief the Sierra Club is asking the Court to order that these plants: comply with their opacity limits 100 percent of the time; either install additional pollution control equipment or switch operations to natural gas; and pay civil penalties. Each of the plants, except Belle River, is more than 50 years old.

Pure Michigan Solar Panel

Contractors Building Supply of Copemish has signed an agreement to produce solar panels in its facility. The joint venture agreement is with Sonali Energiees USA LLC, the New Jersey-based subsidiary of India-based Sonali Energiees. The agreement calls for the Michigan company to be the exclusive manufacturer and assembler of Sonali solar panels for the U.S. The solar panels will be an Underwriters Laboratory approved, U.S. content, Michigan-made product.

"Jurisdictions can encourage local renewable installations and help spur economic activity to simplifying permitting, zoning, and inspection processes."

Heather Seyfarth, Project Lead,
Clean Energy Coalition

Michigan Energy Venues

- Meeting of West Michigan Bioenergy Consortium, Grand Rapids at Varnum, Noon, April 4. Email chaplar@rightplace.org
- Michigan Energy Forum, 5 PM, Ann Arbor, April 4. www.annarborusa.org/events/details?e=11745
- MiLight (Launch and First Annual Meeting of Laser and Photonics Cluster), Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Lansing, Noon, April 10. Email anca.sala@baker.edu
- Meeting of West Michigan Wind Manufacturing Network, Grand Rapids at Varnum, Noon, April 11. Email chaplar@rightplace.org
- *Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions*, Michigan Energy Public Forum, Northern University Center, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, 1 PM, April 12. www.tinyurl.com/ReadyMichiganMarch
- *1st Annual Meeting, Energy Innovation Business Council*, at Michigan Municipal League, Lansing, 10 AM, April 17. www.mieibc.org/calendar
- Meeting of West Michigan Solar Supply Chain, Grand Rapids at Varnum, Noon, April 18. Email chaplar@rightplace.org
- *Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions*, Michigan Energy Public Forum, Hagerty Conference Center, Northwestern Michigan University, Traverse City, 1 PM, April 22. www.tinyurl.com/ReadyMichiganMarch
- *Switch* (energy documentary), Wells Hall Room 122B, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 7 PM and 9 PM, April 26. www.facebook.com/events/185721064908628/

New Grant for Efforts to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy

The Clean Energy Coalition of Michigan has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Michigan Energy Office to work on the barriers preventing the widespread adoption of renewable energy in the state. The effort will target inconsistent permitting and zoning policies and practices in municipalities across Michigan. Administrative inefficiencies and time delays often increase the soft costs for renewable energy installations, often with the result of making them cost prohibitive.

Wind Turbine Component Repairs

As wind farms in the U.S., age there has been more and more call for a third party to step in and provide O&M services. PSI Repair Services Inc. of Livonia, a subsidiary of Phillips Service Industries, specializes in "off-warranty" support of electronic, mechanical, and electrical components for wind turbines and other types of alternative energy equipment. PSI provides and/or upgrades products for out-of-warranty electronic, hydraulic, and precision mechanical components that drive wind turbine pitch and yaw systems. A sample of the type of repairs include printed circuit boards, logic control units, control cards, electronic speed control components, power inverters, thyristors, hub converters, pitch motors, hydraulic pumps, servo motors and transducers. Since 2009, PSI has shipped over 10,000 wind turbine component repairs.

Michigan Shorts

ΩΩ Indiana Michigan Power has issued a Request for Proposals to purchase up to 200 MW of wind energy Ω The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has approved an extension of the air quality permit for the proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture coal-fired power plant in Rogers City to June 29, 2014 Ω The Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) is purchasing 26.4 MW from the Ithaca-based Beebe Wind Farm (1B expansion) Ω Holland Board of Public Works will purchase 16.8 MW of Beebe Wind Farm generation through MPPA for 20 years at 4.5 cents per kWh, escalated at 2.5 percent per year Ω Grand Haven Board of Light and Power will purchase up to 2.4 MW of Beebe Wind Farm generation for a price not to exceed 4.895 cents/kWh Ω Indiana Michigan Power Company's Cook Nuclear Plant received Michigan Public Service Commission approval for \$860 million in life cycle management project costs, 17 percent of which will be assessed to Michigan ratepayers Ω The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has concluded there are no significant environmental impacts which would preclude the issuance of the Fermi Unit 3 license ΩΩ

Will Action on Climate Change Affect Michigan?

President Obama's latest cabinet nominations are evidence that he is ready to address climate change. The nomination for Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, is a specialist on clean-air issues. The nominee for Secretary of the Department of Energy, Ernest Moniz, is a physicist at MIT and an advocate of cleaner energy sources. The President has pledged to use executive orders and his unilateral authority to attack climate change if legislation continues to be blocked in Congress. He already has a committed advocate of action on climate change confirmed—Secretary of State, John Kerry. Exactly what can be done by executive order is the question. Neither a carbon cap and trade program nor a carbon tax can be imposed by the President on his own. However, the EPA could move to further limit the 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal-burning power plants. Court challenges to such regulation have already been decided by the Supreme Court. Similar measures could be imposed by EPA to reduce methane leaks from oil and gas wells. The Department of Energy could issue new energy standards for appliances and buildings that would increase energy savings, thus reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The Secretary of State could go to work on an international agreement combating climate change or a bilateral carbon dioxide reduction agreement between the U.S. and China, which together account for 42 percent of world's carbon dioxide emissions. Michigan needs to get prepared?



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