

**LB 1115**  
**NEBRASKA RENEWABLE**  
**ENERGY EXPORT STUDY**

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# Legislative Bill 1115

- Introduced by Senator Al Davis, District 43
- Cosponsored by Senators Brasch, Dubas, Haar, Schilz, Seiler, Smith, and Sullivan
- Appropriated \$200,000 for a study “of state, regional, and national transmission infrastructure and policy to serve Nebraska electric consumers and utilities and generation facilities in Nebraska seeking to export electricity outside of the state.”

# LB 1115 Purposes

- Overall, Legislature wanted to determine what was inhibiting development of renewable generation resources in Nebraska
  - Particularly wind, but also solar
- Legislature wanted to know what it could do to help encourage and promote construction of renewable generation resources for export
- Have to identify the specific problems involved before they can be solved
  - Lack of markets, transmission, regulations, taxes, etc.

# LB 1115 Enacted

- Bill had overwhelming support
  - Passed by vote of 47 to 0
  - Governor signed it on April 16, 2014
- Contained emergency clause
  - So bill went into effect upon Governor's approval
- Timing important
  - Bill's sponsors wanted to be able to introduce any needed legislation in 2015 session

# Power Review Board

- State agency with primary jurisdiction over Nebraska's electric utilities
- Power Review Board was tasked with administrative oversight of the study
- Board issued a request for proposals and hired a consulting firm to conduct the study
- Firm hired was The Brattle Group
  - International consulting firm based in Cambridge, MA

# LB 1115 Working Group

- Bill created a working group to help draft the scope of work for the RFP
  - Members included various stakeholders interested in electric generation issue
- Members included:
  - Renewable Energy Developers
  - State Energy Office
  - Nebraska Public Power Utilities
  - Southwest Power Pool (RTO)
  - Environmental Interests
  - County Wind Associations
  - American Wind Energy Association

# Study Parameters

- Request for Proposals included 8 issues the consultant is to research and report findings on:
  - 1) Identification of electric transmission and generation constraints and opportunities
  - 2) Federal and state legal and regulatory requirements
  - 3) National and regional transmission operation
  - 4) National and regional transmission plans and policies, including project approval and cost allocation processes
  - 5) National and regional markets for electricity export

# Study Parameters (continued)

- 6) Opportunities for and barriers to exporting electricity to markets
- 7) Economic development benefits of expanded state, regional and national transmission, including high-level, generalized economic analysis of costs and benefits of the alternatives identified in the study, using existing information where available practical
- 8) Summary of major differences in the economic incentives offered for renewable generation resources between Nebraska and its surrounding states, other states in the Southwest Power Pool, and Minnesota



# Completion of Study

- The Brattle Group is currently conducting its research
  - Contacting working group members for input
- Study will not deal with transmission planning or siting
- Study must be submitted to Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2014
- Power Review Board plans to put copy of final study on its website

# Summary

- Study will hopefully shed light on why more renewables are not being developed by private developers for export
- Once issues are identified, Legislature must determine if it can address those issues through legislation

# **QUESTIONS?**

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