

LR 83 Study Natural Resources Committee

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LR 83 Study - Natural Resources Committee

- Purpose:
 - To study issues relating to expanded development of wind energy in Nebraska, while preserving the ability of the state's unique public power system to continue serving the state with low-cost reliable electricity.

LR 83 Study Structure

- As a starting point, assume 7,800 megawatts of wind power in Nebraska (for use in Nebraska or export)
- Task Force – Natural Resources Committee, Nebraska State Legislature
- Technical Working Group / Committee – technical experts from utility and wind energy industries
 - provide technical expertise and advice
- Advisory Group – all interested parties
 - make recommendations to the Natural Resources Committee
- Natural Resources Committee to report its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2009

LR 83 Study Topics

1. Role of public power utilities and private developers in the generation of wind energy
2. Role of the Power Review Board in approving renewable generation and transmission projects
3. Current status of eminent domain power of utilities and policy changes, if any, that would be necessary
4. Process of planning, constructing, operating, and financing generation and transmission facilities

LR 83 Study Topics (con't)

5. Land use and environmental impacts of developing wind energy, including transmission
6. Financial benefits and risks that will affect Nebraskans due to expansion of wind energy
7. Content and status of the legislative bills related to renewable energy and public power

Activities Completed to Date

- Nebraska Power Association (NPA)
 - White paper written on each study topic
- Technical Working Groups (TWG) established
- TWG meetings with Senator Langemeier
 - June 19
 - September 2

Ten Study Issues for Technical Working Groups

- Role of Public Power and Private Developers
- Sighting / Leases / Eminent Domain
- Real Estate Transmission Needs
- Role of Power Review Board
- Environmental Issues
- Transmission – Exportation / Integration
- Generation Planning and Financing
- Financial Benefit and Risks
- Economic Development
- Legislative Issues
- Technical Working Groups submitted responses to questions to Senator Langemeier between mid-September and mid-October to each of these ten study issues