



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Midwest Region Works Together to Meet Renewable Energy Goals

Governor announces system to help region meet renewable standards

MADISON, WI – Today, Governor Jim Doyle announced that Wisconsin joins the states of Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and the province of Manitoba in implementing a regional renewable energy tracking system, the Midwest Renewable Tracking System (M-RETS). This agreement marks a milestone in meeting the region's renewable energy goals and promotes more renewable energy development.

The purpose of M-RETS is to help participants meet their renewable energy standards and objectives. M-RETS supports a regional trading market which will keep costs of developing renewable energy down and promotes more renewable energy generation – ultimately helping the region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“This tracking system creates a market-based trading program for Wisconsin and our neighboring states,” said Chairperson Dan Ebert. “This innovative project will keep the costs of renewable energy down and will encourage more renewable energy development – helping Wisconsin meet Governor Jim Doyle’s challenge to provide 25% of the state’s energy from renewables by the year 2025.”

Four jurisdictions in the Upper Midwest, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Manitoba, currently have policies requiring or encouraging the development and use of renewable resources. M-RETS will provide a tool for these jurisdictions to collect data on renewable energy production and provide a mechanism for monitoring their respective goals. It will also promote trading credits with neighboring jurisdictions in the region to help in meeting policy requirements.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) has signed a contract with APX, Inc. to implement this system. APX Inc. is North America’s leading technology and administration provider for environmental and energy markets. The length of the M-RETS contract awarded to APX is for four years and the system will become operational in the summer of 2007. Several other states and provinces in the region are also expected to join as the program progresses.

Background on the development of M-RETS

The M-RETS contract and technical recommendations were developed with extensive support from the Great Plains Institute, on behalf of Powering the Plains and the Izaak Walton League of America, as well as the Center for Resource Solutions. Wisconsin is proud to be taking a leadership role in such an important milestone for the region. Because of the efforts of all these organizations, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and the province of Manitoba can continue with the implementation of M-RETS and move forward in generating and sharing renewable energy.