Main Summit Day 1
Midwest Renewable Energy Policy and Program Frameworks

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

7:30 – 8:15  Registration and Networking Breakfast
8:15 – 8:30  Opening Remarks by the Summit Chair
8:30 – 9:00  Keynote: Overview of State Renewable Energy Plans, Goals, and Initiatives
            Howard A. Learner, Executive Director, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
9:00 – 10:00 Panel: Midwest Renewable Policies and How They’re Driving Renewable Energy Development

Midwest states are moving to transition their current energy mixes to increase renewable supplies to meet decarbonization targets by establishing new RPS and clean energy goals. What still needs to be addressed on the policy front to reach ambitious GHG reduction mandates? What regulatory actions are required to maintain the momentum and what changes for market players are anticipated? This panel of commissioners and policymakers will provide clarity around these questions while discussing issues related to the market framework.

- How will mandates be implemented?
- What are the perspectives on creating a competitive market for utilities and renewable developers?
- What are the opportunites for utilities to rate-base renewable assets?
- What are the policy impacts on resource planning challenges, transmission planning, and queue management?

Panelists:
Richard W. Lozier, Board Member, IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
John Tuma, Commissioner, MINNESOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chair, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN
10:00 – 10:30  Networking Break

10:30 – 11:00  Co-presentation: Midwest Power Market Forecast

Presenters:
Andy Witmeier, Director, Resource Interconnection, MIDCONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR (MISO)
Ben Sloan, Director of Regulatory Affairs, ORGANIZATION OF MISO STATES

11:00 – 12:00  Panel: Utility Perspectives and Plans for Achieving State Renewable Energy Goals

Utilities in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana are ramping up the renewable portions of their energy mixes, confirming the major role IOUs will play in implementing the Midwestern shift to sustainable energy sources. What are their plans to meet decarbonization goals and how will those plans affect their IRP processes and outcomes? This session will feature representatives from utilities who will discuss the key factors shaping their resource planning and procurement strategies.

- How will proposed changes to PURPA affect the Midwest energy market?
- Are utilities thinking beyond state borders to achieve their energy goals?
- What does the renewable mix that will replace retiring coal plants look like?
- How much of the new generation mix will be rooftop and how much community solar?
- Where is new load growth anticipated?

Panelists:
Teresa Mogensen, Senior Vice President, Energy Supply, XCEL ENERGY
Tom Petersen, Director, Public Affairs, ITC MIDWEST

12:00 – 1:30  Group Luncheon

1:30 – 2:30  Panel: Muni, Co-op, and Community Energy

As the price of renewables relative to fossil fuel generation continues to drop and cities pursue decarbonization goals, munis and coops across the Midwest are increasingly recognizing the fiscal and environmental benefits of moving to sustainable energy. This panel of muni and coop representatives will examine the myriad pathways for public utilities to pursue sustainable energy projects, including:

- Perspectives on building green energy portfolios
- The effect of falling prices of wind and solar on power procurement
- The potential of aggregation to increase negotiating power
- Financing and ownership structures in deals with munis, cities, and other public power agencies

Michael Vickerman, Policy Director, RENEW WISCONSIN
Kyle Haemig, Economist/Resource Planner, CENTRAL MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY/SERVICES
Panel: **Perspectives on Distributed Renewable Energy Markets in the Midwest**

Resource diversity is a benefit and a challenge. As the Midwest continues to pivot from coal, nuclear, and fossil fuels, concerns arise not only about the costs related to stranded fossil fuel assets but also about system reliability as coal and gas fade. This panel will discuss the impacts of changing energy portfolios on rate design and NERC compliance efforts, focusing on ways to guarantee reliability and reduce market barriers to increased distributed generation.

- Examine cost and reliability concerns impacting the transition to DERs
- Evaluate impacts of emerging technologies on the grid
- Address the risks that load congestion pose to system efficiencies
- Examine the role of technology in improving efficiency and reliability
- Achieve better resource integration through coordination between utilities and transmission operators

**David Shupe, Director, Originations, EVERGY ENERGY PARTNERS**

**3:30 – 4:00**

*Networking Break*

**4:00 – 5:00**

Panel: **Emerging Trends in Financing Corporate Renewable Energy Projects**

Companies are taking an active role in the clean energy transition by shifting their energy sourcing to renewables. Will corporates play a role in driving state and utility renewable energy policies and procurements? This panel will examine financing with corporate buyers in current light of financing PPAs and address the following:

- What factors are driving corporate renewables sourcing decisions?
- Which renewable deal structures are being used and why?
- What are the market options for renewable energy financing?
- What are the alternatives to utility PPA deals?
- How do wholesale prices and capacity markets impact investment?

Panelists:

**Carl Cho, Director, Risk Management, CITIGROUP**

**Pradeep Killamsetty, Managing Director, Power, JOHN HANCOCK INVESTMENTS**

**Darren Van’t Hof, Managing Director – Environmental and Community Capital, U.S. BANK**

**5:00**

*Summit Day 1 Adjourns*

**5:00 – 6:00**

*Networking Reception*
Main Summit Day 2
Optimizing Midwest Renewable Energy Planning

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

7:00 – 7:45  Networking Breakfast
7:45 – 8:00  Opening Remarks by the Chair
8:00 – 9:00  Panel: Utility-Scale Solar and Wind in the Midwest Region

Midwestern communities newly interested in renewables are being asked to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of developing utility-scale solar and wind. Trends in technology, decreases in the costs of PV installation and O&M, and changes in capacity factors, PPA prices, and solar’s wholesale energy market value suggest that the utility-scale solar market is maturing and expanding in the region. Currently, nearly half of the solar deployed in the Midwest can be found in Minnesota, but other states and their utilities are looking to balance their renewable portfolios and address reliability concerns. With gigawatts of utility-scale power projects waiting in the queues, which Midwest state markets are poised to push forward aggressively on developing new utility-scale renewable projects? This panel will consider:

- What are the Impacts of community solar on utility-scale development?
- Will plant closures drive new utility-scale projects?
- How can solar address reliability concerns?

Panelists:
Ben Lipari, Director Project Development, ALLIANT ENERGY
Dan Litchfield, Director, Renewable Development, INVENERGY
Justin Lotak, Senior Project Development Manager, INNOGY RENEWABLES US LLC
Andrew Hamilton, Director, Business Development, RANGER POWER

9:00 – 10:00  Panel: Incorporating Storage into Midwest Renewable Energy Projects
When it comes to meeting renewable goals, hybrid development is the biggest opportunity in the Midwest. With continuing integration of solar and wind, the need to respond to peak load and maintain system reliability are driving the expansion of storage. What are the benefit cost metrics--what kind of cost recovery can traditionally vertically integrated utilities get with the states? Who is making storage work for them? This panel will explore the ways that storage can change the transmission and distribution dynamic.

- The strategy of combining storage with solar and wind projects in the Midwest
- The rapidly declining price of storage and its effect on planning
- How aggregated storage tied to the grid affects transmission and distribution
- NERC compliance for solar and storage
- How will non-wires alternatives, batteries, and EVs change transmission dynamics?

Panelists:

Amy Heart, Director, Public Policy, SUNRUN
Matt Stedl, Senior Development Director – Energy Storage, SAVION ENERGY

10:00 – 10:30 Networking Break

10:30 – 11:00 Presentation: Organic Valley Solar Development

Eric Udelhofen, Director + Project Development, OneENERGY RENEWABLES

11:00 – 12:00 Panel: Policies to Improve Resilience: Asset Hardening and Microgrids

Utilities in the Midwest are elevating substations against floodwaters, installing cold protections on wind farms, hardening assets against the threat of hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires, and amping up cybersecurity against potential threats to the integrity of the control systems managing energy infrastructure. This panel will discuss the threats to energy infrastructure and the grid, the best practices in improving system resilience, the costs of hardening the grid, and who should be paying for the upgrades.

- What changes in policy are needed to allow for hardening the grid against diverse threats?
- What role will the development of microgrids play in the solution?
- Who will pay for implementing upgrades related to resilience?

Eliza Hotchkiss, Technical Group Manager, NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

12:00 Summit Day 2 Adjourns