

Wisconsin Global Warming Task Force Work Group

1. **Workgroup:** Electrical Generation Work Group
2. **Policy Name:** Wind Siting Reform
3. **Policy Type:** Legislation that reforms the siting process for wind projects under 100MW
4. **Affected Sectors, Sub-Sectors and/or Entities:**
 - Sector: Electric utility
 - Sub-Sector: Distribution utilities, Public Service Commission, counties, municipalities, towns, and the wind energy industry
5. **Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Impact:** Wind siting reform is an enabling policy to an enhanced RPS, and would contribute to the overall reduction of greenhouse gases in the RPS.
6. **Estimated Costs:** Implementation of this option would result in increased costs resulting from greater workload at the PSC but reduced costs for wind power producers and consumers.
7. **Specific Description of Policy Proposal:** This policy recommendation includes the following elements (1) definitions of large and small wind energy systems; (2) a requirement for the PSC to draft uniform standards for siting large and small wind energy systems; (3) creation of an optional process for PSC review of projects under 100 MW; (4) a mechanism for allowing parties to appeal a decision rendered by a local jurisdiction to the PSC; (5) extending Chapter 227 judicial review provisions to wind projects permitted by local jurisdiction and (6) a prohibition on local ordinances restricting meteorological test towers. The new standards adopted by the PSC for wind projects under 100 MW would not require an alternative site as part of the permit application.
8. **Timetables, Duration and Stringency Option:** Once the legislation is enacted, the PSC would have a specified period of time to adopt emergency rules establishing uniform standards for permitting wind projects. These standards would apply to PSC-reviewed wind projects as well as those reviewed by local jurisdictions. These rules would remain in effect indefinitely.
9. **Explanation of Rough Estimate of GHG Reductions:** Today, at least 400 MW of wind projects currently under development are subject to local restrictions that prevent them from going forward. Four hundred forty MW of wind power operating at a capacity factor of 29% should produce one million MWH per annum, which in turn should reduce emissions by 925,000 metric tons per year (CO₂ equivalent). Continued contributions from these smaller wind resources

could reduce 1.4 million metric tons CO2 equivalents by 2020 and 1.85 million metric tons CO2 equivalents by 2025. (See RPS template for full potential of renewable resources.)

10. **Rough Estimate of Costs for Selected Years:** N/A
11. **Barriers to Implementation:** This policy recommendation could generate opposition from specific municipalities (but note that the Wisconsin Towns Association has called for this same policy).
12. **Other Factors:** The wind power permitting reform recommendation was considered by the generation working group as an enabling policy necessary to meet the supply requirements of an enhanced RPS with the economic benefits of in-state wind generation.