

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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