

## **Final Technical Report**

**Kansas Wind Powering America State Outreach: Kansas Wind Working Group**

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## Kansas Wind Working Group

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

The Kansas Wind Working Group (WWG) is a 33-member group announced by former Governor Kathleen Sebelius on Jan. 7, 2008. Formed through Executive Order 08-01, the WWG will educate stakeholder groups with the current information on wind energy markets, technologies, economics, policies, prospects and issues. Governor Mark Parkinson serves as chair of the Kansas Wind Working Group.

The group has been instrumental in focusing on the elements of government and coordinating government and private sector efforts in wind energy development. Those efforts have moved Kansas from 364 MW of wind three years ago to over 1000 MW today. Further, the Wind Working Group was instrumental in fleshing out issues such as a state RES and net metering, fundamental parts of HB 2369 that was passed and is now law in Kansas. This represents the first mandatory RES and net metering in Kansas history.

In addition to work done above, the Kansas Wind Working Group held a scheduled meeting during the fiscal year and co-sponsored the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference. The need to communicate with the population and champion the opportunities in wind is ever present and a necessity to maintain momentum in Kansas for this resource.

Regarding the co-sponsoring of Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference, this represents our best opportunity to have a conversation with the public on energy and where wind energy fits into the Kansas mix. The conference was extended to an extra half day to include more wind related subjects. Presentations from Siemens, our new manufacturer in Kansas, Dr. James Walker, past AWEA Chairman, transmission updates, and supply chain breakouts were included. Further, Wind for Schools, Community Wind and net metering were reviewed as well. The conference presented an outstanding opportunity to have an in depth discussion on the status of the industry in Kansas. As it was attended by over 650 individuals, the potential impact of the message on the potential for wind is exceptional.

The Wind Working Group meeting is part of an ongoing series of meetings that help maintain the discussion, update all 33 members on progress and those important issues that need to be addressed. In the September 9, 2009 meeting, Westar and the Southwest Power Pool updated the group on transmission planning, both in state and regional coordination efforts. AWEA representatives updated the group on federal legislation on a Renewable Energy Standard.

The grant funding for the Wind Working Group also provided salary for Jennifer Knorr, the energy coordinator for Governor Parkinson. Jennifer has been instrumental in monitoring progress in the legislature, particularly on issues surrounding HB 2369 and the successful passage of the bill. In addition, she has assisted in the coordinated

recruitment of wind manufacturing companies to Kansas, most specifically the new Siemens manufacturing facility in Hutchison, Kansas. The recruitment and successful establishment of Siemens in central Kansas has been a boon to the entire wind industry for the state. Bringing in an anchor manufacturer in Kansas has added credence to the state as not only a top resource for wind, but an ideal location to establish a long term presence in the industry and an added sense of stability in the marketplace.

Without the leadership of Governor Parkinson and the Wind Working Group, the success that Kansas has had in the last three years would not be possible. The Wind Working Group has provided the central theme for wind at the state level and has been a constant voice on energy issues. Without that constant voice, the amazing progress we have had in the state on wind issues is doubtful.