Program update: Wind

September 17, 2008

Program Design

The program has four basic elements: resource assessment, project technical support, information, and financial incentives for the construction of distributed generation and projects of varying, smaller sizes and alternative ownership models. Each of these elements is designed to expand the opportunities for wind from the current market models, transitioning from very small markets for unique circumstances to standard options.

Key Activities

The community wind program continued to build the pipeline of projects through data analysis and anemometer loans, including taller anemometers. Turbine availability remains an issue but may be able to be addressed by the use of reconditioned turbines. Criteria are being developed for accepting reconditioned turbines as a standard program offering. Support was provided to the industry to address interconnection industries through participation in the OPUC interconnection rulemaking process.

The small wind program was launched in Q4 2007 to an undeveloped small wind market in Oregon. The focus in 2008 has been generating interest in and providing education about small wind systems, both in the consumer and installer markets. This has been accomplished through contractor training, wind workshops for community members, and presentations at conferences and events. Further, marketing materials including a fact sheet, a frequently asked questions document, and a case study were developed and distributed. To make wind resource evaluation at potential small wind sites faster and easier, an interactive wind map was purchased, replacing the need for a year long data collection from an on-site anemometer.

2008 Accomplishments

Activities

- Anemometer loans
  - Middle Mountain , Hood River County (50m) – Cost share with OECDD renewable energy feasibility grant
  - Fir Mountain, Hood River County, Chris Harrell (50m) – Cost share with land owner
  - Wentz 4 Wind LLC, Umatilla County (60m) – USDA VAPG
  - Gordon Ridge, Sherman County (60m)
    - Extended data collection for nearby PEAMS tower to correlate wind speeds with Gordon Ridge.
  - Staples, Gresham – Providing 30m anemometer
  - City of Troutdale – Providing 30m anemometer
  - Port of Coos Bay – Providing two 30m anemometers for wind resource assessment for a 1-2 MW project utilizing reconditioned wind turbines.

- Feasibility studies
  - City of Astoria - Wind and Hydro Generation Study
  - Multnomah County – Wind Feasibility Study
- Community outreach
  - Gave 5 trade ally training sessions to approximately 60 contractors. 14 of those contractors have become trade allies. Will hold another training session in November 2008.
  - Held wind workshops in Salem (about 65 attendees) and Pendleton (about 35 attendees) to promote the small wind program in areas with a good wind resource. Will hold a workshop in Hood River in October 2008.
  - Participating in wind workshops which focus on community-sized wind development coordinated by NW SEED to be held in Q3 and Q4 2008 in Hood River, Moro, Pendleton, and Baker City. The purpose of this is to continue the longer-term market development of the multiple opportunities for wind, building the potential for future projects when turbine supplies rationalize.

Projects

- 10 kW small wind system installed at Bernards Farm near McMinnville, Oregon.
- 1.8 kW small wind system installed at Hood River Valley High School in Hood River, Oregon.
- Committed funds to a 10 kW small wind system at Bjorn Farm near Salem, Oregon. To be installed in Q4 2008.
- Committed funds to a 10 kW small wind system at Blue Heron Farm near Salem, Oregon. To be installed in Q4 2008.
- Contracting with Gerding Edlen for 4 1.8 kW small wind systems on the rooftop of a skyscraper to be built in downtown Portland, Oregon. To be installed Q3 2009.
- Working with NEXion DG on a project that will utilize a 250 kW community wind system using a refurbished turbine in Sherman County. To be installed Q4 2008 or later.

Budget themes 2009-2010

The focus of the wind program for 2009-2010 is to grow the small wind market by expanding participation and ensuring there is a strong qualified installer base for consumers. This will be accomplished by the continued marketing of the small wind program especially in areas wind a good wind resource such as the gorge and the coast. Turnkey small wind systems will be provided to qualified participants using the model of NWSEED's Our Wind Coop which will ease the process for the participant. The program also seeks to both increase the number of small wind contractors participating in the Small Wind Trade Ally network and to educate the existing trade allies by providing technical training. Lastly, the program will look to expand the set of existing opportunities by including refurbished systems and other systems larger than 50kW or multiple systems on single sites for onsite use or qualifying as standard QFs in Oregon.

Along with the biopower program, we will work more proactively with proposed projects to better define the interconnection needs, sooner as part of the feasibility studies and directed, technical assistance. It is clear we need to help projects understand the process, the technical

needs, and the possible costs. This should help projects start the formal procedures more appropriately and with a clearer understanding.

For the community wind program, the focus is to continue to support projects through assessments and studies to help prove projects and line them up to be ready when turbines become available. We are not expecting the supply issues to resolve until later in 2010 and only if the PTC is reauthorized for an extended time. During this period we will remain open to the occasional project that can align project readiness with financing and equipment supply.