

Getting into the mix

State Energy Policy Bill Proposal

Draft under discussion of a special subcommittee. Would limit local land use regulations on wind energy and nuclear power plants. Would charge DMME, SCC, and Va. Tech's CCER with analyzing state power needs.

Center for Coal & Energy Research, Va. Tech.

Commissioned to study potential of renewable portfolio standards in Virginia. Under draft energy policy bill, would work with DMME and SCC for analysis.

Va. Dept. of Mines, Minerals & Energy

Agency would be charged with analyzing energy systems with the SCC and CCER at Va. Tech under draft legislation. Also a WVEC partner.

State Corporation Commission

Agency currently reviewing HNWD's application for a wind plant in Highland County. Under a draft bill on energy policy, the SCC would be charged with finding suitable sites for wind utilities.

Commission for Electric Utility Restructuring

Met four times last year with energy "stakeholders" to discuss renewable portfolio standards. Commissioned a study from the Center for Coal & Energy Research at Va. Tech.

Virginia Coal & Energy Commission Special Subcommittee

Met for the first time last week to review a draft bill on statewide energy policy.

Virginia Wind Energy Collaborative, JMU

Group supporting wind energy development statewide; partnered with DMME, Old Mill Power Co., and Environmental Resources Trust, among others. Contributed data to CCAN report.

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Regional global warming advocacy group fighting for renewable portfolio standards in Virginia. Recently released report to "combat" that of the CCER study. Solicited data from WVEC for its study. Supported by Old Mill Power Co. and ERT.

Old Mill Power Company

Small private Virginia utility owned by Mitch King. WVEC partner. Supporter of CCAN. Supporter of Highland New Wind Development's wind project.

Environmental Resources Trust

Non-profit lobbying group. WVEC partner. Supporter of the HNWD wind utility project. Participated in "stakeholders" meetings last year spearheaded by CEUR.

Study on RPS

Research commissioned by CEUR stakeholders' group (which included ERT and HNWD) under way by Va. Tech's Center for Coal and Energy Research. Not yet released.

Report on RPS

Report issued last week by CCAN calling for an RPS mandate statewide. Meant to "combat" whatever Va. Tech's study concludes in order to take environmental benefits of "green energy" into account.

As various private and public organizations get involved in disseminating the pros and cons of renewable energy, including wind, highlanders will likely hear more about these groups and state agencies in coming months.