

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

Recognition of Global Wind Day 2013

Public Meeting- June 13, 2013

**JOINT STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER
AND CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission), along with wind energy associations worldwide, are pleased to publicly recognize that Global Wind Day will be held on June 15, 2013. Global Wind Day is a worldwide annual event, coordinated by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), designed as a day to “discover wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to change our world.”¹

Pennsylvania embraces an all of the above and below approach to energy generation and alternative and renewable energy resources, such as wind, and recognizes them as key components of Pennsylvania’s current energy portfolio. In 2004, Pennsylvania’s General Assembly enacted the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (AEPS), which requires that 18% of all energy generation come from alternative and renewable energy sources by 2021. Of that, 8% must be derived from Tier I renewable energy sources, like wind. According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), in 2011, the percentage of Pennsylvania power provided by wind was 0.9%. More facts about Pennsylvania wind follow:

- Pennsylvania is home to the first commercial wind farm east of the Mississippi River, located in Somerset County;
- Pennsylvania currently has over 660 turbines, representing approximately 1,300 MW and ranks 15th in the nation in total installed wind capacity;
- Pennsylvania was 9th nationally for new capacity wind installations in 2012;
- Pennsylvania’s installed wind power avoids over 1.75 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually; and
- Pennsylvania is home to at least 22 facilities that manufacture and assemble components for the wind energy industry.

A clear indicator of the importance of wind in Pennsylvania is the fact that the Commonwealth served as a founding member of the Governors’ Wind Energy Coalition, a bipartisan group dedicated to the development of the nation’s wind energy resources to meet

¹ See <http://www.globalwindday.org/about-wind-day/> (last accessed June 11, 2013).

domestic energy demand, reduce dependence on imported energy, collaborate on best practices and regulatory consistency and spur economic development.

As illustrated above, wind is an important part of the Commonwealth's diversified energy portfolio. We are pleased to bring awareness to this renewable energy resource through the recognition of Global Wind Day.

DATE: June 13, 2013


PAMELA A. WITMER
COMMISSIONER


ROBERT F. POWELSON
CHAIRMAN