

US Regional Wind Siting Forum – Game Design proposal

The US department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham has requested that the 6 regional offices of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) take a lead in the development of wind power in their region by engaging in an evaluation of the optimal siting of future wind farms and providing an equity financing fund that is renewed every two years.

Potential developers of new wind capacity are invited to respond to a request for proposals (RFP) every year from the regional board. Any approved proposals (up to 3 each year), will receive Priority status from the EERE. The EERE will then work with other federal and state agencies to ensure the efficient processing of permitting and other regulatory requirements. In addition to this priority status, the EERE can grant low cost equity financing to any approved project(s). The review committee is invited to suggest modifications and can make financial support and priority status contingent upon changes to the process of implementation.

As this year will be the first round of the RFP the Boston regional office has chosen to hold a pre-bidding round where developers can present outline ideas and get feedback from the newly formed board prior to the formal RFP process.

Submitted Project proposals will be explicitly scored and receive comments on:

1. Stakeholder engagement process
2. Financial feasibility and Developer experience
3. Environmental considerations
4. Social Equity considerations

The proposed 8-person board will be comprised of:

2 Federal representatives: 1 from EPA and 1 from DOE

2 State representatives from outside the region: 1 from Energy, 1 from Environmental Protection.

1 Wind Developer from outside the region

1 Environmental NGO representative

1 Citizen group NGO representative

1 Independent mediator appointed by EERE and approved by all board members.

Game players will be assigned positions on the review board and have two hours to review 3 Wind project proposals.

At the end of the two hours they are asked to present their score and comment on the proposals, and explain if and how they would allocate priority status and funding to the developers and with what contingencies.