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The Congressional Research Service (CRS) that provides policy research for the U.S. Congress, confirms in a new report that the U.S. wind power industry is an expanding source of new manufacturing jobs and that its future hinges on consistent state and federal policies.

The report, entitled "U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing: Federal Support for an Emerging Industry," also notes that "... there are several obstacles that may impede the expansion of wind energy manufacturing in the United States. One is the history of policy-induced boom-and-bust cycles in wind energy investment, which may lead wind turbine manufacturers and component suppliers to conclude that future U.S. demand for their products is too uncertain." The single most important policy that has led to past gyrations in the industry is the federal wind energy Production Tax Credit, which has been allowed to expire three times in the past 12 years.

Additional key points from the report:

- Although turbine manufacturers' supply chains are global, recent investments are estimated to have raised the share of parts manufactured in the United States to 50-60%, up from 25% in 2005.
- Wind turbine manufacturing is at the core of the multifaceted wind power industry. Because of the use of castings, forgings, and machining, turbine manufacturing is a significant contributor to U.S. heavy manufacturing.
- Similar to automobile assemblers that make a car or truck, wind turbine original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs are mostly system integrators. Assemblers must bring together an estimated 8,000 precision parts and components to produce a wind turbine...Very high levels of expertise and specialization are required of wind turbine suppliers, with the level of precision similar to that of the aerospace industry. A wind turbine is a significant investment. Greater demand for wind turbines, cost savings related to transportation, and concern about the risks associated with currency fluctuations are among the reasons wind turbine and component manufacturers have opened new production facilities in the United States since 2005."

Electricity Pricing Areas – On Peak Nov 2011

	Oct 4, 2011	Per kWh
PJM	West	\$.04394
Cinergy	Peak Monthly	\$.03408

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Oct 1 - Oct 31, 2010	\$.02702
Nov 1 - Nov 30	\$.02778
Dec 1 - Dec 31	\$.03545
Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2011	\$.03871
Feb 1 - Feb 28	\$.03581
March 1- Mar 31	\$.03668
April 1 - April 30	\$.03448
May1- May 31	\$.03954
June 1 - June 30	\$.03851
July 1 thru July 31	\$.05170
Aug 1 - Aug 31	\$.04064
Sep 1 thru Sep 31	\$.03058

Weather Today: Mostly sunny. High 72F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. **Tonight:** Mainly clear skies. Low around 55F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. **Tomorrow:** Mainly sunny. High 77F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. **Tomorrow night:** Clear skies. Low 59F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday:** A few clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 60s. **Friday:** A few clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 60s. **Saturday:** Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 60s.

