

### Volume 289 June 5, 2012

Wind energy just got a nice bump. It came after a key federal agency authorized a project funded in part by Google to lay the groundwork for an underwater power line. The off-shore wind deal, known as the Atlantic Wind Connection, could start putting steel in the ocean by 2014. Clean energy has been given a thumping from its opponents in recent months. And while this \$5 billion project would be getting its money from private investors, it would still rely on the same kinds of tax breaks provided to developers of wind -- programs that are set to expire by year-end. At issue is whether the country wants more wind and if so, does it want to invest public resources off-shore.

The Atlantic Wind Connection would take place over at least 10 years and would have the potential of delivering 7,000 megawatts of wind energy to states along the East Coast, some of which have set renewable portfolio standards. That would increase the venture's attraction despite being considerably more expensive than on-land generation.

"This decision is an important step to advancing what could be the world's first integrated electric transmission superhighway for offshore wind," says Bob Mitchell, chief executive of Trans-Elect, which is partnering with not just Google but also Good Energies and Japanese trading firm, Marubeni. The Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management granted its permission to build the underwater line that will eventually stretch 380 miles from Virginia to New Jersey. The agency's review concludes that no other similar competitors exist in that region that would object to giving the developers rights-of-way. Other federal and state permits are still necessary.

Why would an internet search engine company be interested in building a complex under-water transmission system? For starters, this is not Google's first foray into the energy sphere or even the wind power component of it. To date, the company says that it has invested more than \$915 million in the renewable energy sector, including investments in projects capable of generating 1,800 megawatts of power.

Google is a ravenous consumer of electricity and it must find a way to become more efficient and cleaner. By placing its bets on green energy, it is attempting to understand how it works and to help create economies of scale so that it can be cost-effectively generated. It operates hundreds of thousands of servers that use tons of electricity, which are often derived from coal. As the global leader in internet technologies, the web-based giant says that it can do better.

### Electricity Pricing Areas – Jun 5, 2012

#### June

On-Peak	Per kWh
West Hub	\$0.04330
NI Hub	\$0.03415

### ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
May 1- May 31, 2011	\$0.03954
June 1 - June 30	\$0.03851
July 1 thru July 31	\$0.05170
Aug 1 - Aug 31	\$0.04064
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$0.03058
Oct 1- Oct31	\$0.02968
Nov 1- Nov 30	\$0.02816
Dec 1 - Dec 31	\$0.02971
Jan 1 -Jan 31	\$0.03043
Feb 1-Feb 29	\$0.02963
Mar 1 thru Mar 31	\$0.02894
April 1 - April 30	\$0.02659
May 1 thru May 31	\$0.02816

### Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	69	75	80	84	90
Low	58	59	61	67	70

