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Illinois 5th in wind power installations in 2012

In what shaped up to be a record wind for American wind, Illinois was fifth in the nation for new wind installations in 2012, the American Wind Energy Association said Wednesday.

The state installed 491 turbines, or about 820 MW of capacity, and is fourth in the nation for wind power installed.

In the U.S. overall, nearly two-thirds of the more than 13,000 MW of new wind power in 2012 came online in the fourth quarter to take advantage of a wind production tax credit that expired at the end of 2012. Ultimately, the 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour tax credit was extended for one year as part of the "fiscal cliff" deal signed in the New Year. While the tax credit generally is reserved for wind farms that are generating electricity, the extender package allows wind farms under construction in 2013 to take advantage of the tax credit.

Still, industry watchers expect 2013 to be a difficult year for wind. In 2012, in light of the tax credit's looming expiration, developers stopped placing orders for wind-related machinery for projects that were to come online in 2013. AWEA said its members are receiving orders and calls now for equipment that will take six to nine months to deliver. The lobbying group would not provide its projections for installations in 2013. Some experts have forecasted a drop of as much as 75 percent, along with massive layoffs.

AWEA said 85 percent of the projects that came online in 2012 relied on long-term power purchase agreements from utilities and others who agreed to purchase the wind power the turbines would produce. In Illinois only one wind farm developer started selling into the merchant power market. The rest are selling power to large energy users such as Heartland Community College or to utilities Commonwealth Edison, Tennessee Valley Authority and Ameren Illinois.

Electricity Pricing – Feb 5, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$.03772	\$.02497
2014	\$.04034	\$.02708
2015	\$.04273	\$.02880

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Feb, 2012	\$.02963
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan, 2013	\$.03111
Feb 1 – Feb 4, 2013	\$.03534

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	35	33	36	36	37
Low	20	27	31	26	32

