



About the Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council

Background

The Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council, created by Executive Order 2009-1, serves as an advisory body within the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth to examine issues and make policy recommendations related to offshore wind energy development in Michigan. The 29-member council consists of key state agency representatives and stakeholders appointed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm (the council members are listed on the back of this page).

The council was charged with recommending a process for engaging the people of Michigan in a public dialogue about offshore wind to ensure that statewide interests are considered whenever significant permitting decisions are made. It was to identify criteria for identifying and mapping areas that should be categorically excluded from offshore wind energy development as well as those areas that are most favorable to such development, and provide these criteria in a report to the governor. In addition, the council was charged with recommending permitting criteria for offshore wind energy and providing input on proposed legislation and rulemaking, as appropriate. The council does not review or make recommendations related to specific development proposals.

Key recommendations to date

- The council recommended a set of 22 criteria to identify and map the most and least desirable areas for offshore wind energy development in the state's Great Lakes. For example, the most favorable areas must be at least six miles offshore and avoid shipping lanes, sensitive fish and wildlife habitats, etc. The five largest most favorable areas are located in southern Lake Michigan near Berrien County, northern Lake Michigan near Delta and Mackinac Counties, outer Saginaw Bay, and Lake Huron near Sanilac County (see the List of Mapping Criteria document for details).
- The council has provided input on a proposed legislative framework for the siting and regulation of offshore wind energy systems on the state's Great Lakes bottomlands (See Summary of Council's Input: Siting and Regulation of Offshore Wind Energy for an overview).

The council is hosting meetings in Saginaw/Bay City on March 25, Escanaba on April 14, and Muskegon on May 4 to get input on its recommendations. In addition, comments can be submitted to the council via the council's website at www.michiganlowcouncil.org (using the comments form on the "Contact Us" page) or by e-mail at info@michiganlowcouncil.org. The council will consider all of the input as it prepares its final report to be issued in the fall of 2010.

For More Information

For more information and to sign up for to e-mail updates about council meetings and activities, go to the council's website, www.michiganlowcouncil.org.

Council Members

Member	Position/Affiliation
State Agencies	
Stanley "Skip" Pruss (council chair)	Director, Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth
Ken DeBeaussaert	Director, Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Cindy Douglas	Vice President of Business Development, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
John Halsey	State Archeologist, Office of State Archeologist, Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Orjiakor N. Isiogu	Chairman, Michigan Public Service Commission
Dennis Knapp	Assistant to Resource Management Deputy, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Jim Sygo	Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Roberta "Bobbi" Tisdale	Chair, Green Initiatives Team, Michigan Department of Transportation
Additional Members Appointed by the Governor	
Adesoji O. Adelaja	Director and founder, Michigan State University Land Policy Institute, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy, Michigan State University
Dennis Assanis	Director, Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and Jon R. and Beverly S. Holt Professor of Engineering, The University of Michigan College of Engineering
T. Arnold Boezaart	Director, Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, Grand Valley State University
Leonard J. Bohmann	Associate Dean of Engineering, Michigan Technological University
James P. Clift	Policy Director, Michigan Environmental Council
J. Wilfred Cwikiel	Harbor Springs, Michigan
Frank D. Ettawageshik	Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan
Brett French	Senior Regional Manager-External Relations Michigan, American Transmission Company
Margaret R. Gale	Dean, School of Forest Resources & Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University
Dennis L. Grinold	State Affairs Officer, Michigan Charter Boat Association
Curtis A. Hertel Sr.	Executive Director, Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority
Thomas L. Hickner	Bay County Executive
M. Jack Knowles	Vice President, Dietrich, Bailey and Associates, PC
Steven E. Kurmas	President and Chief Operating Officer, Detroit Edison
Marty G. Lagina	Chief Executive Officer, Heritage Sustainable Energy, LLC
James D. MacInnes	Co-owner and Chief Executive Officer, Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa
Michael O'Brien	Great Lakes Project Director, Bluewater Wind
John G. Russell	President and Chief Operating Officer, Consumers Energy Company
Christopher M. Trebilcock	Principal, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC
Richard F. Vander Veen	President, Mackinaw Power
Joseph L. Welch	Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, ITC Holdings Corp.