Renewable Energy and Regulation



Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good Energy



Overview of Presentation

- Market fundamentals of renewables are strong...but development lags.
- For renewable development to move ahead regulation must reduce uncertainty and risk.
- United States a quagmire of multi-faceted agendas.
- Federal and state regulatory policies are confused and hostile.



Role of Regulation

Provide incentives that will encourage electricity providers to act in a manner most consistent with the goals of society.

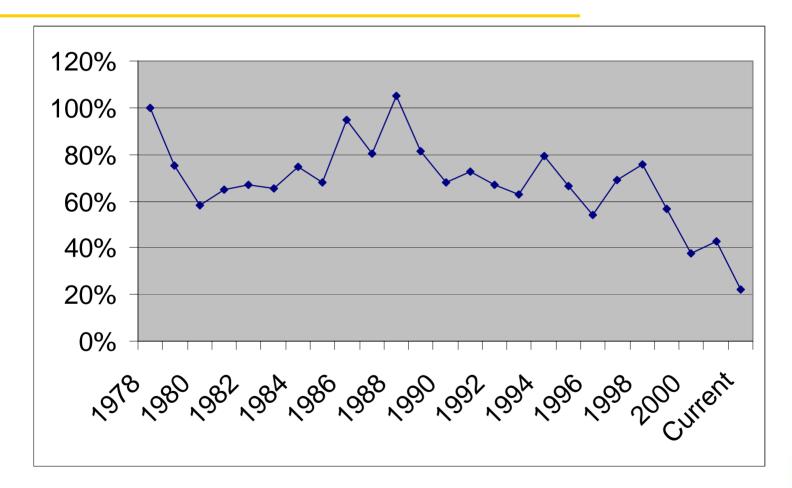
- Recognize the advantages renewables offer to meet goals.

- Provide necessary supports to develop projects.

 Renewable incentives must be consistent with the basic regulatory policies.



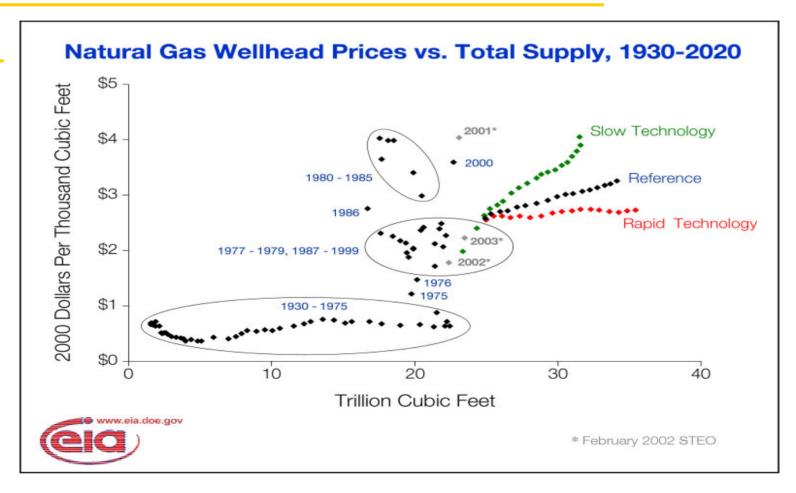
Market Fundamentals: Ratio of Interest Rates and Fossil Prices Shows Cost Advantage of Renewables



George Sterzinger, Renewable Energy Policy Project



Natural Gas 1930 - 2020



REPP

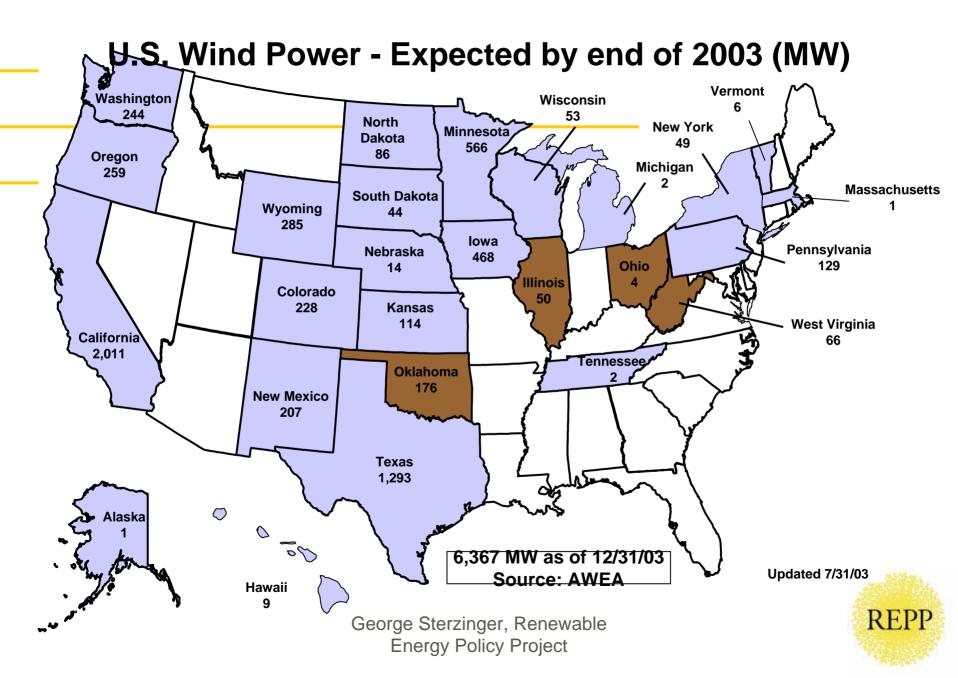
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Wind Edge: Wind versus LNG

Technology	Capacity Cost	Fuel Cost per kWH	Capacity Cost per kWh	Total Cost per kWh	Benchmark Wind Cost	Wind Edge
Gas Fired Peaker	\$500/KW	\$.054	\$.029	\$.083	\$.03	\$.05
Gas Fired Peaker – Fuel Only	N/A	\$.054		\$.054	\$.03	\$.024
Combined Cycle	\$650/KW	\$.036	\$.012	\$.048	\$.03	\$.018
Combined Cycle – Fuel Only	N/A	\$.036		\$.036	\$.03	\$.006

(Fuel Costs are calculated using a 12,000 BTU per kWh for peaking plants and an 8,000 BTU per kWh for the Combined cycle plant. Gas costs are \$4.50 per MCF. Total costs are derived by calculating a levelized capital cost recovery assuming a combined cost of capital of 10% and a twenty year life and a 23% capacity factor for peaking units and a 75% factor for combined cycle plants.)





Framework: Renewable Hurdles

Initial cost of technology. Infrastructure to support development. Financing to reduce the impact of capital costs. Incentives to align private and public interests.



Regulatory Challenges

- Regulatory policies on stand-by tariffs, transmission interconnection, intermittency and reserve requirements harm renewables.
- Trend towards merchant plant financing stops renewable financing and project development.
- Natural gas price risk is shifted onto end users. The advantage to renewables is not reflected in market.
- Confusion and hostility paralyze development.



Regulatory Confusion

Merchant financing is default method for new generation.

FERC natural gas pricing decisions diminish renewable advantage.

Carbon policy is lacking.



Regulatory Hostility

- Stand-by tariffs.
- Transmission access: rolled in versus incremental.
- Transmission pricing: pancaked versus postage stamp.
- Cost responsibility for intermittency.



Opportunities for Regulatory Reform: Federal

Federal energy legislation could establish goals.

- Production tax credit could be the foundation of a federal carbon reduction strategy.
- Federal programs could support and encourage aggressive state actions.
- If possible, federal supports for training, enterprise development, and poverty alleviation should be tied to state renewable actions.





Opportunities for Regulatory Reform: State

Renewable Portfolio Standards will force regulation to reduce confusion and hostility.
Local Development Initiatives.
Emerging Labor/Environmental Alliances.



Critical Tasks

Establish national goals.

Resolve "reform" versus "deregulation" confusion.

Identify transparent and fair process fro selecting next generation of plants.

Blend federal and state actions.

