

## **WIND ON THE WIRES: Responses to Questions posted to Michigan Energy Forum Website**

### **8. What is Michigan's long-term potential for more wind, solar, hydro, biomass, landfill gas, and other renewables sources?**

There are two sources that inform us about the long-term potential for more wind in Michigan – a forecast by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (“NREL”) and the Michigan PSC Wind Resource Energy Zone Report. The 10% standard would require a little over 10.3 million MWhs come from renewable energy sources.

NREL estimates that Michigan has the potential to for 59,000 MW of nameplate capacity which could generate approximately 169.2 million MWhs of electricity. (see, [http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/wind\\_resource\\_maps.asp?stateab=mi](http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/wind_resource_maps.asp?stateab=mi)) That is 16x larger than the current renewable energy standard.

PA 295 created the Wind Resource Energy Zone Board whose purpose was to help Michigan transition toward increased wind energy development within the state and to “identify[] a ‘list of regions [within] the state with the highest wind energy harvest potential’ and conduct[] related studies.” (WREZ Report at 1 (10/15/2009). The WREZ Report identified four regions in the state with the highest potential for wind energy. Those four zones are estimated to have the potential to produce between 9.9 and 17.7 million MWhs of energy per year. (WREZ Report, Exhibit 3). Of those four zones, the PSC selected the zone focused on Allegan County as the Primary Zone. That zone is estimated to yield between 6.7 million and 12 million MWhs of renewable energy per year.

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