

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE'S RECENT POSITIONS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO AND TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION

Background Material on Renewable Energy Portfolio:

Renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) policies are legal mandates that require utilities to own or acquire renewable energy or renewable energy certificates to account for a certain percentage of their retail electricity sales, or a certain amount of generating capacity, within a specified timeframe. RPS policies are widely considered to be among the most important of those which lead to increased renewable energy capacity. Thus RPS policies fall within the League of Women Voters of U.S.'s position on Energy: The League supports reduction of energy growth rates through conservation and energy efficient technologies, predominant reliance on renewable resources, and energy goals and policies acknowledging the U.S. as a responsible member of the world community. RPS policies are determined by individual states. There is no Federal policy. Delaware has an RPS policy which is modified from time to time with respect to its specific requirements, but which does not cover all electricity sales in the state. Thus LWV of Delaware has developed the following positions with respect to the RPS policy of Delaware.

Position on Renewable Energy Portfolio

The League of Women Voters of Delaware:

1. Supports an increase in the percentage of renewable energy sources in Delaware's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) provided that they:

- have minimum environmental impact;
- use the best current technology as measured by reliability, proven effectiveness, and being state-of-the-art;
- have long range cost effectiveness including all net costs such as health and environmental costs, state and federal subsidies, and price stability.

2. Supports measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the RPS.

Background Material on Transmission and Distribution:

The transmission system (the grid) that supplies wholesale electricity to Delaware's three distribution facilities: Delmarva Power, Delaware Municipal Electric Corp. (DEMEC), and Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) is old and inadequate and was designed to bring electricity from Midwest fossil-fuel-fired power plants to Delaware, a net importer of electricity. In recent years, transmission enhancement

planning--the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP)--was without innovation; and the approved plans were put on hold.

A study released in 2010 by the National Renewable Energy Lab shows that connected East Coast off-shore wind generation can provide 20% - 30% of the U.S. energy needs if appropriate system modifications and structural changes are made to the grid. If Delaware is to fully develop its renewable resources, primarily offshore wind and solar/photovoltaics, a new approach to transmission planning and grid enhancement will be necessary.

Position on Transmission and Distribution

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports:

1. Maximizing the development and delivery of renewable energy to Delaware when designing and developing new transmission plans for the region.

2. In addition to delivering reliable, adequate electric service to Delaware, the key factors to be considered in making a decision on any transmission plan/transmission enhancements are:

- Degree of environmental impact;**
- Degree of utilization of the transmission for renewable resource power vs. fossil-fuel generated power;**
- True cost, including all cost-externalities;**
- Safety and security of the grid;**

From Pat Todd 9/30/10