



THE WIND COALITION

Promoting wind power in the South Central United States

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 2, 2007

Contact: Mike Sloan, (512) 476-9899

TEXAS DECISION OPENS DOOR TO DOUBLE WIND POWER CAPACITY IN THE UNITED STATES

CREZ Plan could become national model

Austin, Texas – Texas has moved another step closer to making wind power a major energy resource, capable of delivering more benefits, including economic development, cost-effective electricity and clean, domestic energy.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) issued an Interim Final Order today that could enable construction of up to 22,806 Megawatts (MW) of new wind power in Texas (PUC Docket No. 33672). The order designates five Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZs) in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle and authorizes development of transmission lines needed to deliver electricity produced in those windy CREZ areas to customers throughout Texas. A final order, transmission plan, and budget are still pending before the Commission but are expected to be finalized in early 2008.

“While many states are talking about ways to bring more clean energy to customers and improve air quality, Texas is doing it.” says Mike Sloan, Managing Consultant of The Wind Coalition, a regional wind advocacy group operating in the south central United States.

The Wind Coalition
906½ Congress Ave.
Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512/476-9899
Mike Sloan, Managing Consultant
aaron@windcoalition.org

Promoting wind power in the South Central United States

Adds Sloan, "Texas' proactive transmission process is drawing a lot of attention; we expect the CREZ process to become a model for the nation." Texas' CREZ model has already been embraced by California and Colorado, with additional Western states also considering its use.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has initiated a Transmission Optimization Study to develop options for delivering wind power from the five CREZ zones to customers throughout the ERCOT power grid, including Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. Total wind capacity served in ERCOT's studies, from both new and existing projects, will range from 10,000 MW to 22,806 MW. Each megawatt of wind provides enough electricity to power approximately 225 Texas-sized homes.

The increased usage of wind power is projected to more than offset the sizable investment needed for new transmission lines by reducing the need for fossil fuel derived power by billions of dollars every year. Based on ERCOT's 2006 CREZ analysis, 5,250 MW of new wind installations would reduce customer payments to power generators by \$1.278 Billion per year (equivalent to \$3.47 per month per residential customer). The 22,806 MW level of wind development, which could supply up to 20% of Texas electrical energy needs, would reduce statewide power plant emissions of smog-forming nitrous oxides and carbon dioxide by more than 10% each.

Spurred by successful renewable energy development policies, Texas surpassed California during 2006 to become the nation's leader in wind capacity. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) reports that Texas currently has more than 3,300 MW of installed wind capacity out of the nation's total of 12,634 MW. During 2007, Texas is expected to add more than half of all new wind installations in the United States.

The Wind Coalition is a non-profit association formed to promote an economic and regulatory climate that encourages the development of the vast wind energy resources of the South Central United States. Its membership includes major wind developers, equipment vendors and public interest groups.

#####