

Participation Opportunity: Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND) Project

For immediate consideration:

NRECA is seeking distribution and generation and transmission (G&T) member cooperatives to actively participate as part of a Member Stakeholder Group for a new wind generation research project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Participants will provide guidance in the identification of gaps and creation of solutions that seek to enable increased deployment of distributed wind generation (alone and in connection with other distributed energy resources, including solar, storage and microgrids) across rural America.

Expressions of interest are requested to be sent to RadwindProject@nreca.coop.

Research Opportunity Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)¹ has awarded a research grant to support a two-year, \$3 million research initiative spearheaded by NRECA to study deployment of distributed wind resources by electric cooperatives and other rural utilities. The project objective is to reduce the balance of system costs (i.e., “soft costs”) of deploying distributed wind technologies of various scales on rural distribution grids, either as standalone projects or in combination with other distributed energy resources (DER), including solar, storage and microgrids. RADWIND follows the successful research model of the [SUNDA](#) program, which provided resources and tools to help advance the deployment of solar throughout rural America.

Through RADWIND, NRECA will work with co-ops² and industry stakeholders around the country to evaluate the market, challenges, opportunities, and gaps for distributed wind deployment, and collaborate in identifying actionable solutions that can assist in successfully deploying diverse types of distributed wind projects and reducing soft costs. The project aims to increase awareness of the potential benefits of distributed wind, reduce the market barriers for the adoption of these technologies in rural areas, and provide tools and resources for rural utilities to analyze the feasibility of deploying distributed wind in their service territories.

Participants in the RADWIND Member Stakeholder Group will have the opportunity to be on the frontline of this research, provide input, gain understanding of wind generation opportunities and challenges, and be among the first to use the tools and resources developed through this project.

¹ *This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Wind Energy Technologies Office Award Number DE-EE0008958.*

² In this Advisory, “cooperatives” and “co-ops” are used as shorthand, but participation by NRECA’s rural public power and other utility members is open and encouraged.

Our related RADWIND [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) (FAQ) provides further details about this project and participation opportunity. Cooperatives interested in joining the RADWIND Member Stakeholder Group are asked to **provide expression of interest to RadwindProject@nreca.coop**.

Project Team

NRECA is the lead for the project team that consists of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Hoss Consulting, and Mana Group LLC. The research is funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Wind Energy Technologies Office - which aims to maximize stakeholder confidence in turbine performance and safety and improve project performance, while reducing installed cost in order to be competitive with retail electric rates and other forms of distributed generation.

Resources for More Information on RADWIND and Distributed Wind

- **RADWIND Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** <https://www.cooperative.com/programs-services/bts/Documents/Fact%20Sheets/FAQ-RADWIND-Project-and-Participation-Oct-2020.pdf>
- **DOE Selects NRECA for Wind Energy Research Initiative**, NRECA Press Release (October 2019) <https://www.electric.coop/doe-selects-nreca-for-wind-energy-research-initiative/>
- **2020 TechAdvantage Distributed Wind Session** presentation: [https://www.cooperative.com/programs-services/bts/Documents/Distributed%20Wind%20in%20Rural%20America%20\(TechAdvantage%202020\).pdf](https://www.cooperative.com/programs-services/bts/Documents/Distributed%20Wind%20in%20Rural%20America%20(TechAdvantage%202020).pdf)
- **Frequently Asked Questions on Small Distributed Wind Systems**, U.S. DOE, EERE <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/frequently-asked-questions-small-distributed-wind-systems>
- **Workshop Report: Wind Innovations for Rural Economic Development (WIRED)**, U.S. DOE, EERE <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/01/f58/WIRED%20Workshop%20Report-010219-final.pdf>
- **2018 Distributed Wind Market Report**, U.S. DOE, EERE <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/08/f65/2018%20Distributed%20Wind%20Market%20Report.pdf>
- **Distributed Wind Energy** (website), U.S. DOE, EERE <https://windexchange.energy.gov/markets/distributed>
- **Distributed Wind** (website), U.S. DOE, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory <https://wind.pnnl.gov/distributedwind.asp>
- **Distributed Wind Research** (website), U.S. DOE, National Renewable Energy Laboratory <https://www.nrel.gov/wind/distributed-wind.html>
- **Distributed Wind Energy Association** (website) <https://distributedwind.org/>

Contacts for More Information and How to Participate

Project Team: RadwindProject@nreca.coop

Michael Leitman, RADWIND Project Manager / NRECA Senior Analyst, Economics & Business
michael.leitman@nreca.coop (703) 907-5864