

Comments to the Energy Policy Review Commission
Louise M. Grabowski
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I am a resident and electric ratepayer in Massachusetts. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft of the Commission's report.

Energy Efficiency

I support the promotion of energy efficiency policy and programs in the Commonwealth. The effectiveness of such programs is capable of measurement and it costs a fraction of the price of power generation. As described in The 2010 Report of the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council, energy efficiency is considered the "first fuel."

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/energy-efficiency/eeac-2010-report-ee-advisory-council.pdf>

Expanding Renewable Energy

Wind energy has not been proved to be a cost-effective or reliable mechanism for procuring energy. Since wind power is intermittent, unpredictable, and therefore unreliable, backup is needed from reliable conventional generation sources, which must be running or ready to provide power when wind decreases or quits. While fast-starting power plants could be added to the energy mix, they are less efficient in fuel use and emissions.

Studies have shown that fuel use and emissions remain about the same after implementation of wind power and sometimes even increase. In the end, ratepayers would pay for these units to run or be ready to run. <http://www.forbes.com/2011/07/19/wind-energy-carbon.html>

Currently, electricity prices in Massachusetts are among the highest in the nation. Adding expensive wind power and additional transmission lines would raise rates, making us even more economically non-competitive with other states.

http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_5_6_a

In its *2012 Regional System Plan*, ISO New England (ISO) forecasted the region's overall electricity demand to grow at a rate of 0.9% annually over the next decade. One must ask, is more high-priced power needed?

http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/grid_mkts/key_facts/final_newengland_profile_2012-13.pdf

Energy efficiency and conservation, not more power plants, including wind plants, are far more cost effective and practical for both businesses and households given the electric needs of the Commonwealth, even accounting for some predicted natural gas constraints.

http://www.epa.gov/oar/caaac/coaltech/2007_05_mckinsey.pdf

Respectfully submitted,

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