

Renewable Energy Markets Conference 2012

Markets and Trading: Regional Perspectives

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September 25, 2012



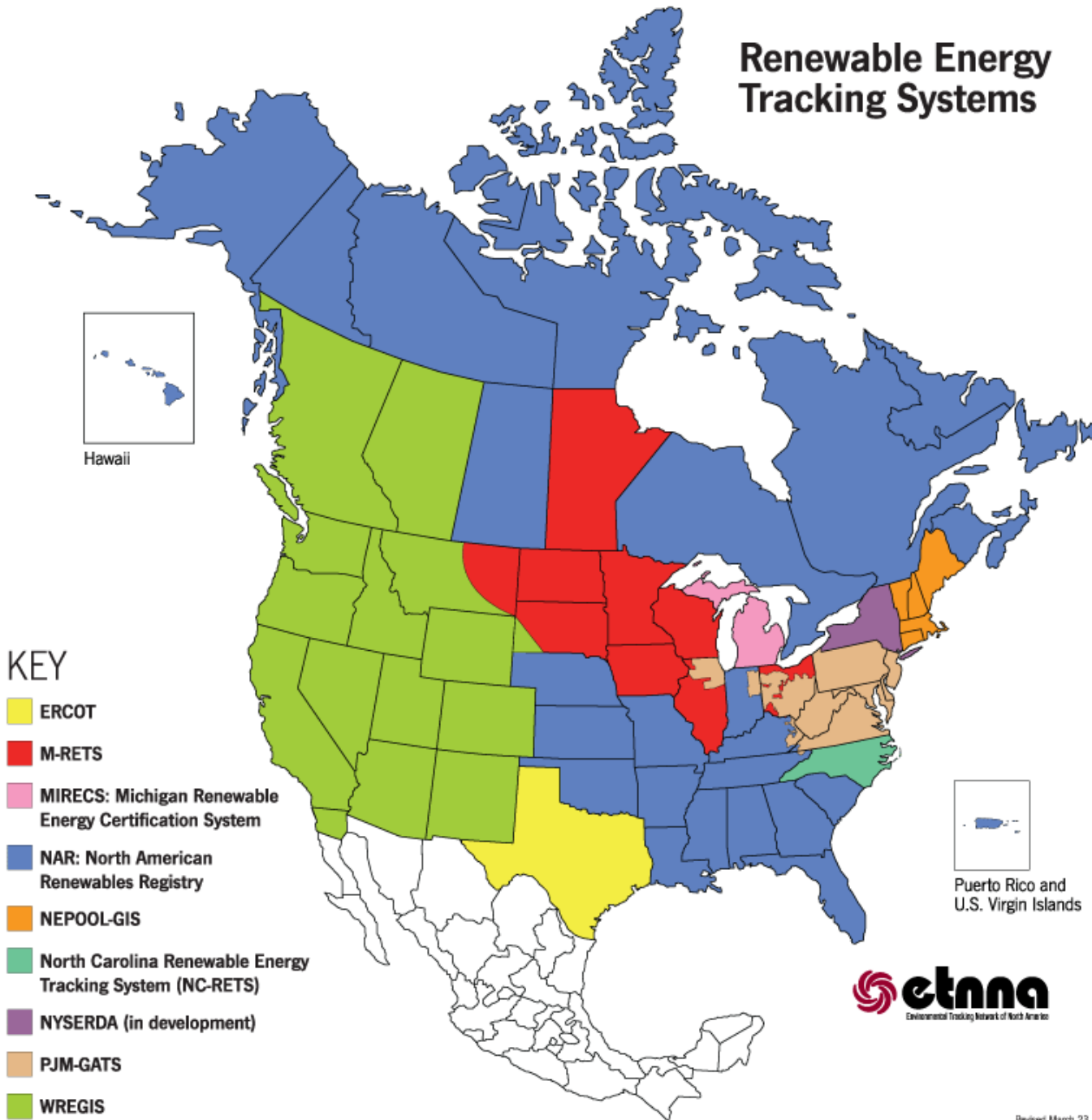
Outline

- * M-RETS Overview
- * How M-RETS Inc. is serving its oversight role
- * Soliciting M-RETS stakeholder feedback
- * Improving M-RETS
- * Plans for the future

M-RETS Overview

- * Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS)
 - * Tracks renewable energy generation in the Midwest region
 - * Assists in verifying compliance with individual state/provincial or voluntary Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and objectives
 - * Verifies production data for participating generators
 - * Creates/tracks RECs in the form of tradable digital certificates for each MWh of renewable energy
- * M-RETS Footprint: 8 US states (WI, MN, IA, SD, ND, IL, MT, OH) and Manitoba

Renewable Energy Tracking Systems



M-RETS Overview

- * M-RETS, Inc. is the regional nonprofit that contracts for and oversees operation of the M-RETS registry
 - * 501(c)(4) Wisconsin nonprofit corporation
- * M-RETS, Inc. Board meets monthly:
 - * Gov't staff from WI, MN, IA, SD, ND, MB
 - * Electric providers - IOU, Muni, Co-op
 - * RE Marketer (open); RE Nonprofit
- * Currently has 1 staff person, housed in St. Paul, MN
 - * Hiring a Technical Specialist this Fall

M-RETS Overview

- * M-RETS System Administrator (APX, Inc.) runs day-to-day operation of the registry
- * M-RETS Subscriber Group meets quarterly
 - * Provides venue for Subscriber feedback
 - * Subscribers get updates from M-RETS Inc. and Administrator

M-RETS Inc.'s Role

From the M-RETS Inc. Bylaws:

- * Oversee operation and administration of M-RETS registry
 - * Ensure M-RETS system reflects policy objectives of participating states and provinces
 - * Ensure the system allows regulators to review & verify compliance
 - * Track relevant information and make information available to the general public
 - * Verify production data, create RECs
 - * Encourage development of renewable energy through facilitating the tradability of RECs for the public good
- Currently working on developing a succinct Mission Statement

M-RETS Action Plan 2011-2012

1) **Import/Export**

- Identify priority tracking systems to focus on
- Develop technical requirements and minimum standards

2) **Data Needs**

- Obtain & analyze data on registry costs & usage
- Determine whether REC data in the system is accessible and user friendly

3) **Subscriber Value**

- Identify and be responsive to needs of M-RETS subscribers
- Coordinated stakeholder survey

4) **Nuclear Change Request**

- Analyzed stakeholder Change Request

5) **Management**

- Create and implement organizational policies for the M-RETS, Inc. nonprofit





Soliciting Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholder Survey

- * Worked with Center for Survey Research at Univ. of MN
- * Survey sent out to 145 stakeholder organizations
- * Data collected for 1 month in early Summer 2012
- * Responses collected anonymously, one per organization
- * 70% response rate for key stakeholders (largest accountholders)

Stakeholder Survey

Stakeholders surveyed:

- * Electric providers (muni, co-op and IOU)
- * Environmental Commodities/REC Brokers
- * Independent Power Producers or other large generators
- * Distributed generators or aggregators of distributed generation
- * Qualified Reporting Entities (data reporting)
- * State and provincial governments
- * Nonprofits interested in verification of renewable energy

Stakeholder Survey

Questions covered:

- * Effectiveness of M-RETS system, website, communications
- * Possibility of tracking other attributes in M-RETS
- * Import/export of RECs
- * Areas currently targeted for system improvements
- * Alternative fee structure options
- * Subscriber Group meetings, leadership structure
- * Challenges for distributed generation facilities in M-RETS
- * Functions used by government stakeholders
- * Value of M-RETS to the stakeholder

Stakeholder Survey

- * Survey results reviewed in detail by Board
- * Many suggestions for registry & website improvements
- * Will be used to guide future action on:
 - * Detailed technical issues
 - * Prioritizing among various stakeholder needs
 - * Broad issues of organizational scope

Improving M-RETS

Enhancement Committee

- * Change Request Process – historical
 - * Addressed specific requests piecemeal
 - * Many changes were made, but they were all very specific fixes
- * Wanted a more holistic approach
 - * Possible synergies, similarities in various ideas for changes
 - * Interest in making the system much more efficient for users

Enhancement Committee

- * Created an Enhancement Committee (Fall, 2011)
 - * Solicited change request “ideas” – didn’t have to be detailed
 - * Categorized, prioritized & combined various trains of thought
 - * Committee members developed high priority ideas into Change Requests to be costed out by APX
 - * Subscribers (utility, etc) and government representatives on cmtc
- * APX proposed “system overhaul” as an alternative approach
 - * Committee currently evaluating system overhaul option
 - * Committee will make recommendation to M-RETS Inc. regarding implementation



Plans for the Future

Future M-RETS Activities

- * M-RETS, Inc. Annual Board Meeting – October 15, 2012
 - * Long term strategic planning – goals, priorities, plans for the next 3-5 years
- * In-person Subscriber Group Meeting – October 16, 2012
 - * Bloomington, MN (near MSP airport)
 - * Please let us know if you would like to attend!
- * Subscriber Group leadership elections – December 5, 2012

Other Future Opportunities

- * More interaction, collaboration with other tracking systems
 - * What can we learn from each other?
 - * Identify common challenges, brainstorm about solutions
- * Further engagement with Subscribers and other stakeholders
 - * In-person events at conferences, etc.
 - * We want to really know our stakeholders & be accessible to them!

Contact Information

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