



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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A Joint Meeting of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

November 29, 2016

**Meeting Location: Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1200
St. Paul, Minnesota
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Germany's Energy Transition: Lessons Learned and Next Steps

AGENDA

General

This special joint informational meeting of the Environmental Quality Board and the Public Utilities Commission will take place in Room 1200 of the Minnesota Senate Building located at 95 University Ave. W, Saint Paul, MN 55155. For directions and parking information, please visit the [building website](#).

- I. Introductions**
- II. Presenters from Germany on Germany's Lessons Learned and Current Steps**
- III. What's Next in Minnesota Energy Policy**
- IV. Adjourn**



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ANNOTATED AGENDA

General

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I. Introductions

MC: Beverly Jones Heydinger
Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Background:

Since 2011, Minnesota policymakers have participated in a transatlantic partnership with Germany to share information about experiences and policies shaping change in the energy system. Germany is a world leader in the energy transition, and is now moving forward with its next phase. Germany's goal is 45% renewable electric generation by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Minnesota, on the other hand, is exceeding its targets prescribed in the renewable portfolio standard, but is not on track to meet its next generation energy act targets for greenhouse gas reduction. So far Germany has successfully handled the accelerating increase in renewables but transmission congestion is increasing. In June, Germany introduced another reform of the renewable energy act. It emphasizes the linkage between the need to strengthen Germany's grid infrastructure and the continuing build-out of renewable generation. What are the limits to increasing renewable energy? In June 2016, a delegation of energy experts traveled to Germany to speak with leading experts about challenges and opportunities. A delegation of German

leaders will present to the PUC and EQB in a joint session, and a panel of Minnesota policy experts will respond and discuss future trends and opportunities for Minnesota's energy system.

II. Presenters from Germany on Germany's Lessons Learned and Current Steps

MC: Beverly Jones Heydinger
Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Presenter: Dr. Harry Lehmann
Division Head, Environmental Planning and Sustainability Strategies
Germany's Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

Dr. Lehmann will review the history of Germany's energy transition, the political forces involved, its acceleration especially since 2009, and some of the challenges. He will also explain the role of Germany's Federal Environment Agency in helping shape government policy.

Presenter: Dr. Annegret Groebel
Director of International Coordination
Germany's Federal Network Agency (BNetzA)

Dr. Groebel will address one of the challenges in Germany's energy transition – the need to significantly expand the grid to accommodate new RE generation growth. She will also talk about the role of distributed generation and the distributed network.

Presenter: Jens Acker
Counselor, Energy and Climate Policy
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Washington D.C.

Mr. Acker will address the recent new tendering tools introduced in the energy transition and the effort to increase the role of markets in Germany's next phase of the transition to a clean economy. He will also mention the latest moves in Germany's federal energy legislation. Importantly, many of the energy policy decisions that are taken at the state level in the USA are handled in Germany at Germany's federal level.

Moderated Discussion:

There will be a moderated discussion with the three presenters.

III. What's Next in Minnesota Energy Policy

MC: Beverly Jones Heydinger
Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Presenter: Rolf Nordstrom
President & CEO
Great Plains Institute

Mr. Nordstrom will briefly summarize the energy/climate ‘state of play’ globally, what his participation in three MN delegation trips to Germany has driven home, and the opportunities and implications for MN’s energy policy and long term prosperity, including some highlights from MN’s 2025 Energy Action Plan.

Presenter: Amy Koch
Chair
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum

Chair Amy Koch will present market-based ideas about how to harness economic forces to speed innovation in energy technology and increase the rate of adoption of renewable energy.

Presenter: Mike Bull
Director of Policy and Communications
Center for Energy and Environment

As a principal architect of Governor Pawlenty’s Next Generation Energy Initiative in 2007, Mr. Bull will talk about the electricity supply transition that Minnesota has successfully implemented over the past decade, and provide insight into Minnesota’s profound clean energy opportunity of the next 20 years.

Moderated Discussion:

There will be a moderated discussion with the three presenters.

IV. Adjourn