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# **EPA Green Power Partnership Webinar on REC Tracking Systems**

**April 30, 2015**

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# Overview

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- M-RETS Overview
- Comparison with other systems
- Stakeholder outreach and engagement
- Highlights of 111 (d) efforts

# M-RETS Overview and Stakeholder Roots

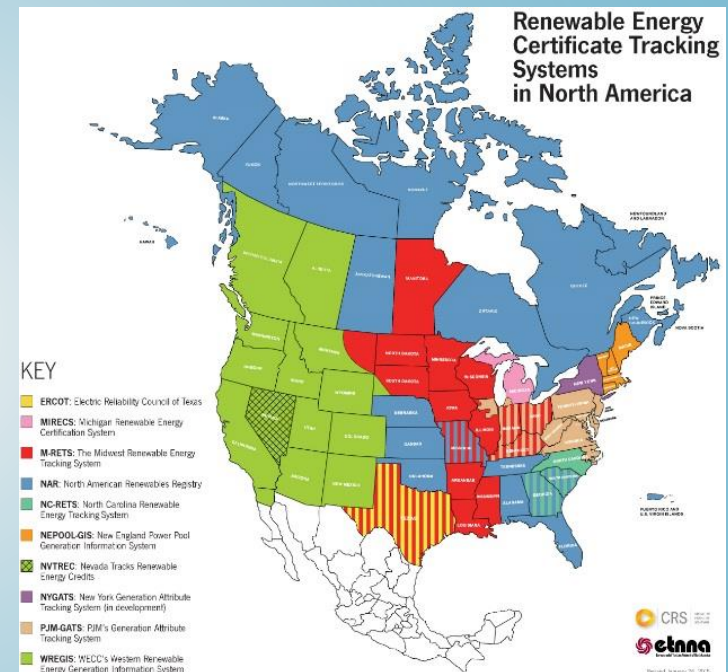
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- **Mission:** M-RETS efficiently tracks and verifies renewable energy generation in collaboration with stakeholders, facilitating renewable energy development in the public interest.
- Independent, quasi-governmental, non-profit
- Developed out of stakeholder process with help of regulators, generation owners, utilities and renewable advocates



# Verification and Validation Services

- M-RETS primarily operates in the MISO footprint
- In response to stakeholder request, recently approved tracking of generation in AR, LA, KY, MO, MS, and TX
- M-RETS is regional, spreads costs over many users, resulting in efficient use of ratepayer dollars




# Primary Stakeholders

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- State and provincial government renewable program administrators (regulators)
- Voluntary program administrators
- Renewable energy advocates
- Account Holders (fees paid for annual subscription and \$0.005/REC to issue, \$0.015/REC to retire)
  - Electric providers (muni, co-op and IOU)
  - Environmental Commodities/REC Brokers
  - Independent Power Producers or other large generators
  - Distributed generators and/or aggregators
  - Qualified Reporting Entities (data reporting)

# Balancing the Needs of Stakeholders

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- ~70% of activity is driven by regulatory compliance
  - RPS's in MN, WI, IL are top drivers
- Growth in the voluntary markets   
Green-e®
  - Offer a bulletin board where buyers and sellers can connect
  - Not a trading or clearing system, not tracking REC prices
  - Distributed Generation
    - Working with community to learn how their needs are different than traditional accounts
    - Cut fees in half the last two years to address different economics of smaller projects

# Key Functions: Emphasis on Preventing Double Counting

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- ❖ Verification of production data for participating generators
  - ❖ Account Holder must attest that unit is not registered in any other registry.
- ❖ Only tracking renewable energy
- ❖ Investigating tracking all generation and carbon to meet stakeholder needs for 111(d)

# Functionality Modified Frequently to Meet Needs of Changing Policies

| Account Holder             | ACME                               | ACME  | ACME                               |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Sub Account                | StateX Renewable Energy Compliance | StateX Renewable Energy Compliance                        | StateX Renewable Energy Compliance |
| Retirement Types           | RPS                                | RPS   | RPS                                |
| M-RETS ID                  | M465                               | M763  | M529                               |
| Generating Facility        | Milam - Milam                      | Rolling Hills Wind Farm III - Rolling Hills Wind Farm III | Buffalo Ridge I - Buffalo Ridge I  |
| Fuel Type                  | Biomass                            | Wind  | Wind                               |
| Certificate Vintage        | Apr-11                             | Jan-13  | Apr-09                             |
| Certificate Serial Numbers | 465-IL-04-2011-14905-1 to 1531     | 763-IA-01-2013-25475-15426 to 16167                       | 529-SD-04-2009-6309-1 to 1040      |
| Quantity                   | 1531                               | 742   | 1040                               |
| IL Utility                 | Yes                                | Yes   | Yes                                |
| IL ARES                    | Yes                                | Yes   | Yes                                |
| IA                         | No                                 | No  | No                                 |
| MN                         | No                                 | No  | Yes                                |
| ND                         | No                                 | No  | No                                 |
| SD                         | No                                 | No  | No                                 |
| WI RPS                     | No                                 | No  | No                                 |
| Green-e Energy             | No                                 | Yes   | Yes                                |



# Policy Driven and Position Neutral

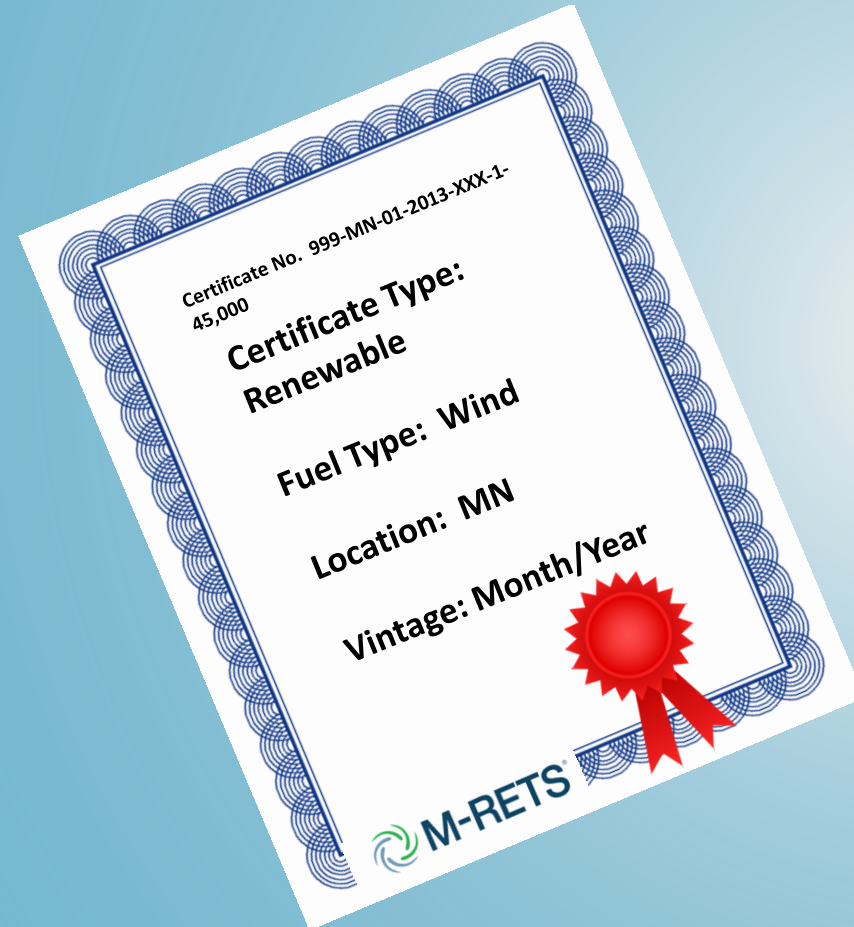
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- Board-approved and stakeholder-informed Operating Procedures govern the registry
- No advocacy at state legislatures
- M-RETS does not determine eligibility for state or voluntary programs
  - A generating unit is considered "renewable" if the energy generated is considered renewable by jurisdiction
  - Services are tailored to each state's RPS compliance, all with their own definitions of eligible renewable energy

# 1 MWh Renewable Energy = 1 whole Certificate

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In M-RETS, a “Whole Certificate” is one where **none of the renewable attributes have been separately sold, given, or otherwise transferred** to another party by a deliberate act of the Certificate owner.



# Data Sources

| <b>Data</b>                              | <b>Source</b>  | <b>Comment</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| Generator Output (MWh)                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Midwest ISO Settlement</li><li>• Qualified Reporting Entity (QRE)</li><li>• Self-reporting</li></ul> | QRE and self-reporting are options if MISO data not available     |
| Fuel Sources / Generator Characteristics | Generator Entered – M-RETS Admin Verified  | Information such as fuel type(s), vintage, capacity, location etc |
| RPS Eligibility (by State/Province)      | Generator Entered – Regulator Verified   | State certification number required                               |

# How is M-RETS Data Tracked and Reported for Regulators?

For maximum transparency for regulators, provide accounts where Staff can:

- Review and manage project eligibilities
- Verify compliance retirements
- Review all RECs issued

## Compliance Report

- Verify REC Retirement Detail
- Review Summary of Retirements by Account Holder

## Certificate Look-up Report

- View & Sort All RECs Issued
- Track Current REC Ownership

## Program Eligibility Report

- Review Project Registration
- Edit Project Eligibility

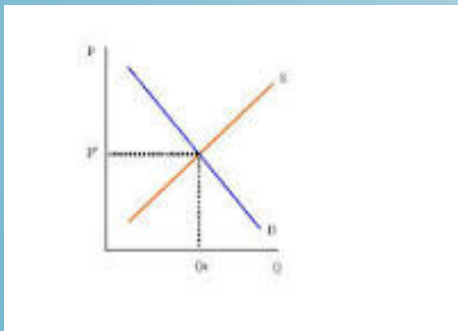
## Generator Production Report

- View Generation Loaded for all projects

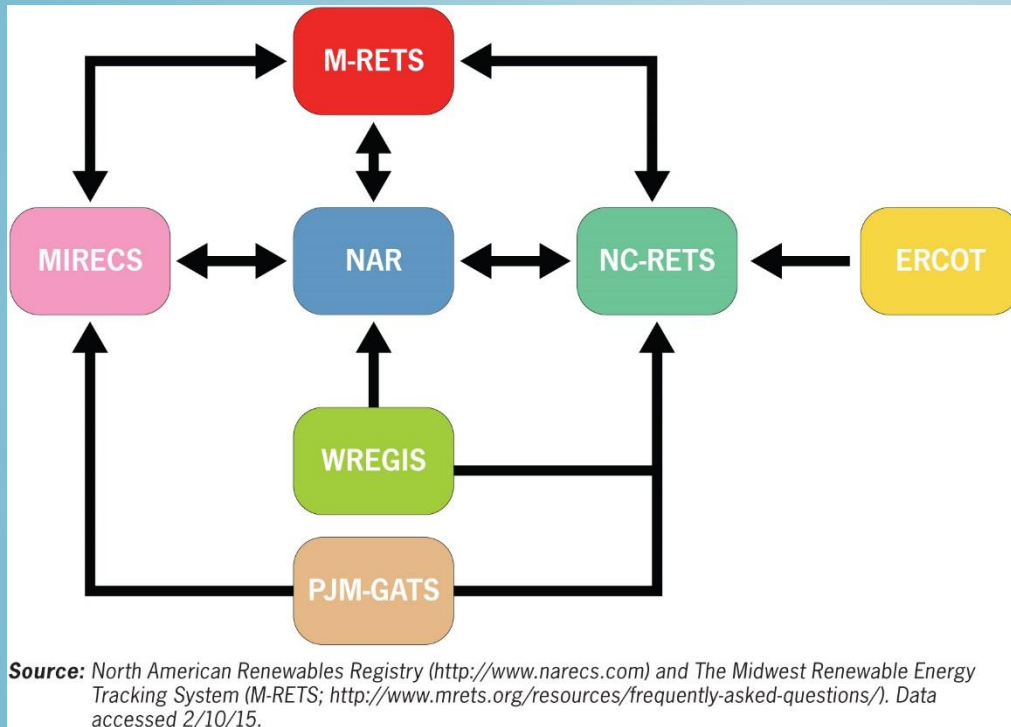
# RPS Impacts on REC Markets

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- M-RETS does not set REC prices or track price data
- For the most part in M-RETS footprint, REC price determined in the marketplace by supply and demand.
  - MN PUC community solar compensation rate is a first
  - ~\$1/REC typical average price in Midwest



# RE Trading and Registry Transfers



- 81% compounded AGR of exports from 2010-2014 between M-RETS and other registries
- MIRECS, NC and NARR imports approved summer 2014

# Seeking Stakeholder Input on Clean Power Plan Services

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- Asking stakeholders how M-RETS can be of service for compliance reporting
- Communicating with regulators how RECs can fit into compliance and count for compliance



- To answer stakeholder questions, **examining potential roles M-RETS could play in helping states measure, verify and track reductions in carbon intensity**

# Thank You & Contact Information



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