

US To Decide Which Agency Oversees Renewable Standard

The United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, not the Department of Energy, should oversee the administration of a national renewable portfolio standard if one is brought in, FERC member Jon Wellinghoff says. “I think FERC would be a better place to administer that statute.” Wellinghoff adds that making sure utilities use more power sourced from renewable generation is a “regulatory function”, and FERC is a regulatory agency. “That is the main issue,” he says. If the RPS is not administered correctly by an agency like FERC, “it has the potential to spin out of control”, he adds. Wellinghoff says he has spoken with DOE on the topic, but has not talked to FERC chairman Joseph Kelliher, which he says he plans and needs to do if FERC wants to convince Congress to change provisions in any energy bill that would DOE responsibility for the RPS. A current House of Representative’s version of pending energy legislation would require utilities to source at least 15 per cent of their electricity from renewable generation.

[Source esaa news]