

MINENERGO PROMISES RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO SUBMIT IN APRIL PROPOSALS UPON MARKET PRICE PREMIUM AND REMUNERATION OF EXPENSES OVER TECHNICAL CONNECTION FOR RENEWABLE SOURCES GENERATION

The round table "Using alternative energy" took place at Federation Council in Russian Federal Assembly on February 25.

Even though this event formally occurred in the frame of Committee upon natural monopolies, the Council Federation Chairman Sergey Mironov participated in the discussions along with the Committee Chairman Nicolay Ryzhkov and his 1st Deputy Valentin Mezhevich. His interest in alternative energy Mr. Mironov grounded by several reasons. It's obvious that in the future the hydrocarbon store will come to an end and it's logical to start switching to other types of fuel now. "This is a real catastrophe, - said Mironov. - Renewable stocks are not increasing. We construct pipelines, but what will be going through them in a couple of years?" Among other reasons for turning to RES the Federation Council speaker mentioned forecasts of Russian climate experts upon the coming cold snap. But regardless the direct commission by Russian President Medvedev to exploit and introduce new types of fuel and regardless objective demand on alternative energy, Mironov concluded: we've got and we will have serious counteraction by oil lobbying to RES development. How can we protect the arising industrial branch? According to Sergey Mironov, a law upon RES is needed and during the round-table the speaker wanted to hear specific born in suffering proposals from scientists and practical workers.

The Senator Nicolay Ryzhkov noted that "we've been deprived by natural reaches". But even the Nobel winner academician Semenov warned in 1972 that we should start considering new sources of energy as in hundred years we should switch to them. From that date a little bit less time has passed than the scientist mentioned. But "things haven't budged an inch"+

During the round-table the scientists and practical workers once again stated that wind power had been dynamically developing around the globe. In 2009 installed capacity reached almost 158 mln. KWh. USA takes the lead in installed capacity while China takes the first place on capacity growth. Many numbers were mentioned and they were not in favour of RES development in Russia. For instance, in all Russia only 100 engineers - domestic graduates - specialize in RES, while the need is in 4000 specialists per year.

And now back to the foremost. Several wind parks are currently operating in Russia and dozens of new sites are discovered where wind monitoring is carried out, business-plans are prepared. This means that very soon the projects will be proposed to investors. But as RAWI President Igor Bryzgunov noted, if sub-legal enactments would not be authorized one could put an end to these projects.

All questions on sub-legal enactments should be addressed to Minenergo. A basic energy law - Ф3-35 "Upon electricity energy" - that was authorized 2.5 years ago, hasn't functioned yet. All this time Minenergo has been drafting sub-legal enactments upon the order of defining the premium to the balanced market price and upon remunerating the costs of technical connection to the grids. According to Mariya Korznikova Deputy Director of Department on state energy policy and energy efficiency at Minenergo, these documents should be submitted to the Russian Government in April. The industry is awaiting their authorization. Even if the premium will be 2.5 rubles per 1 KWh except 4.30, it will also be a huge push-up for the industry development.

Billions investments mean new production facilities, new working places, development of additional services: transport, construction, assembling and maintenance. Steel towers (200 tons) could be manufactured only on site. Along with towers wind power requires plastic blades, wind unit control systems and electrical generators. In 50-60ies all this was manufactured in Russia (Dnepropetrovsk rocket plants, GosMKB "Raduga" in Dubna etc), but it all died out as "big" energy development came into focus. As RAWI vice-president Anatoliy Kopylov reports, every additional percentage increase in alternative energy sources means further changes in the industry structure as opposed to traditional energy.

As to the society as a whole wind power support means a profit and not a loss. If we account, that alternative energy will gain 2.5% in the country's energy balance, then each ruble spent will bring 1,39 rubles profit (including taxes and export duties on oil saved as it's displaced by alternative energy sources). The multiple effect of RES introduction is as follows: 1% RES energy leads to additional 1.5% GDP (Gross domestic product) growth and 3% inflation decrease.

For all that ambiguity of alternative energy development in Russia, we have got the ready-made high quality premium schemes: not a fixed tariff but "price+premium" model. Our ground-works were highly evaluated by Germans moreover that RES legislation was authorized in Germany 20 years ago and is periodically amended. There's only one question: when Russian Minenergo will really assist that this theory comes into practice?