



Date:

Friday, March 26, 2010

Time:

5:05 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.

Presentation:

***“NextGen Weather ForeCast Technology -
Impact On Wind Energy Industry”***

Ben Zimmerman

Director of Weather Services, Weather Central LLC

Documented large and expensive denied delay claims have found that companies failed to accurately certify weather impacts into their schedule that changed the critical path of a project. Because of their physical environment and location wind energy companies are greatly impacted. During any given year adverse weather conditions can cost a company as much as 30% of the annual calendar. Every wind energy project site experiences some delays due to inclement weather. An inspection of lost construction days on a typical construction project suggests that all weather-sensitive actions are vulnerable to the same undesirable conditions for any given month. However, wind energy construction sites are sensitive to different combinations of weather and also to varying degrees of those combinations. For example, trenching and creation of concrete footings are more sensitive to rain than the wind turbine erection phase which is more impacted by high winds at multiple elevation. Without an accurate tool to predict the likely effects of weather conditions on any particular activity, a project manager must rely on personal experience and historic familiarity of what happened before on comparable jobs in comparable climates. Today's wind energy industry leaders implement dependable technology tools that will identify problems proactively to get the jobs done on time without additional needless liability. A software solution that correctly evaluates and predicts the likely effects of weather for a wind energy project supervisor will greatly reduce storm-related risks and result in minimizing cost overruns.

Presenter Biographies:

Ben Zimmerman

Ben Zimmerman has spent nearly his entire life studying the effects and results of weather on our world and how it affects how we live, work, and play. Ben is the Director of Weather Services and Director of Enterprise Business Development with Weather Central LLC in Madison, WI. He has broad experience in weather-related data, technology and application. Ben expertise ranges from consumer-level weather applications to highly specialized weather modeling and data APIs. His primary focuses are on Safety and Emergency Management, Renewable Energy and Corporate Operations. Weather Central LLC is the longest running and most respected weather technology and forecasting firm in the United States.