

Perry Sioshansi's Letter from America

US wind's growing footprint

While the European wind industry was celebrating its great success at its annual conference in early March 2014, its US counterpart—the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)—announced the wind's growing contribution, generating 167mn MWh in 2013, a new record—accounting for roughly 4% of US generation. More important, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), wind accounted for 30% of new generating capacity installed over the last five years.

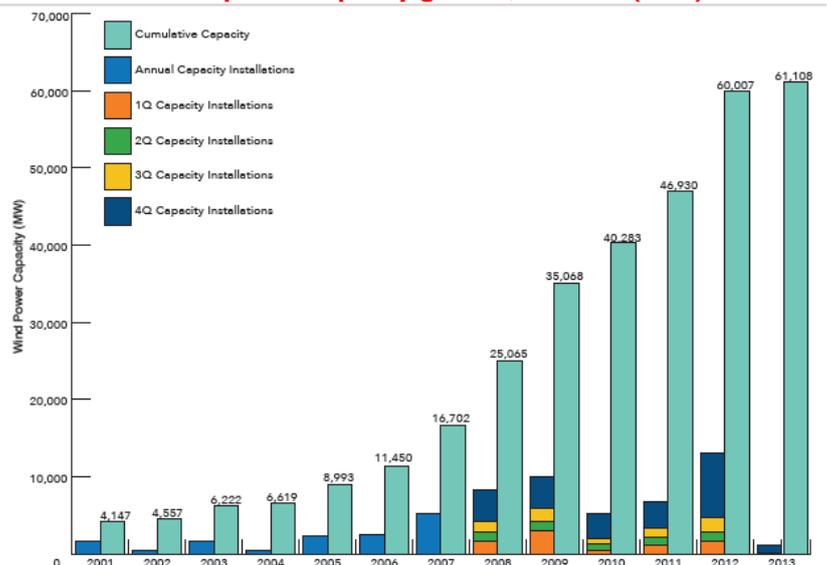
The aggregate data tends to mask regional differences among the states. AWEA reports that nine states currently get more than 12% of their electricity from wind power, while 17 states exceed 5%. Iowa and South Dakota are on top, with 27 and 26% of their electricity from wind, respectively (see *table right*).

Texas remains the state with the biggest installed capacity, nearly 12.5 GW, followed by California with 5.8 GW at the end of 2013 (see *map below*).

The US wind industry has gone through a number of boom and bust cycles as PTC and other subsidy schemes are introduced and allowed to expire. 2012 was a boom year as developers rushed to meet the deadline for PTC's expected expiration.

For now, most observers expect the future growth of wind to be driven primarily by the prevailing renewable portfolio standards (RPS) as well as gradual improvements in technology such as sturdier, bigger, taller turbines resulting in higher efficiencies and lower costs.

**Not growing like the old days now that PTC has expired
US wind power capacity growth, 2001-13 (MW)**



Source: AWEA

US wind power capacity installations by state

