Energy Generation, Purchasing, & Distribution SWATeam meeting notes

2/16/2016

* Working on Proposal: Allow longer contracts for purchasing electricity
  + Current Illinois law prohibits purchasing of contracts more than 10 years for coal, fuel oil, and natural gas.
    - Interpreted to include electricity, even though not explicitly stated
    - Law dates from at least 1921
      * Might not even have been possible to purchase electricity contracts at the time
  + Longer contracts would allow for better prices on wind PPA’s
    - But by how much? Morgan might know
* Biomass consultation group first meeting on Friday at noon
  + Will allow to bring together knowledge on campus
  + Some biomass projects include
    - Dedicated biomass firing at Abbott
    - Co-Firing with coal at Abbott
      * Woodchip study has been done
      * Sometimes GMO crops destroyed at Abbott
      * Miscanthus has not been burned
        + How much would this change emissions?
    - Algae
      * Small footprint
      * Research ongoing at Illinois Sustainable technology center
      * Small greenhouse on Curtis
      * Typically a liquid fuel replacement
      * Similar to solar in that it uses sunlight
* Potential Proposal: all buildings should have solar panels
  + - Easiest to do when buildings are new
      * Can be designed for more easily
    - Separate proposal for existing buildings
    - Some obstacles might exist
      * Potential increased maintenance
      * Potential architectural objections