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National News

NREL Ranks Leading Utility Green Power Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) released its annual ranking of leading utility green power programs. Under these voluntary programs, consumers can choose to help support additional electricity production from renewable resources. More than 600 utilities across the United States offer these programs. Ranked by renewable energy sales, the green power program of Austin (Texas) Energy is first in the nation, followed by Portland General Electric, Florida Power & Light, PacifiCorp and Xcel Energy. Ranked by customer participation rates, the top utilities are City of Palo Alto (Calif.) Utilities, Lenox (Iowa) Municipal Utilities, Montezuma (Iowa) Municipal Light & Power, Portland General Electric, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District. (See attached tables for additional rankings). In 2006, total utility green power sales exceeded 3.5 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh), about a 30% increase over 2005. More than 500,000 customers are participating in utility programs nationwide, up more than 10% from 2005. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2007/506.html>.*

Order 890 to Impact Western Transmission Lines

On March 27, the Western Governors' Association (WGA), the National Wind Coordinating Committee (NWCC) and the National Association of Regulatory and Utility Commissioners (NAURC) presented an online conference called "FERC Order 890: What it Means for the West." Order 890's goal is "to ensure that transmission services are provided on a basis that is just, reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential." According to speakers at the conference, the biggest change in the West is going to be the mandated implementation of measures designed to make the region's transmission system more efficient and usable by new generators planning projects or coming online. Opening up transmission planning processes is also a focus of Order 890. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.energyprospects.com/>.*

More Americans Support Tougher Emissions Laws

A record high number of Americans support setting stricter emissions standards for automobiles, business, and industry, according to a Gallup poll. Seventy-nine percent of respondents to the sixth annual environmental survey said they favored the higher standards for automobiles, business, and industry; and 79 percent support imposing mandatory controls on greenhouse gas emissions at 79 percent. Overall, the poll shows support for stronger environmental regulations rebounding from a slight decrease last year, Gallup said. "Last year's survey was conducted at a time of rising gas prices, which may have dampened Americans' willingness to support environmental policies presumed to drive fuel costs even higher," the polling organization said in its analysis. Without that factor in play, Americans' support declined for

nuclear power and oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Gallup noted. Forty-one percent of respondents favored opening up ANWR, an 8-point decline in support from 2006. A majority of poll respondents opposed energy exploration in the wildlife refuge. In the case of nuclear energy, this year's poll showed Americans to be almost evenly divided over expanding U.S. nuclear power generation, with 50 percent favoring it and 46 percent opposing it -- a 5-point decline in support from 2006 (E&ENews PM, April 7, 2006). The results have an error margin of plus or minus 3 percent.

To view the article, please visit

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=1:594571335&start=6&dateId=20070405>.

Energy Costs May Explode in Switch to Nuclear Power

After painstakingly analyzing the costs of U.S. nuclear power plants built decades ago, energy experts caution that a resurrection of nuclear power could bring along some financial risk and surprisingly high electricity costs. Researchers reporting in the most recent edition of the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* found that construction costs varied by as much as 500 percent before the last U.S. nuclear power station was built almost 30 years ago. "There is no other (energy) technology we're looking at where the range in cost is a factor of five," said Dan Kammen, professor of energy and resources and of public policy at the University of California, Berkeley. "It means that if the nuclear industry doesn't manage itself much better than in the past, we are likely to still get this large range of costs." Ordinarily, an industry learns by producing and with learning, technology gets less expensive. But researchers at UC-Berkeley, Georgetown University and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that "the case of nuclear power has been seen largely as an exception that reflects the idiosyncrasies of the regulatory environment as public opposition grew, regulations were tightened and construction times increased." *To view the article, please visit* http://www.insidebayarea.com/search/ci_5590033.

Renewable and Climate Change News

Loan Guarantee Program Should be "More Robust," According to Domenici

More than 140 companies submitted pre-applications for the Department of Energy's loan guarantees. Delays may send projects abroad, a recent Cincinnati BizJournal article reported. Interest in the loan guarantees is high "even without having a program that's worth very much," said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., the ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Domenici is disappointed the Department of Energy still isn't ready to issue any loan guarantees - Bodman said the department "will be taking a hard look" at the pre-applications and then, "as soon as possible," invite some of the companies to submit final applications. "In some cases, quick action on the loan guarantee process may make the difference between the United States gaining or losing the lead in commercializing new technologies," Domenici said. The senator also said Congress envisioned a much more robust program than the \$9 billion in loan guarantees proposed for next year. Also troubling, Domenici said, is the Bush administration's decision to limit the government guarantee to 80 percent of the loan amount instead of 80 percent of the project's total costs. This, in effect, reduces the guarantee on projects where funds besides the government-guaranteed loan are used. The lower guarantee "has dampened most, if not all, lender interest in participating in this program," said Jerome Peters Jr., senior vice president of TD Banknorth. *To view the article, please visit*

<http://cincinnati.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/stories/2007/04/02/story12.html?page=2&b=1175486400^1439872>.

Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and nine other Senators had written Secretary Bodman in August of 2006 expressing concern about geothermal energy being left out of the loan guarantee program. DOE has since indicated geothermal may be included in future loan guarantee solicitations.

IPCC Climate Panel Confident Warming Impacts Underway

On April 6, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Second Working Group “Summary for Policymakers” which is the clearest and most comprehensive scientific review to date regarding the impact of global warming on society and Earth’s ecosystems. Approximately 20-30 percent of plant and animal species are at increasing risk of extinction if the global average temperature increases by another 2.2 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the consensus report. The panel concludes “with high confidence” that human-caused warming over the last three decades “has had a discernible influence on many physical and biological systems.” While the report warns of increasing droughts, floods, heat waves, water stress, forest fires, and coastal flooding in the U.S., it finds that “many impacts can be avoided, reduced, or delayed” by quickly and significantly reducing global warming pollution.

Major findings include the following:

WATER STRESS: “Warming in western mountains is projected to cause decreased snowpack, more winter flooding, and reduced summer flows, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources.”

FOREST FIRES: “Disturbances from pests, diseases, and fire are projected to have increasing impacts on forests, with an extended period of high fire risk and large increases in area burned.”

HEAT WAVES: Cities that currently experience heat waves are expected to face “an increased number, intensity, and duration of heat waves,” threatening people’s health, particularly that of elder Americans. In addition, the report points to large-scale climate events that have the potential to “cause very large impacts,” including the at least partial deglaciation of the Greenland ice sheet, and possibly the West Antarctic ice sheet, raising sea levels by 13 to 20 feet over centuries to millennia.

“This report makes clear that we are going down a dangerous road. Fortunately, there is still time to choose. To view the article, please visit <http://www.uspirg.org/news-releases/global-warming-solutions/global-warming-solutions/worlds-scientists-global-warming-could-wipe-out-1/4-of-all-species>.

Rep. Markey Response to IPCC Report

Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, reacted to reports on the latest United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. Chairman Markey said, “In their February report, the world’s top scientists provided a scientific smoking gun that human activities were unequivocally responsible for global warming. Now they are telling us what happens when the bullet hits. This report reinforces what the public already senses: that global warming is real and we are experiencing its effects now. Congress must take action to avoid the catastrophes that a hotter world would bring. ... This scientific report also highlights our moral obligation to take immediate action to limit the impact of global warming. If temperature changes accelerate at a pace unprecedented in our history, the ability of the world to adapt will be sorely tested and those who lack wealth and technology may perish in very large numbers. The poorest people in the world, and our children and grandchildren, are the least responsible for global warming but they will suffer the greatest consequences,” continued Chairman Markey. “This Congress must rise to the challenge of transitioning from energy sources that threaten the planet and preparing for the damage we can no longer avoid. Our economic, environmental and national security depends on it.” To view the press release, please visit <http://markey.house.gov/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=2748&Itemid=125>.

Sen. Boxer Response to IPCC Report

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, made the following remarks regarding the report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) after she received a briefing by telephone from Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC:

“This powerful report confirms the very real dangers that global warming poses for us all. The effects of global warming will be felt throughout the world. Here in the United States, some of these impacts are

already happening, and the report makes clear they will only worsen over time. Our water supplies, particularly in the Western States, are threatened by reduced snowpack. Our forests are at increased risk from pests and fire. And the health effects of severe global warming will be most dangerous to our elderly and children. ...When we have faced world crises before, the United States has always taken the lead in finding solutions. The world's foremost scientists have given us the information we need. We can still avert the catastrophic impacts of global warming."

"Our committee has held six hearings on global warming, and has passed one bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by making public buildings models of energy efficiency. Our next step will be to call the EPA before the committee, since it is clear the EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, and the agency has thus far failed to do so. In the Environment and Public Works Committee, we will continue to focus on the comprehensive action needed to avert the global warming crisis." *To view the press release, please visit*

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=c80cbb7d-802a-23ad-40db-cd0137870eaf&Designation=Majority.

Rep. Gordon Markey Response to IPCC Report

Science & Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) issued the following statement on the IPCC report:

"For the first time, the world's top scientists are able to confidently attribute changes in a wide variety of ecosystems in all parts of the world to human-induced global warming. This report, a tremendous scientific achievement, delivers a powerful and sobering message about the current state of our climate system. The earth has warmed and will continue to warm through this century. ...More than 2,500 scientific expert reviewers from more than 130 countries spent six years working on the IPCC report. Improved climate models and expanded observations, data and information have enabled the IPCC to increase the level of confidence in some of their earlier findings (e.g. attribution of warming to human-induced increases in greenhouse gas concentrations). ...The Working Group I report released earlier this year confirmed with 100% confidence that global warming was occurring and 90% confidence that it was due to human activity. This Working Group II report details the affect that warming is having and will have on areas and ecosystems around the world. Though some uncertainties do remain, these reports represent a significant expansion in our knowledge of the influence of human activity on the earth's climate. Nearly 30 years since the first international scientific conference on climate suggested that human activity could be impacting the earth's climate, these reports confirm the original suspicions raised by scientists participating in the 1979 climate conference – as has every report of the IPCC from their first report in 1990, to the present.

To view the press release, please visit <http://science.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1764>.

Bush Holds Line on Global Warming Despite Ruling

President Bush said that he planned no new action to impose caps on greenhouse gases blamed for global warming despite the Supreme Court ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency must regulate US emissions. Instead, Bush pointed to his proposal to require cars to burn more gasoline made from home-grown sources like ethanol, and repeated his long-held stance that US action is meaningless without changes by China and India. "My attitude is that we have laid out a plan that will affect greenhouse gases that come from automobiles by having a mandatory fuel standard," Bush said. "In other words, there is a remedy available for Congress. And I strongly hope that they pass this remedy quickly."

Bush spoke after the highest US court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency must reconsider its 2003 refusal to regulate carbon-dioxide emissions from new cars and trucks that contribute to climate change (*see last week's Update for details*). Bush said Congress already has a solution to global warming - his proposal to require a five-fold increase in clean-burning fuel use by 2017, which also would reduce automobiles' carbon dioxide emissions. Bush has adamantly opposed mandatory caps -- warning they would cripple US industry's ability to compete with companies like India and China, which have relied heavily on cheap, dirty coal supplies to power their factories. "Unless there is an accord with China, China

will produce greenhouse gases that will offset anything we do in a brief period of time," Bush said. Bush reiterated that global warming is a "serious problem," an admission he made in his annual address to Congress in January. But Bush said for the United States to get a "good deal," it needs to work with developing nations to drive emission-reduction technology. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/41240/story.htm>.*

Remarks of Sen. Boxer on the Supreme Court's Global Warming Decision

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, released the following additional remarks on the Supreme Court decision regarding global warming:

"This decision puts the wind at our back. It takes away the excuse the administration has been using for not taking action to deal with global warming pollution. We will be calling the EPA before the committee later this month to ask them how they plan to use their authority under the Clean Air Act to begin to address the challenge of global warming. We now have a two-track process for addressing global warming – comprehensive legislation and administrative action." *To view the press release, please visit http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=b3d76008-802a-23ad-4b55-87600cd07ee3&Designation=Majority.*

Remarks of Sen. Domenici on the Supreme Court's Global Warming Decision

U.S. Senator Pete Domenici, ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has stated that he will not support climate change initiatives in the U.S. without a global agreement to curb carbon emissions that includes China and other developing nations as partners. Senator Domenici's statement:

"I applaud the President for his focus on the global nature of this challenge. The economic and environmental risks of a unilateral approach are too great. Not only are China's emissions at least equal to our own, there is a substantial likelihood that imposing restrictions on the American people will result in businesses moving to China. The net result would be exporting American jobs without reducing worldwide emissions. We would be placing our economy, our jobs, and our global competitiveness in peril. "If we are really seeking to make a positive impact on our environment, we must make sure that China, India, and other developing nations are part of the solution now." *To view the press release, please visit http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=235262&Month=4&Year=2007.*

Two-Thirds of World Worried by Warming, US Lags

More than two-thirds of the world's people are worried by global warming with Americans among the least anxious even though their nation is the top source of greenhouse gases, an opinion poll showed recently. The survey, of more than 14,000 people in 21 nations for BBC World television, showed most respondents around the world reckoned the United States was more to blame than other nations for rising temperatures. "More than two-thirds (68 percent) of the world is concerned about climate change with the South Africans (82 percent) and Brazilians (87 percent) most concerned," a statement of main findings said. At the low end of anxiety were Americans on 57 percent and Indians with 59 percent.

And the poll, by the Synovate research group, said two-thirds of all respondents reckoned the United States was more to blame than any other country for the problem. "Almost four in five Americans, however, think that no one country is to blame," it said. The United States is the top world emitter of greenhouse gases with almost a quarter of the total, ahead of China, Russia and India. In per capita terms, Americans are responsible for about 20 tonnes of greenhouse gases each per year, against a world average of below 4 tonnes. Still, the survey found 22 percent of US citizens had bought or planned to buy a smaller car -- ahead of a world average of 20 percent. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/41242/story.htm>.*

Researchers Fear Arctic Ice Recovery in Danger

Recent scientific data reveals that winter sea ice in the Arctic has failed to fully reform for the third year in a row. Walt Meier of the US National Snow and Ice Data Center, which released the satellite data on April 4, said, "We're seeing near-record lows and higher than normal temperatures. We expect the downward trend to continue in future years." NASA measurements from 1979 to 2000 show the long-term average for March sea ice is 6.1 million square miles while the Arctic sea ice in March 2007 was 5.7 million square miles and 5.6 million square miles in March 2006. Some computer models have predicted that the summer sea ice will completely disappear by the end of the century, while other scientists maintain this could occur as early as 2040. *Reported by EESI. For more information, please visit http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/climate_change/article2422640.ece.*

UN Security Council to Debate Climate Change for First Time

As the result of a British campaign pillared by a concept paper arguing that climate change could provoke new wars, change borders, disrupt energy supplies and force mass migration, the United Nations Security Council will debate climate change for the first time on April 17. The 15-member Security Council typically handles matters that deal with international war and peace. Although no statement or resolution is expected from the meeting, Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, the Security Council president, said, "The traditional triggers for conflict which exist out there are likely to be exacerbated by the effect[s] of climate change."

West Coast Leaders Pledge to Fight Climate Change Together

Pacific Coast states and British Columbia will work together to fight the effects of global warming that threaten the region's shared climate and coasts, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell said recently. California, Oregon and Washington state are spearheading efforts along the West Coast to reduce pollution through new car emissions standards, subsidies and mandates for renewable resources. Campbell said British Columbia would like to join the five-state Western Regional Climate Change Initiative, launched earlier this year by Kulongoski and the governors of Washington, California, Arizona and New Mexico, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gases. As a region, California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and New Mexico are the seventh-largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, according to the California governor's office. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007304050002>.*

Kerry, Gingrich Announce Climate Showdown

Former House Speaker and possible presidential candidate Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and 2004 Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry (Mass.) squared off on climate change recently. The debate, hosted by New York University's John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress, took place, the morning of April 10.

Kerry has been dubbed an "environmental champion" by the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters. His website touts a long record of fighting for the environment. He and his wife Teresa Heinz Kerry also recently wrote *This Moment on Earth*, which addresses climate change and preserving the environment.

Gingrich, the architect of the "Contract with America" that led to the Republican takeover of the House in 1994, recently teamed up with conservationist Terry Maple to author *A Contract with the Earth*. Like his *Contract with America*, *A Contract with the Earth*, due out Nov. 1, 2007, is based on a 10-point "contract" calling for a bipartisan approach to solving climate issues. "America should focus its energy policy in four areas," Gingrich writes on his website. "Basic research for a new energy system, incentives for conservation, more renewable resources, and environmentally sound development of fossil fuels." *To view the article, please visit <http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/kerry-gingrich-announce-climate-showdown-2007-04-05.html>.*

Legislation to Curb Emissions Crowds Agendas

Illinois recently became the latest state to announce plans to adopt its own limits, mirroring California's pledge to reduce emissions by 25 percent by 2020. California also wants to require cars and trucks to reduce greenhouse gases by burning fuel more efficiently. The effect could be dramatic because the state is such a large automobile market and the Clean Air Act allows other states to adopt standards set by California. Virtually every global warming bill in Congress relies on capping emissions and allowing companies to trade the right to release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Europe already has such a market, and several big U.S. companies, including DuPont and Motorola, are participating in a voluntary trading system called the Chicago Climate Exchange. Several major presidential candidates support the cap-and-trade system, including Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Even automakers echoed the dominant theme in Washington these days. In a statement, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said, "There needs to be a national, federal, economy-wide approach to addressing greenhouse gases."

To view the article, please visit <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chicago03apr03,1,1986717.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>.

State News

California: CEC Approves Research Funding for PG&E Transmission Planning

The California Energy Commission last month unanimously approved \$800,000 for a research project led by Pacific Gas & Electric to focus on how to reliably integrate renewable energy generation into the Northern California grid system. " This research focuses on developing a set of preferred transmission planning scenarios representing a diverse portfolio of generation technologies to supply projected electricity demand in Northern California from now to beyond 2020," a CEC staff report said. PG&E is currently looking at significant transmission investment needs to meet projected demand in the Bay Area as well as the Central Valley and wants to proactively shape transmission investment in areas that have maximum resource and grid benefit in the Northern California region," the report said. The San Francisco-based utility is investigating building a transmission line to British Columbia to access renewable energy resources, recently receiving approval to spend \$14 million on a study. Also authorized with a unanimous vote was \$575,000 for a contract for a Western Electricity Coordinating Council generation-modeling research project coordinated by the U. S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

To view the article, please visit <http://www.energyprospects.com/>.

California: L.A.'s Geothermal Transmission Plans Questioned by Some

Several Inland environmental and community groups within Los Angeles are concerned that a network of transmission towers and roads will be built along corridors that cut through sensitive areas in order to bring geothermal energy online. David Nahai, president of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, the panel that sets policy for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, said that the criticism is premature and that a full public-consultation process could begin this summer. "We're at the beginning of the public environmental-review process," Nahai said. "There will be full public discourse." However, he added, "We could've done a better job of reaching out to these groups at an earlier point." Nahai said a number of options, including building a transmission corridor that would skirt the San Bernardino National Forest, are being considered. He said that while it is impossible to build a corridor without having some environmental impact, LA officials are operating under a guiding principle to do the "least possible harm." The Green Path Project has been touted by LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa as a way for the city to rely less on fossil fuels and achieve its goal of obtaining 20 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2010. However, Nahai said construction of the transmission corridor likely won't be completed until 2011. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is investing more than \$200 million in the project. It is working with the Imperial Irrigation District and Citizens Energy, a nonprofit corporation that helps low-income residents pay their utility costs. *To view the article, please visit*

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_greenpath05.a881b5.html.

Hawai'i: Tapping Alternative Energy Difficult; Geothermal Has Significant Additional Potential

Hawai'i relies on imported fossil fuels more than any other state, with about 90 percent of Hawai'i's energy sources coming from foreign countries and most of the rest from renewable resources in 2005, according to state data. By comparison, the United States as a whole imports 30 percent of its energy, with 6 percent from renewables, according to the Energy Information Administration. In Hawai'i, a law passed last year calls for one-fifth of the state's energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. "The utilities are in a tough spot," said Mike Gresham, vice president of UPC Hawaii Wind Partners, which runs the state's largest wind farm on Maui, with 20 turbines. "Our community understands the time is now to think about these things, and yet we demand that they keep the lights on." One reliable source of clean energy for the island is geothermal energy. "We're really looking to take ourselves off the oil standard," said Barry Mizumo, a consultant for Puna Geothermal Venture, which contributes 15 percent of the Big Island's peak power capacity. "Unlike wind, geothermal is just like fossil fuel. We keep on producing." Because geothermal energy is stable, it doesn't create the same hurdles to the electricity utility companies as wind, Mizumo said. *To view the article, please visit*

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070408/NEWS11/704080352/1190/NEWS>

International News

Australia: Country Looks to Develop Geothermal

The Australian government is working on a long-term development plan for the geothermal industry. At a recent industry round table in Canberra, government representatives estimated geothermal power could supply 10 percent of the country's energy demand, The Age reported. "The success of the sector will depend on the readiness of industry, research and government to work together," Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane said. Macfarlane said geothermal is a reliable energy source, able to meet baseload power demand 24 hours a day, as opposed to solar or wind energy. It's also an alternative way to produce electricity without emitting greenhouse gases. Since 2000 the government has invested more than \$27 million in geothermal. "Large-scale geothermal power plants have the potential to substantially reduce Australia's carbon dioxide emissions," said Environment and Water Resources Minister Malcolm Turnbull. The two ministers were the co-hosts of the meeting in Canberra. *To view the article, please visit*

http://www.upi.com/Energy/australia_looks_to_develop_geothermal/20070404-112912-9761r/

Australia: Commission Considers Carbon Tax

In a submission to the Australian Prime Minister's task force on emissions trading, the Productivity Commission said a carbon tax could be introduced as a first step in cutting greenhouse emissions in Australia. "Due to its administrative simplicity, a tax has some merit as a transitional tool and could be introduced in a revenue neutral way," the Productivity Commission said. Prime Minister John Howard has opposed the introduction of a tax to curb emissions and instead left the door open to a national trading scheme. If a national trading scheme was introduced instead, the commission said the price should be constrained until an international market is in place. Commission chairman Gary Banks said, "Given the comparatively high costs of achieving abatement in Australia and our minor contribution to the global problem, any national policy initiative needs to be calibrated to the prospect and nature of an international response." *To view the article, please visit*

<http://www.pc.gov.au/research/submission/emissionstrading/mediarelease.html>

Australia: Geodynamics Finds Geothermal Resource

Hot rocks explorer Geodynamics Ltd has identified a geothermal resource in South Australia's Cooper Basin which it says has an energy output equal to 15 Snowy Mountain hydro electricity power schemes.

The resource could support the generation of in excess of 10,000 megawatts of electricity. Geodynamics chief executive Adrian Williams said with a temperature between 250 and 300 degrees, the resource contained the hottest rocks known on earth. "The temperature is critical, it is the most important economic driver and it's equivalent to the importance of gold grade," he said. Australia's Centre for International Economics says geothermal energy could generate 10 per cent of nation's electricity requirements by 2030. The centre's Sydney office director, and co-author of a report about the hot rocks energy industry, Kerry Barwise, said there is huge potential for this renewable energy source. He estimates recoverable hot rock sources across Australia could meet to the nation's current electricity consumption for the next 450 years. "If the industry grows in line with the potential resource that has been explored, the value of the gains would be about \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion per year as we get close to 2030," Mr. Barwise said. "The footprint is very small with geothermal power." *To view the article, please visit <http://news.ninensn.com.au/article.aspx?id=259989>.*

China: Xianyang Could Have Largest Direct Use Geothermal System in the World

Xianyang, China is one of the most polluted cities in a very polluted country, partly as a result of the use of coal-fired power plants. In December, engineers from both Iceland and China completed the first stage of a joint venture that could eventually provide geothermal-powered heating to millions of people in Xianyang. If the project is successful, the city will eventually have the biggest such system in the world. It's the Chinese government that has committed the country to tapping its geothermal potential. But as is often the case, it's newly entrepreneurial citizens who are making things happen. The Icelandic power company Enx is working to bring the geothermal heating system online in cooperation with the country. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1607246,00.html>.*

Iceland: Cisco May Establish a Server Farm Powered by Geothermal Energy

Representatives from Reykjavík Energy Company (OR) and the US network company Cisco have decided to investigate the possibility of establishing a server farm in Iceland run by geothermal energy. That was the conclusion of a recent meeting between the CEO of OR, Guðlaugur Thór Thórdarsson, and the representatives of Cisco in California. "Cisco has ambitious goals on environmental issues. The company's server farms in the UK are driven by environmentally friendly energy sources by 100 percent. That proportion is 20 percent by the company's server farms in the US," Thórdarsson said. According to Thórdarsson, geothermal power and hydroelectric power is more reliable than solar energy and wind energy. But harnessing hydroelectric power could be problematic, Thórdarsson said. Iceland is a world leader in harnessing geothermal power, Thórdarsson stated. "Our current position is very good and it is important for us to exploit the opportunities in this field." *To view the article, please visit http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=40764&ew_0_a_id=274232.*

Philippines: Geothermal Project Will Offer Benefits According to Report, But Meets Opposition

Residents of Barangay Tulgao in Tinglayan, Kalinga rejected a new a proposed development in the area through the put-up of a geothermal plant. Believing that the project would undermine their ancestral domain and might give rise to a tribal war because of a possible boundary dispute with the adjoining barangay, residents, during a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) hearing by the Guidance Management Corporation (GMC), a subsidiary of the Aragog Power and Energy Corporation at the St. Dominic Church, West Tulgao on March 22, opposed the proposal. Those belonging to the Balatoc and Colayo tribes have been consulted early February. The GMC applied for exploration permit to assess the geothermal resources potential of Kalinga through the conduct of geo-scientific studies, including exploratory well drilling. A Philippine Information Agency (PIA) report revealed that the geothermal project covering parts of Pasil, Lubuagan and Tinglayan could generate over 120 megawatts of electricity. The same report said if the geothermal potential of the province is maximized, the country's bid for self-reliance in energy supply could be met. This could also provide local employment for the host community and would become as means to set up micro-enterprises, improved access to basic services and, share from

government royalties paid for by the proponent. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/bag/2007/04/04/news/kalinga.folks.oppose.proposed.geothermal.project.html>.*

Uganda: Reported Low Potential Geothermal in the Country: Reputable Study?

A recent article in *All Africa* reports on a study says:

"...the [geothermal] resource may be substantially lower than previously estimated. Studies that were done in the 1950s and 1970's indicated an initial estimate for the potential of 450MW of geothermal electrical generation at the three locations of Katwe, Buranga and Kibiro in the now oil-rich Albertine basin. Subsequent exploration activity has failed to confirm the 450MW estimate with only three potentially viable prospects identified. In spite of the long history of interest in the potential of the geothermal resources in Uganda for commercial power generation, the exploration of these resources even today stands at a pre-feasibility level of investigation the study noted."

While the source of the study is not mentioned in the article, a knowledgeable Uganda government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said he was "very disturbed" by the article. The official went on to say that the quoted source is not known to him and his colleagues, and the quoted source did not speak to ministry officials knowledgeable about the geothermal energy in the region. The erroneous study in question points out that only pre-feasibility activities have been carried out, which makes assessing the overall potential of the resource very difficult, according to the official. *To view the article, please visit <http://allafrica.com/stories/200704020712.html>.*

Notices and RFPs

LADWP Calls for Renewable Energy Developers to Bid (Proposals Due April 10)

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is seeking proposals for 2,200 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of energy per year from renewable energy resources. The RFP is aimed at boosting the City of Los Angeles' renewable energy sales to 20% of the energy supplied to customers by 2010. The additional 2,200 GWh of renewable energy would increase L.A.'s total renewables to 15% from its current 6%. Proposals are due April 10 at 2 p.m. A pre-proposal conference for prospective bidders is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 9 a.m. at LADWP's John Ferraro Building headquarters, A-Level Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles. *For further information: <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp001370.jsp>.*

Conservation Innovation Grants – Utah and Colorado (Due April 13)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Conservation Innovation Grant Program in UT and CO. CIG seeks to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production.

Utah: \$450K expected to be available, up to 6 awards anticipated. For more info, contact Lisa Coverdale at lisa.coverdale@ut.usda.gov or go to: <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG/cig-component.html>. Refer to Sol# UTAH-NRCS-UT-07-01. (Grants.gov 3/13/07)

(3) Colorado - \$800K expected to be available, up to 15 awards anticipated. Responses due 4/13/07. For more info, contact Tim Carney at tim.carney@co.usda.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12999&mode=VIEW>. Refer to Sol# USDA-NRCS-CO-07-05. (Grants.gov 3/13/07)

RFP Water Conservation – Wyoming (Due April 16)

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Area Office requests proposals for the Water Conservation Field Services Program, for the demonstration of new and innovative approaches to

improving irrigation efficiency through implementation of water conservation measures. \$160K expected to be available, up to 8 awards anticipated. Responses due 4/16/07. For more info, contact Kimball Banks at kbanks@gp.usbr.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12803&mode=VIEW>. Refer to Sol# 07SF600013. (Grants.gov 3/5/07).

Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area DEIS Available for Comment (Comment Period Ends April 17)

The Bureau of Land Management-El Centro Field Office recently released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) covering the Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area in Imperial County, California. The document will be available on the BLM website for general review. The document is available for a 60 day public comment period, ending on April 17, 2007. *To view the DEIS, please visit* http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/fed_reg_archives/2007/february/Truckhaven_DEIS_available.print.html.

National Science Foundation RFP for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs (Due May 13)

The National Science Foundation requests proposals for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The SBIR/STTR Programs stimulate technological innovation in the private sector by strengthening the role of small business concerns in meeting Federal R&D needs, increasing the commercial application of federally supported research results, and fostering and encouraging participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses. Areas of interest include: Emerging Opportunities, Advanced Materials, Chemical Technology, and Manufacturing Innovation, Biotechnology, Electronics and Information technology. \$16.25 million expected to be available, up to 150 awards anticipated. Responses due 6/13/07. For more info, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07551. Refer to Sol# 07-551. (Grants.gov 3/21/07)

Update on PG&E Renewable RFO (Submission of Bids Due May 18)

The CPUC Is expected to vote on the proposed decision on February 15, 2007. PG&E will file an updated Solicitation Protocol on March 2, 2007. Pending this decision, the tentative schedule for the RFO is as follows:

2007 Renewables RFO Schedule (tentative)

Event Date	
PG&E Issues RFO	March 12
Notice of Intent to Bid Due	March 19
Bidders Conference	Week of March 19th
Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 18
PG&E selects Shortlist	June 29
Execution of final Agreements	Q3-Q4 2007

The key differences between the 2007 RPS Solicitation and the 2006 Solicitation are as follows:

- Updated time of delivery (TOD) factors will be applied.
- The power purchase agreements (PPAs) will include an expanded Dispatch Down Period to ensure inclusion of all situations where curtailment is necessary due to, including but not limited to: California Independent System Operator (CAISO) orders, CAISO System Emergencies, anticipated System Emergencies, CAISO-defined over-generation, forecasts of over-generation, and orders by Participating Transmission Owners.

- Collateral requirements will be reduced during project development.
- Participants whose projects have delivery points that are outside of the CAISO-controlled grid are requested to provide two separate prices: one for delivery onto the CAISO-controlled grid and one for delivery outside the CAISO-controlled grid.
- Terms will be conformed to changes in the RPS statute pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 107, which became effective on January 1, 2007.
- The two forms of As-Available PPA (one with EIRP and one without) will be combined into one.
- Redundancy in evaluation protocols will be eliminated.

For continued updated information regarding PG&E's 2007 Renewables RFO please save the following link:

http://www.pge.com/suppliers_purchasing/wholesale_electric_supplier_solicitation/renewables2007.html.

Nominations Sought for Individual “Shaping the Future of the Utility Landscape” (Due May 31)

The Knowledge2007 Utility CIO of the Year award program will recognize a CIO who has demonstrated exceptionally innovative leadership through effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her organization. Nominate a deserving leader who is shaping the future of the utility landscape. Submit your abstract TODAY and help shape the program. Award nominations must be submitted no later than May 31, 2007. Winners will be announced November 14, 2007 at Knowledge2007 in Austin, Texas.

Nominations are being accepted in two award categories

- Large Utilities (those with more than one million customers)
- Small Utilities (those with less than one million customers)

The individual or organization making the nomination may be a peer, superior or subordinate of the nominee and does not have to be a member of the information technology department.

For more information, please visit www.knowledge2007.com.

Energy Institute Accepted Entries for Organizations that Set New Standards of Excellence and Innovation (Deadline June 29)

For the last seven years, the Energy Institute has recognized individuals and organizations in the global energy industry for setting new standards of excellence and innovation. The 8 categories cover a broad range of areas which enables companies and projects of all sizes, across the wide energy spectrum to compete against each other.

The eight categories are:

Communication sponsored by AMEC

Community Initiative

Environment sponsored by Total

Innovation sponsored by ExxonMobil

International Platinum sponsored by TNK-BP

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award sponsored by Norman Broadbent

Safety sponsored by Shell

Technology sponsored by BG Group

Full details of all the criteria as well as an entry form are available at www.eiawards.com.

Applications for CREBs Sought

IRS Notice 2007-26 solicits applications for the allocation of the available clean renewable energy bond national limitation under Section 54 of the Internal Revenue Code and provides other guidance with respect to the issuance and post-issuance compliance of clean renewable energy bonds. This notice will be published in Internal Revenue Bulletin 2007-14, dated April 2, 2007. *For more information, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=167605,00.html?portlet=2>.*

REEEP Offers 3 Million Euro for Clean Energy Projects in Developing Countries

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) has launched a call for project proposals to support the development of markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The project call is REEEP's largest in its four year history with more than 3 million Euros available for projects in least developed countries and emerging market economies. The project received funding from a consortium comprised of Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom. Norway, the new major donor of REEEP, and the United Kingdom will be pooling funds allowing for larger investments into projects. Ireland and Italy will continue their focus on Africa and New Zealand will bring small island states in the Pacific into focus. The REEEP call is an open tender seeking projects from priority countries -- China, India and Brazil and from across the developing world. Based on the experience gained over the last two years with a bottom-up approach to selecting projects, REEEP will be piloting a combination of bottom-up and top-down commissioned strategic projects. *For more information, please visit http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=34695.*

DOE Offices Release Best Practices for Distributed Energy Interconnection Procedures For State Consideration

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) have jointly developed voluntary "best practices" for use by States in implementing interconnection requirements that allow for simple connection of distributed energy technologies to the electric grid. Recognizing that Section 1254 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires each State to consider interconnection procedures and complete its determination by August 8, 2007, EERE and OE offer these "best practices" to assist States in those determinations. *For more information, please visit http://www1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts/progress_alert.asp?aid=221.*

SMUD to Release 2007 Renewable Energy RFO in May

In May 2007, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will release a Request for Offers (RFO) of renewable energy for both power purchase agreements (PPA) and offers for SMUD's project ownership options. This RFO will help SMUD identify potential renewable energy contracts to help the utility meet its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals. SMUD is soliciting PPA and ownership offers of California RPS eligible conventional and emerging renewables. Renewable electric energy providers and project developers can download the RFO documents from SMUD's Electronic Bid Solicitation System (EBSS) website when it becomes available. Registration to the EBSS site is required to access the documents. Interested parties should list their company name in the Category of "Renewable Power" and in one or more of the following Renewable Power subcategories: Generation Energy, Geothermal Power, Landfill Gas Power, Renewable Power-Other, Small Hydro Power, and Wind Power. Registered individuals will also receive updated information regarding this solicitation and will also receive notification of future solicitations for purchase of renewable power. *For more information, please visit <http://www.bids.smud.org/>.*

Upcoming Events

Wall Street Green Trading Summit VI, Apr 16 - 17, New York City

Speakers from investment banking, hedge funds, venture capital, insurance, and the brokerage community will present on the trading opportunities in alternative energy, project finance, carbon market developments, REC trading and demand response programs at this annual event in New York. Attend either in person or via webcast. *For more information, please visit <http://www.hedgeconnection.com/wsgts>.*

Accelerating Development/Deployment of Asia Pacific Clean Technologies, Apr 17-18, Melbourne, Australia

The AustralAsian Cleantech Forum in Melbourne is the premier international platform for knowledge exchange and commercial interaction for the full range of investors, companies and government involved in the Cleantech market in the Asia Pacific. The 3rd AustralAsian Cleantech Forum will provide unparalleled networking with key decision makers that are leading the growth of the Cleantech industry. *For more information, please visit <http://www.cleantechforum.com/index.php?page=Home>.*

RENEXPO Central & South East Europe, Apr 19 - 21, Budapest, Hungary

The event will highlight present renewable energy technologies and products as well as the latest developments in energy efficient construction and renovation. The exhibition serves to provide a platform at which major players from the renewable energy and energy efficient construction and renovation sectors can convene, network, and exchange knowledge. Target countries include Hungary, Bulgaria, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Croatia, and Slovenia to name a few. *For more information, please visit <http://www.renexpo-budapest.com>.*

RENEXPO India 2007, Apr 25 - 26, New Delhi

Over 500 business leaders and CEOs, representing non-conventional energy sources will once again convene to explore possibilities for the transfer of technologies. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), together with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Government of India, have invited delegates from India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The event, presented by REECO India, will be held at the Hotel Le Méridien. *For more information, please visit <http://www.renexpo-india.com/>.*

Geothermal Energy Development and Finance Workshop, Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center, May 10, 2007

San Francisco Geothermal Workshop Speakers Announced

San Francisco – The preliminary agenda and confirmed speakers for the first annual West Coast Geothermal Energy Development and Finance Workshop were released today by the Geothermal Energy Association. The event, sponsored by Ormat Technologies and Glitnir Bank, will take place May 10, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center.

The daylong workshop will bring together leading geothermal companies, developers, financiers and consultants. Confirmed speakers represent some of the most significant geothermal power developers in the US and around the world, including top executives from Ormat Technologies, Calpine Corporation, ENEL North America, CalEnergy, and UTC Power and the CEOs of US Geothermal and Geysir Green Energy.

Concerns over climate change and energy security are significant drivers for new geothermal investment. Presenting views on government policies will be former California Assemblyman and co-author of AB 32, California's landmark climate change law, Joe Nation; leading renewable energy advocate John Galloway of the Union of Concerned Scientists; and Rich Halvey, Director of the Western Governors' Association's Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative. U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's staff will make opening remarks.

With dozens of new projects underway in the US, financing is a key issue for geothermal energy. Magnus Bjarnason, Executive Vice President Glitnir Bank; Margaret Rueger of Babcock and Brown, Bob Banack of Dundee Securities and Gary Barnum of Stoel Rives LLP will be among the presenters from the financial community.

Other notable speakers include Tom Fair, Executive of Sierra Power; Jan Hamrin, President of the Center for Resource Solutions; and Karl Gawell, Chairman of the California Geothermal Collaborative and Executive Director of the US Geothermal Energy Association.

"We've seen an outpouring of interest in geothermal investment and development this past year," notes Karl Gawell, GEA Executive Director, "and this workshop is intended to bring together experts and entrepreneurs to help new geothermal power projects move forward."

At the workshop, the Geothermal Energy Association will also present results of the latest survey of geothermal projects under development in California and across the western states.

The complete preliminary agenda for the workshop is posted on GEA's website at www.geo-energy.org. For more information or to register, visit the GEA website, call 202-454-5261, or email research@geo-energy.org.

Accredited members of the press are invited to attend the workshop. Press should contact Marilyn Nemzer, Executive Director of the Geothermal Education Office, at 415-435-4574 or email mnemzer@aol.com for complimentary registration, to arrange interviews, or for information about a planned press event on May 10th.

SMU Geothermal Conference: "Geothermal Energy Utilization Associated with Oil & Gas Development," June 12-13, 2007, Dallas Texas

In the 1970's and 1980's Oil and Gas companies diversified into geothermal exploration because of the similarities in the industries. Most of these companies left geothermal when the price of oil dropped in the late 1980's or because of failed exploration projects. Today, the Oil and Gas Industry can use a known producing field and not have high exploration costs to expand their portfolio into geothermal. Plus they benefit from the additional years of experience by the Geothermal Industry. To facilitate this happening, the first ever conference titled Geothermal Energy Generation in Oil and Gas Settings was held on March 13-14, 2006 at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. *For more information about this event, please contact Maria Richards, SMU Geothermal Lab, mrichard@smu.edu, or 214-768-1975. You can also visit the website at <http://www.smu.edu/geothermal>.*

GEA Trade Show/GRC Annual Meeting, September 30-October 3, Reno, Nevada

REGISTRATION FOR THE GEA TRADE SHOW IS NOW OPEN. The show will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada, September 30 - October 3, 2007. To see the floor plan, sponsorship opportunities, or register for an exhibit space go to: <http://www.geo-energy.org/tradeShow/invitation.asp>

For more information about the GEA Trade Show contact Daniela Stratulat at 202-454-5263 or email Daniela@geo-energy.org.

For information about the GRC Annual Meeting contact GRC at 530-758-2360 or email grclub@geothermal.org.



GEA Update

A newsletter for GEA Members written by Alyssa Kagel and Karl Gawell.

For more information contact GEA at: 209 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Phone: 202-454-5261; Fax: 202-454-5265; E-mail: research@geo-energy.org