



# GEO THERMAL ENERGY ASSOCIATION

209 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20003

Phone: (202) 454-5261 Fax: (202) 454-5265

Web Site: [www.geo-energy.org](http://www.geo-energy.org)

## GEA UPDATE April 2, 2007

<b>National News</b>	<b>2</b>
Senate Leaders Support Restored Geothermal Research Program With Emphasis on New Development and Exploration .....	2
Las Vegas Sun Reports on Senate's Restoration of Geothermal Funds for FY 2007 .....	3
Eighteen Senators Support Robust Funding for DOE Renewable Energy Programs, Including Geothermal.....	4
Senate Approves Energy Amendment Proposed by Sen. Murkowski to Fund the Geothermal Program in FY 2008 .....	4
Sen. Hutchinson Introduces Renewable Energy Legislation .....	5
Hearing on Production Tax Credit Received Well by Committee .....	5
Icelandic President Talks to U.S. Policymakers About Geothermal Energy and Potential .....	6
DOE Regional Partnerships Explores CO2 Storage.....	6
The Trend Toward On-Site Power Generation .....	7
<b>Company News</b>	<b>7</b>
Geo-Heat Center: Wins National Wildlife Foundation Award.....	7
Raser Technologies Comments on Increase to Geothermal Tax Credit .....	7
<b>Renewable and Climate Change News</b>	<b>8</b>
Supreme Court Orders EPA to Consider Regulating Greenhouse Gases .....	8
More US College Students Studying Clean Energy.....	8
Lawmakers Begin Looking Abroad for Clues on Emission Curbs .....	8
New Approach Needed to Pump Up Carbon Offset Sales, Says Study.....	9
Biden/Lugar Resolution Calling for American Leadership on Climate Change Passes Senate Foreign Relations Committee.....	9
Global Warming Poses Threat to National Security .....	10
Business Friendly 'Cap and trade' Continues to Gain Favor .....	10
Domenici Pledges to 'Kill' Warming Bill Absent China, India Accord.....	10
<b>State News</b>	<b>11</b>
Idaho: Regulators Approve Idaho Power's 20-Year Growth Plan .....	11
<b>International News</b>	<b>11</b>
Australia: Company Seeks More Federal Funds for Hot Rocks Work.....	11
Australia: Geothermal Could Supply 10% of Energy Needs by 2050 .....	11
Botswana: May Build Solar-Geothermal Power Plant.....	12
Italy: Interested in Chilean Investment .....	12
New Zealand: Increasing Security of Supply to Auckland.....	12
<b>Notices and RFPs</b>	<b>13</b>
Various Solicitations for Renewable Energy Generation Posted by EERE.....	13
APS Requests for Proposal (Due April 9).....	13
LADWP Calls for Renewable Energy Developers to Bid (Proposals Due April 10).....	13
Conservation Innovation Grants – Utah and Colorado (Due April 13).....	13
RFP Water Conservation – Wyoming (Due April 16) .....	14
Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area DEIS Available for Comment (Comment Period Ends April 17).....	14
National Science Foundation RFP for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs (Due May 13).....	14

Update on PG&E Renewable RFO (Submission of Bids Due May 18).....	14
Nominations Sought for Individual “Shaping the Future of the Utility Landscape” (Due May 31) .....	15
Applications for CREBs Sought.....	15
REEEP Offers 3 Million Euro for Clean Energy Projects in Developing Countries.....	15
DOE Offices Release Best Practices for Distributed Energy Interconnection Procedures For State Consideration .....	16
SMUD to Release 2007 Renewable Energy RFO in May.....	16
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>16</b>
Climate Hearings, March 27, and 29, Washington DC.....	16
Clean Energy Hearing, March 29, Washington DC.....	16
Wall Street Green Trading Summit VI, Apr 16 - 17, New York City.....	17
Accelerating Development/Deployment of Asia Pacific Clean Technologies, Apr 17- 18, Melbourne, Australia.....	17
RENEXPO Central & South East Europe, Apr 19 - 21, Budapest, Hungary .....	17
Geothermal Energy Development and Finance Workshop, Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center, May 10, 2007.....	17
SMU Geothermal Conference: “Geothermal Energy Utilization Associated with Oil & Gas Development,” June 12-13, 2007, Dallas Texas.....	19
GEA Trade Show/GRC Annual Meeting, September 30-October 3, Reno, Nevada.....	19

## National News

### **Senate Leaders Support Restored Geothermal Research Program With Emphasis on New Development and Exploration**

As part of the FY 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill, the Senate has included funds to restore the DOE Geothermal Research Program. The bill now goes to Conference with the House. The Conference Committee will produce a final version to send to the President. The final Senate bill includes \$22.7 million to continue the DOE geothermal research program in FY07.

“This represents a solid rejection by the Senate of the Administration's proposal to terminate DOE research,” Karl Gawell, GEA’s Executive Director stated. And, the move to restore funding comes with little time to spare. Reportedly, many geothermal research institutions will be closing their doors by May if funds are not restored to the program.

Gawell also responded to critics of the funds included in the bill. He said, “While some bloggers have called the inclusion of non-defense funds in the emergency supplemental ‘pork,’ the geothermal funds are a clearly justified policy action by Congress. This is not about building a bridge in someone's backyard or putting someone's name on a new courthouse, this is about implementing a sound national energy policy that achieves energy independence and addresses global climate change. The continuing crisis in the Middle East, and new speculation about gasoline price spikes, only underscore the need to expand domestic energy production from geothermal and other domestic energy sources,” Gawell said.

Senators Reid, Dorgan explained their support for this funding as part of the record of the Senate’s debate.

“Mr. REID. I rise to enter into a brief colloquy with Senator *Dorgan*, chairman of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, regarding section 3201 of title III of Senate amendment No. 641 to H.R. 1591, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007. I thank the Senator for including in the committee's substitute amendment the language that I requested to ensure that important geothermal energy research can continue in fiscal year 2007, instead of being closed down pursuant to the administration's ill-advised spending plan.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank the leader for his support and continuing interest in geothermal and renewable energy. The committee's substitute amendment provides \$22,762,000 for geothermal energy research at the

Department of Energy in fiscal year 2007. This is the same level of funding as provided in fiscal year 2006. After the administration proposed terminating the geothermal research program in its fiscal year 2007 budget request, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected that proposal last year in its report accompanying the fiscal year 2007 energy and water appropriations bill, S. Rept. 109-274. Section 3201 will ensure continuation of this vital program.

Mr. REID. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for his support for the geothermal energy program and his leadership on national energy policy. As the Senator knows, geothermal energy is a very important resource for Nevada and all Western States to develop to help address our national energy and environmental security problems. There have been several new reports in the past few months from the Geothermal Energy Association, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that show the tremendous untapped potential of this renewable resource. Geothermal energy is clearly an important resource that can provide very valuable clean, baseload power. Its advantages are many and obvious, and the Department of Energy should be expanding its efforts in this area not reducing them.

Given the hostility of the Department of Energy, DOE, and the administration toward expanding our Nation's massive geothermal energy potential through research and deployment, can the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee convey any specific intent about how the appropriated funds in this amendment should be used?

Mr. DORGAN. First of all, the department should continue critical efforts to support new technology and deployment, including funding of existing contracts and awards under previous solicitations, but the department should be rapidly implementing and supporting the geothermal provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Based upon the studies and reports the Senator from Nevada has mentioned, it should also be a priority for the department to support resource development and exploration technology, including continued both existing and new Geothermal Resource Exploration and Development, GRED, efforts that are underway at the DOE.

Mr. REID. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for his comprehensive answer. I hope that as we consider the fiscal year 2008 energy and water appropriations bill, Congress will provide expanded support for the geothermal energy program, along with more specific guidance as needed by the distinguished chairman.

Mr. DORGAN. I appreciate the Senator's views on the importance of this program and share the Senator's commitment to ensuring an effective DOE geothermal program that works to expand our Nation's use of this important, renewable energy resource." *Congressional Record of March 29, 2007, page S4088*

### **Las Vegas Sun Reports on Senate's Restoration of Geothermal Funds for FY 2007**

A recent article discusses the addition of non-military funds added to the recently passed Senate spending bill, which includes restoration of the DOE Geothermal program. "This is emergency funding ; that's what it's for," Reid spokesman Jon Summers said of the bill. "The bulk of the money goes to Iraq and Afghanistan, but it covers other emergency funding as well. Mormon crickets are a huge problem in Nevada." Karl Gawell, responding to allegations that non-military add-ons like geothermal are "pork" said Reid's work is a push back against the Bush administration's attempts to zero out geothermal research in the West. "This is not pork," Gawell said. "This is a legitimate policy dispute between the administration and Congress." Lisa Shevenell, director of UNR's Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy, said her funding will last until September. She is counting on \$1.5 million in federal money. Nevada Republican Sen. John Ensign criticized the "reckless spending" unrelated to the war, which, besides spending for geothermal includes funds for Nevada schools and tax changes.

## **Eighteen Senators Support Robust Funding for DOE Renewable Energy Programs, Including Geothermal**

In a group letter to Senator Byron Dorgan, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations, and Senator Pete Domenici, the Subcommittee's Ranking Republican, eighteen members of the Senate asked for "strong funding" levels for renewable energy research in the FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

"Research in these technologies is critical for lowering costs, improving efficiency, and surmounting the barriers they face to widespread deployment in the marketplace," the Senators letter states. "Given the escalating concern of most Americans regarding energy independence and climate change, we believe that we need to make significant increases in our level of investment for these programs," they continued.

Specifically for geothermal energy, the letter recommends:

"The Geothermal Technologies Program (GTP) supports and seeks to achieve 100,000MW of geothermal power production from the full range of geothermal resources in the United States. The GTP should address both the near-term need to expand domestic geothermal energy production and the longer-term need to find the breakthroughs needed to achieve the full potential of the resources. The recent report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The Future of Geothermal Energy," highlights the tremendous growth potential in this technology and the pressing need for additional research funding. We urge you to fund the Geothermal Technologies Program at \$113 million in FY 2008."

Senators signing the letter were, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO) Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Senator Jim Webb (D-VA), Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

## **Senate Approves Energy Amendment Proposed by Sen. Murkowski to Fund the Geothermal Program in FY 2008**

The U.S. Senate approved a \$125 million amendment proposed by Sen. Lisa Murkowski for next year's budget for renewable energy. The amendment focuses on three areas of energy development: geothermal, ocean and small scale hydro-electric. The amendment provides \$50 million for geothermal research and development, \$50 million for ocean energy research and \$25 million for research and grant assistance for small hydro development. Geothermal funding is "unneeded," according to the White House. Proponents of expanded funding say it remains unclear whether green-leaning Democratic leaders will accept their plan or not given ongoing budget concerns. Murkowski said she recognizes that the Senate's proposed 2008 budget would increase funding for renewable energy and for energy efficiency programs by \$385 million over Bush's proposal but still needs to consider geothermal energy. "I do understand that this budget resolution does raise funding for renewables and energy efficiency and I applaud that effort, even though it falls somewhat short of the levels we were hoping for when we passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 just a couple years ago," Sen. Murkowski said. The Bush administration and Congress both have pledged support for renewable energy as a way to reduce foreign oil use and protect the environment but much of the focus has been on farmbelt-friendly policies that would expand biofuels from corn and other biomass. Before this year, federal research for geothermal power averaged about \$25 million annually over the past 10 years. Murkowski also points to a recent Massachusetts Institute of Technology study that said geothermal power could generate about 100,000 megawatts of electricity by 2050. That's about the same now generated by U.S. nuclear power plants but with none of the waste storage issues that cause the government perennial headaches, proponents say. *For more information, please visit <http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN284613420070328?pageNumber=2>.*

## **Sen. Hutchinson Introduces Renewable Energy Legislation**

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, recently introduced the Creating Renewable Energy through Science and Technology (CREST) Act. The legislation will provide a comprehensive, coordinated national research effort to spur the development of renewable energy. The CREST Act establishes and authorizes funding for a Council on Renewable Energies (CORE). The Council will advise Congress on national renewable energy strategy, research and development, including offshore wind production, solar power, geothermal, alternative biofuels and wave energy. It will also facilitate collaboration across federal agencies and departments on executing national renewable energy objectives. The bill directs the CORE to be established within the National Science Foundation. It would be comprised of department heads from research institutions, industry representatives, state officials and the U.S. Departments of Energy, Agriculture, Commerce and the National Atmospheric Administration and Office of Science and Technology Policy. *To view the press release with more information, please visit <http://hutchison.senate.gov/pr11020.htm>.*

## **Hearing on Production Tax Credit Received Well by Committee**

A recent hearing in the Senate Finance Committee titled, “Clean Energy: From the Margins to the Mainstream,” featured His Excellency John Bruton, Ambassador, European Commission Delegation; John Krenicki, President and Chief Executive Officer, General Electric Energy; Todd Raba, President, MidAmerican Energy Company (MEC), Des Moines, IA; Johan van’t Hof, Chief Executive Officer, Tonbridge Corporation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Dr. Ryan H. Wiser, Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California.

Addressing geothermal, Raba said:

With regard to geothermal, hydro, biomass and waste-to-energy generation...these resources are more geographically limited than wind, they function as dispatchable, baseload resources, enhancing their value. Drilling new geothermal wells or upgrading existing hydro facilities to create incremental power expansions is highly capital intensive. The vast majority of these projects cannot be completed within the short placed-in-service time frames under the existing PTC legislation, thus severely limiting new investments.

MidAmerican has suggested that Congress consider allowing flexibility with regard to placed-in-service dates for projects involving baseload renewables. We believe this could be done at little budget cost if the law allows projects under construction and with output contracts in place to opt in to tax treatment that reduce the ten-year application of the PTC by a length of time equivalent to the period between date of expiration of the placed-in-service date and the completion of the project. In other words, if a project was brought on line six months after the expiration of the placed-in-service date, it could choose to receive the tax credit for only nine and one-half years instead of ten.

The better answer, though, would be a five- or ten-year extension of the PTC that would provide long-term certainty to utilities, independent project developers and manufacturers while solving the base load renewable issue.

The speakers, who focused predominantly upon wind energy, agreed across the board that a ten year extension of the production tax credit would be one of the best actions Congress could take to ensure continued renewable development. Several speakers suggested coupling the PTC with a renewable portfolio standard.

The committee responded favorably to the proposed enhancements of the PTC, both in terms of a placed in service change and also an extension of the credit. Chairman Baucus said that renewables are “more important now than they were when we last extended the credit.” Some industry insiders expect a stand-alone energy tax bill to come out of the finance committee this summer.

When Senator Baucus asked about “scaling down” the tax credit over time in order to reduce the cost to the treasury, speakers generally agreed that such action would be reasonable if a tax credit was allocated over a ten year timeframe, rather than the usual one to two year extensions. Wisner cautioned that the costs of wind energy have increased in the past four years (largely due to increases in the price of wind turbines), and so Congress should not scale down too quickly. Long term, stable policy emerged often as the most pressing need for renewable energy producers.

Transmission issues were also discussed at length, with van’t Hoff speaking almost exclusively about the difficulties surrounding renewables and transmission. According to van’t Hoff, the need for transmission, specifically related to renewables, is continuing to grow. Raba said the following about transmission:

Combining the remote location of most of our renewable potential with the diffuse nature of these resources, transmission becomes a disproportionately larger component of the retail cost compared to conventional resources. This situation will only grow more pronounced as we increase the amount of renewable generation, because the most cost-effective locations have already been developed.

Burton, who opened the hearing, spoke about the example some EU countries have set of using taxation to reach renewable energy goals. “Polluters must pay,” Burton said. He expressed “concern” about the growing use of coal energy around the world, and discussed the importance of sequestration activities, which, he noted, are still in the early research stage both in Europe and in America. When pressed about the “one message about renewables” he’d like to leave with Congress, he cited renewables as a “vital” part of any system dealing with electricity needs and climate change. Renewables are a necessary part, but not the only part, he said.

## **Icelandic President Talks to U.S. Policymakers About Geothermal Energy and Potential**

Iceland’s President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson met authorities in Washington DC recently to discuss a potential cooperation between Iceland and the US on renewable energy. According to the Reykjavik paper, mbl.is, Grímsson and Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, discussed Iceland’s contribution to environmentally friendly energy, including geothermal, and the possibility of harnessing such energy in the US. A potential cooperation between Iceland and the US on environmental and energy issues was also discussed. Tom Lantos, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, attended the meeting between Grímsson and Pelosi. Geothermal energy was also a topic of discussion between Grímsson and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. He has been a leader supporting harnessing such energy in the US.

Grímsson and 2008 presidential hopeful Barack Obama also discussed a potential cooperation between Iceland and the US, and the possibility of opening an international university and research center at the former US Naval Air Station near Keflavík, Iceland. Obama said he was interested in visiting Iceland to learn more about how the country switched from coal and oil to renewable energy. Iceland’s president also met Alexander Karsner, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Senators Tom Harkin and Jon Tester, Rick Boucher, who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Ed Markey, chairman of the newly formed House Panel on Global Warming. A committee from the House Panel on Global Warming is planning a trip to Arctic areas in the next few months, mbl.is reports. *For more information, please visit* [http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily\\_news/?cat\\_id=16539&ew\\_0\\_a\\_id=273210](http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=16539&ew_0_a_id=273210).

## **DOE Regional Partnerships Explores CO2 Storage**

The Department of Energy’s Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships have identified the power plant and other stationary sources of more than 3.8 billion tons a year of the greenhouse gas CO2 in the United States and Canada and companion candidate storage capacity for more than 3,500 billion tons, according to

a recent DOE press release. The results are detailed in the new Carbon Sequestration Atlas of the United States and Canada which became available online recently. The Office of Fossil Energy supports a number of carbon sequestration initiatives including a research and technology development program. The atlas will aid these efforts by providing maps and information at both national and regional levels. *To view the press release with more information, please visit* [http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/press/2007/07016-Carbon\\_Sequestration\\_Atlas\\_Publish.html](http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/press/2007/07016-Carbon_Sequestration_Atlas_Publish.html).

## **The Trend Toward On-Site Power Generation**

There is a growing trend in the United States for self generation of electric power, a recent Energy Pulse article reported. The average retail price of electricity in the U.S. rose by 9.2 percent in 2006, a trend which will likely continue for the next several years. In the past, the largest hurdle to self-generation was connecting it in parallel with the utility, and stand-by systems avoided this with a transfer switch which allowed power to be supplied either by the utility or the generator but not both. Many states have now also adopted uniform interconnect requirements so everybody knows beforehand exactly what will be required for interconnection. According to the article, the grid will increasingly become viewed as a large "storage" and trading system rather than as the supplier of electric power. As consumers are becoming increasingly aware of the wide difference in prices between peak and off-peak power there will be a desire to capitalize on that by using their generating assets for peak shaving. Larger users who can take advantage of time-of-day pricing and discounts for interruptible power are presently the ones who are benefiting the most and it can be expected that smaller users will demand the same benefits. *For more information, please visit* [http://www.energypulse.net/centers/article/article\\_display.cfm?a\\_id=1445](http://www.energypulse.net/centers/article/article_display.cfm?a_id=1445).

## **Company News**

### **Geo-Heat Center: Wins National Wildlife Foundation Award**

Oregon Institute of Technology, a state college of the Oregon University System, was awarded a "Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming" prize by the National Wildlife Federation for taking advantage of geothermal energy known to exist in the community. The installed capacity of this system is 6.2 MWt and the annual energy use is about 47 billion Btus (14 GWh), saving 10,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually (compared to producing it from petroleum). The Chill Out award goes to higher education campuses around the country that implement positive, practical solutions to global warming. *For more information about the award, please visit* <http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/hostbroadcast.cfm>.

### **Raser Technologies Comments on Increase to Geothermal Tax Credit**

PROVO, Utah--(BUSINESS WIRE-March 30)--Raser Technologies, Inc. (NYSE Arca: RZ) announced today that the US Treasury and Internal Revenue Service released the 2006 Inflation Adjustment Factor (IAF) as it relates to Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code. This annual adjustment increases the amount of tax credit available for geothermal and other qualified energy projects from 1.9 cents per kwh to 2.0 cents per kwh. The IAF adjustments are implemented annually. The Company has announced its intention to develop geothermal projects utilizing advanced binary heat recovery systems. "We believe that this increase will help to further stimulate the development of geothermal resources in the United States," said Brent M. Cook, CEO. "This and other incentives should assist in moving our nation towards greater energy independence. We believe that the energy policy of the United States should continue to emphasize clean, renewable energy sources and provide incentives for their development." *To view the press release, please visit* [http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20070330005357&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070330005357&newsLang=en).

## **Renewable and Climate Change News**

### **Supreme Court Orders EPA to Consider Regulating Greenhouse Gases**

The US Supreme Court ruled this week that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate the emission of "greenhouse gases," such as carbon dioxide, by automobiles. In *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 12 states and several environmental groups sued the EPA arguing that the agency had, according to the court, "abdicated its responsibility under the Clean Air Act" to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The Court first agreed that the plaintiffs had standing to bring the lawsuit and went on to rule that "Because greenhouse gases fit well within the Clean Air Act's capacious definition of 'air pollutant,' we hold that EPA has the statutory authority to regulate the emission of such gases from new motor vehicles." The Court reversed and remanded the federal appeals court decision, saying that the EPA improperly "offered no reasoned explanation for its refusal to decide whether greenhouse gases cause or contribute to climate change" and holding that the "EPA must ground its reasons for action or inaction in the statute." Read the Court's 5-4 opinion per Justice Stevens, along with a dissent from Chief Justice Roberts and a second dissent from Justice Alito.

In a second decision handed down Monday, the Court ruled in *Environmental Defense Fund v. Duke Energy Corp.* that the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit improperly interpreted Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations under the Clean Air Act. The appeals court ruled that the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to conform PSD regulations to their New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) counterparts, and the Supreme Court held that "the Court of Appeals's reading of the 1980 PSD regulations, intended to align them with NSPS, was inconsistent with their terms and effectively invalidated them; any such result must be shown to comport with the Act's restrictions on judicial review of EPA regulations for validity." *The Court's opinion is at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/06pdf/05-848.pdf>.*

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, released the following statement on the Supreme Court decision: "Today's Supreme Court decision leaves no doubt that the Federal government has the authority and duty to act to address global warming. The President no longer has a legal argument that the law prevents him from beginning to address the problem. If he would like to undertake a more comprehensive approach to global warming than just regulating vehicles, than I again urge him to work with Congress to enact a mandatory cap and trade proposal and other programs to reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions."

### **More US College Students Studying Clean Energy**

Concern over global warming has more US college students looking into careers in alternative energy, leading US universities to add new courses on clean energy technologies and the environment. Venture capital for energy and environmental technology in several regions of the world in 2006 nearly doubled from a year earlier to US\$1.28 billion. At Stanford University in Silicon Valley, the Petroleum Engineering Department has renamed itself the Energy Resources Engineering Department. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has offered courses in green architecture and sustainable development. Other US schools targeting green technologies and eco-friendly programs include Middlebury College, Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Williams College, Illinois State University, and the University of California at Davis. Berkeley and Stanford had to turn away attendees from renewable energy symposiums organized by students. *For more information, please visit <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/41143/story.htm>.*

### **Lawmakers Begin Looking Abroad for Clues on Emission Curbs**

Lawmakers crafting new U.S. global warming policies are looking overseas to examine European efforts to control greenhouse gases and consider schemes to engage emerging industrial powers like China and India. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee initiated a "roundtable" meeting that focused on the European Union, which started a multi-country trading system in 2005 to address CO<sub>2</sub>. The House Energy

and Air Quality Subcommittee examined how to establish U.S. emission controls while working with developing countries. The panel also studied past market-based efforts to curb pollution, including the E.U. system and U.S. EPA schemes to limit sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

The European Union's system covers more than 10,000 companies in 25 countries and was launched in January 2005. It covers about 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions, or roughly half of the total for the European Union. Observers describe the European Union as a living laboratory for studying emissions trading to address climate change. Under the E.U. plan, each of the 15 countries that were member states when Kyoto was signed in 1997 has its own emissions target. The countries can trade credits in the bloc with each other, including the 10 new E.U. member states, to meet their combined goal of an 8 percent emissions reduction below 1990 levels. The E.U. system offers several lessons. First, the carbon-price crash last spring shows the need for more complete and accurate historic emissions data. *For more information, please visit <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=6277209>.*

### **New Approach Needed to Pump Up Carbon Offset Sales, Says Study**

The sales of carbon offset credits can be boosted significantly if their sponsors adopt marketing tactics that have helped new technology products achieve rapid market adoption, according to “Taking Carbon Offsets to the Mainstream,” a new study by the Topline Strategy Group, a leading technology consulting and market intelligence firm. The study identifies the key factors that are critical to accelerating offset sales and compares how well existing options meet these adoption factors. “Consumers have shown a willingness to invest in products and services that help mitigate global warming, but companies need to make it easier and more convenient to make those investments,” said Jonathan Klein, founder and general partner of Topline Strategy Group. “By placing the carbon offsets at the point of purchase, lowering the price to the level where it becomes an impulse purchase, and tying the purchase directly to the point where emissions are initiated, companies can overcome obstacles that have hampered adoption.” *The study is available for download from the Topline Strategy Group, [http://www.toplinestrategy.com/green\\_form.htm](http://www.toplinestrategy.com/green_form.htm).*

### **Biden/Lugar Resolution Calling for American Leadership on Climate Change Passes Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed Senator Joe Biden (D-DE) and Senator Richard Lugar's (R-IN) bipartisan resolution (S.Res.30) calling for the United States to return to international negotiations on climate change. This is the first legislation on climate change to move out of any Committee in the 110th Congress. The Biden-Lugar Resolution states that the evidence of the human role in global warming is clear, that the environmental, economic, and security effects will be costly, and that the response must be international. The resolution recognizes that there are real economic benefits both from reducing the waste and inefficiencies inherent in greenhouse gas emissions and from the markets for new, climate-friendly technologies. The Resolution calls for the United States to resume its role as leader in the international effort to address this global threat.

The resolution calls for United States participation in negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, signed by the first President Bush, to protect the economic and security interests of the United States, and to commit all nations - developed and developing - that are major emitters of greenhouse gases to achieve significant long-term reductions in those emissions. Most important, it puts the Senate on record, calling for the United States to resume its role as leader in the international effort to address this global threat. The resolution also calls for a bipartisan Senate observer group to monitor these talks and ensure that our negotiators bring back agreements that all Americans can support. *For more information, please visit <http://biden.senate.gov/newsroom/details.cfm?id=271493&=&>.*

## **Global Warming Poses Threat to National Security**

U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) recently introduced bipartisan legislation that would require a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) to assess the security challenges presented by the world's changing climate. NIEs are the federal government's most authoritative written judgments concerning national security issues and are developed to address the most serious of threats. They contain the coordinated judgments of all U.S. intelligence agencies regarding the likely course of future events. Durbin and Hagel's bill, the Global Climate Change Security Oversight Act, asks the intelligence community to provide a strategic estimate of the risks posed by global climate change for countries or regions that are of particular economic or military significance to the United States or that are at serious risk of humanitarian suffering. This National Intelligence Estimate will assess the political, social, agricultural, and economic challenges for countries and their likely impact. *For more information, please visit <http://durbin.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=271514>.*

## **Business Friendly 'Cap and trade' Continues to Gain Favor**

Emissions trading, or cap and trade, has won support from corporations and lawmakers who worry that strict global warming limits could damage the U.S. economy. But the track records of similar programs in Europe and Southern California are mixed, experts say. In Congress, most bills on global warming being debated rely heavily on the creation of an emissions trading system, in which companies are given limits for their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and then are allowed to buy and sell their excess or deficit emissions as if they were financial securities.

California regulators are drawing up plans for an emissions trading system under a state law enacted last year calling for the reduction of greenhouse gas output to 1990 levels by 2020, a cut of about 25 percent. And California recently signed agreements with Oregon, Washington, Arizona and New Mexico -- as well as with British Columbia -- to form a cross-border emissions market. Many environmentalists had long supported traditional forms of top-down government regulation, especially what is known as a carbon tax, which would levy a tax on energy sources that emit carbon dioxide.

Some environmentalists also warn that these trading systems hurt minorities and the poor. "We're skeptical of how efficient and just a cap-and-trade system can be because RECLAIM resulted in the concentration of pollution in low-income communities," said Philip Huang, a staff lawyer for Communities for a Better Environment, a statewide group that represents working-class and poor urban areas. *For more information, please visit <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/03/21/BUGVOOGJM4135.DTL>.*

## **Domenici Pledges to 'Kill' Warming Bill Absent China, India Accord**

A key Senate Republican vowed to block global warming legislation if emerging industrial nations do not make similar commitments. "My concerns are long enough that I would kill a bill if we haven't taken some giant stride in the direction of getting China and/or India to join with this," Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) said in an interview yesterday. China's emissions are on track to surpass the United States as early as this year, according to recent media reports, driving the Senate Energy Committee's ranking member to express concern that a new U.S. program would do little to address climate change while simultaneously harming the domestic economy. "It's just grown on me in the past month, where I just can't believe and will not support major legislation imposed upon the American economic system and jobs and everything else," Domenici said. "I won't support doing that ... unless and until we have brought the Chinese on board, or the Indians, or there is absolute assurance they are coming on." ... In an interview, Domenici cautioned that he was no closer to joining Bingaman, now the chairman of the Energy Committee. "The more I go through all this, the further we get," Domenici said. *To view the press release with more information, please visit [http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Facts&ContentRecord\\_id=93a88ee3-802a-23ad-4c3a-2900827c01d2](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Facts&ContentRecord_id=93a88ee3-802a-23ad-4c3a-2900827c01d2).*

## **State News**

### **Idaho: Regulators Approve Idaho Power's 20-Year Growth Plan**

State regulators have approved Idaho Power Co.'s 20-year growth plan, despite complaints from conservation groups that say the company places too little emphasis on non-hydro renewables. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission announced recently it will accept Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan - a document that outlines how the company will acquire and distribute energy in the next 20 years. Green groups opposed the plan, saying the utility ignores wind-power potential and focuses too much on coal. Despite the greens' complaints, Idaho Power has significantly increased the amount of energy it purchases from alternative suppliers, even as its customer base continues to grow. Idaho Power expects to increase its energy capabilities by 1,300 megawatts over the next 20 years by tapping wind, geothermal, coal and nuclear resources. The company predicts it will serve an additional quarter-million customers - a jump from 455,000 to about 688,000 - over the next two decades. In addition to potential coal and nuclear sources, much of those 1,300 megawatts could come from wind and geothermal power. The utility recently accepted a bid by U.S. Geothermal Inc., a Boise-based company, for 45.5 megawatts of geothermal power from yet-to-be-built plants in eastern Oregon and near Raft River. *For more information, please visit [http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2007/03/29/news/local\\_state/109065.txt](http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2007/03/29/news/local_state/109065.txt).*

## **International News**

### **Australia: Company Seeks More Federal Funds for Hot Rocks Work**

A major geothermal energy company working in the remote Cooper Basin in outback Queensland says it is hoping for increased Commonwealth support for the sector. Geodynamics Limited was one of several participants at the first geothermal roundtable held this week, chaired by federal Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane and Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Chief executive Dr Adrian Williams says it marks an important step forward in improving partnerships between government and industry. "Both ministers clearly recognize the potential that geothermal offers this country ... there's enough evidence to say that Australia has got hot rocks to support geothermal power generation of a size that is comparable to all of Australia's coal and gas ... the size of that resource that we believe is there is absolutely huge," he said. *For more information, please visit <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200703/s1884243.htm>.*

### **Australia: Geothermal Could Supply 10% of Energy Needs by 2050**

The Australian federal government believes that geothermal energy could meet up to 10 per cent of Australia's electricity consumption by 2050, a recent article reported. And, unlike other alternative energy sources like solar and wind power, geothermal sources offer the potential to meet base load power (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) requirements. Reflecting that long-term potential, Canberra recently hosted the inaugural meeting of the Geothermal Industry Roundtable. The Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane, and the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, hosted the meeting at Parliament House. In his welcome, Mr. Macfarlane said the Government would work with industry to prepare a Geothermal Industry Development Framework that would act as a guide to the long-term development of the emerging energy sector, dominated by potential hot-rock developments. The Government has invested more than \$27 million in geothermal energy projects through grants at the research and development stage since 2000. Mr. Turnbull said a key benefit of geothermal energy was its ability to produce energy without greenhouse gas emissions. "Large geothermal power plants have the potential to substantially reduce Australia's carbon dioxide emissions," he said. *For more information, please visit <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/business/geothermal-could-supply-10-of-our-energy-by-2050/2007/04/01/1175366078656.html>.*

## **Botswana: May Build Solar-Geothermal Power Plant**

The Botswana government has called for companies to tender for the provision of consultancy services to conduct a prefeasibility study for the construction of a solar geothermal power plant in the country. "Solar energy is recognized as the most promising renewable energy source in Botswana," State-owned Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) said in an advertisement, placed over the weekend. BPC said that the country had an abundant solar energy resource, which had gone largely untapped, although it boasted one of the highest rates of insolation in the world. "Owing to, among other things, the looming energy crisis, and, to some extent, an element of increasing the level of self-sufficiency, the government fully supports the implementation of a solar thermal generation in Botswana," the power utility stated. Interested firms had until April 27 to submit their tenders. African countries neighboring South Africa were having to increasingly look at power self-sufficiency, after South Africa's Eskom was struggling to keep up with local demand. *For more information, please visit* [http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?a\\_id=106751](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?a_id=106751).

## **Italy: Interested in Chilean Investment**

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said that his country wants to encourage investment in Chile, particularly in geothermal energy and hydroelectric plants. Italy is interested in making energy investments in Chile, "in small and medium hydroelectric plants (and) geothermal energy," Prodi said in a news conference with President Michelle Bachelet. "In this sector, the Italian experience is the most mature in the world." Prodi, who arrived in Chile after visiting Brazil, said Italy's energy company Enel SpA already has a project for geothermal energy. He said his country must also make an effort to increase its presence in Chile in the construction and infrastructure fields. Bachelet noted the close relations between Chile and Italy, saying "Italian businessmen have been important investors in Chile during these years and I want them to continue to be." She also thanked Italy for receiving thousands of Chilean exiles during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 dictatorship. Prodi praised Chile as "an exemplary model of development" under the center-left coalition that has ruled since the end of Pinochet's regime, and added his visit was a "reflection of the close cooperation between" Italy and Chile. Italian investment in Chile has grown steeply in recent years and currently stands at \$3.4 billion, up from \$1.2 billion five years ago. Prodi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced plans Tuesday to strike a partnership on producing ethanol and biodiesel in Brazil and Africa. *For more information, please visit* <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fi/4669688.html>.

## **New Zealand: Increasing Security of Supply to Auckland**

In a recent speech by a government representative called, "Increasing security of supply into Auckland," made at the commissioning of the Mighty River Power Southdown Expansion, the representative said, in part:

Turning now to another of your company's interests, I believe that in the debate over the increasing use of renewable sources, geothermal energy hasn't always received the attention that it deserves - and in my view, its bright future deserves more recognition. While of course fossil fuels will continue to play an important role in electricity generation for many years to come, their use does produce greenhouse gas emissions. Geothermal energy is an environmentally responsible alternative to energy derived from fossil fuels, because it is a low carbon-emitting source relative to fossil fuels.

Carbon dioxide emissions could be significantly reduced if geothermal energy was further developed. This would assist New Zealand in meeting its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, and would help the world reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Geothermal energy is renewable, requires no external fuel, and in many instances is expected to cost less than other types of renewable electricity. It also operates at high load factors, providing reliable base load. Our geothermal resource base is large, and is already the second largest renewable energy source contributing to the national energy supply. About 6 percent of total electricity generation, and 34 percent of primary renewable energy supply, is derived from this source.

Your company has rightly recognized the considerable advantages of geothermal energy as a supply that is not dependent on wind or rain, and its very important role to play in providing diversity of secure energy supply during dry or calm periods in our weather patterns. I was consequently delighted to learn that construction of your new geothermal power station at Kawerau commenced late last year. This is indeed a sizable project - at a cost of around \$275 million and an output of 90 MW - and demonstrates your further commitment to harnessing renewable sources of energy. I understand that you have further plans to develop around 400 MW of geothermal energy over the next five to ten years. *For more information, please visit <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0703/S00646.htm>.*

## **Notices and RFPs**

### **Various Solicitations for Renewable Energy Generation Posted by EERE**

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) posts solicitations for renewable energy generation, renewable energy certificates and green power as a courtesy for its website visitors. Unless otherwise noted, the requests for proposals (RFPs) and solicitations are neither supported nor endorsed by the U.S. DOE, Green Power Network. A few of the RFPs up until the middle of April include: Detroit Edison RFP for Renewable Energy Certificates from New Renewable Generation Facilities Located in Michigan (due March 30); Westar Energy RFP seeking up to 500 MW of Renewable Energy Resources (due April 2); Arizona Public Service (APS) RFP for 30 MW of Renewable Energy Resources. Notice of Intent was due by March 21 (due April 9); Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) RFP for 2,200 GWh per year of energy and dependable capacity from eligible renewable energy resources (due April 10); City of Los Angeles Seeks Proposals to Boost Green Power (Renewables@ladwp.com); Seminole Electric Cooperative Inc. RFP for up to 150 MW of Existing/Planned Renewable Resources (April 16). *For more information, please visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/financial/>.*

### **APS Requests for Proposal (Due April 9)**

APS is seeking proposals for near term and long term sources of renewable energy in consideration of regulatory settlements, decisions or agreements. The eligible technologies for this Renewable RFP include solar, wind, hybrid wind and solar, biomass/biogas, landfill gas, hydropower, fuel cells that use renewable fuels and geothermal. *For more information, please visit <http://www.aps.com/aps/rfp/default.html>.*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](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)**

<b>Event Date</b>	
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](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](http://www.knowledge2007.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 Euro 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](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](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**

### **Climate Hearings, March 27, and 29, Washington DC**

The House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality will hold a hearing entitled "Climate Change -- International Issues, Engaging Developing Countries" on Tuesday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. in room 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, and another one called "Climate Change -- Lessons Learned from Existing Cap and Trade Programs" on Thursday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m. in room 2322 Rayburn House Office Building *For more information please visit <http://energycommerce.house.gov/membios/schedule.shtml>.*

### **Clean Energy Hearing, March 29, Washington DC**

The Senate Committee on Finance will meet on Thursday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Clean Energy: From the Margins to the Mainstream." *For more information please visit <http://www.senate.gov/~finance/sitepages/hearing032907.htm>.*

## **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**

**Sponsored by the Geothermal Energy Association, cosponsored by the Geothermal Resources Council**

### ***GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS:*** **ORMAT Technologies and GLITNIR Bank**

#### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

- The outlook for state renewable energy laws, federal tax incentives, and other key incentives for expanding geothermal energy production in the West.
- New avenues for financial support of geothermal projects – green power, climate credits, and other approaches.
- Geothermal investing from a variety of viewpoints, including the financing, investing, and marketing of new projects.
- Geothermal project development basics from leading project developers.
- New projects under development: what, where and by whom.
- Geothermal resources in the West – overview and key issues to address for development

PRELIMINARY AGENDA:

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

- 8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Karl Gawell, Executive Director, GEA, Morning Moderator
- 8:40 Renewable Energy and The Direction of the New Congress  
Melanie Nutter, Deputy District Director, Rep. Nancy Pelosi
- 8:50 California’s Commitment to Climate Change  
Joe Nation, Former California Assemblyman, Principal Co-Author of AB 32
- 9:20 Status of Geothermal Projects and Renewable Energy Laws in the West  
Alyssa Kagel, Outreach Director, GEA  
Expectations of Action by Congress and the Administration -- Is Washington Really Going to be There to Help?  
Jonathan Weisgall, Vice President, MidAmerican Energy Holdings Corp (CalEnergy)
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 The Challenges And Opportunities – Views Of Geothermal Power Developers  
Asgeir Margeirsson, CEO, Geysir Green Energy  
Halley Dickey, UTC Power  
Fausto Batini, Director, Geothermal Development, Enel North America, Inc.  
Rick Thomas, VP Development, Calpine Corporation  
Daniel Kunz, CEO, U.S. Geothermal
- 11:30 Point-Counterpoint – The Two Sides Of A Power Purchase Agreement  
Dan Schochet, Vice President, ORMAT  
Tom Fair, Executive, Renewable Energy, Sierra Pacific Resources
- 12:15 Lunch  
Curt Robinson, Executive Director, GRC, Afternoon Moderator
- 12:45 Glitnir Presentation  
Mr. Magnus Bjarnason, Executive Vice President, Glitnir Bank
- 1:15 Update on Federal Regulations, Leasing Activities and Programmatic EIS  
Jack Peterson, US Bureau of Land Management
- 1:30 Finding Geothermal Resources – the Key Questions  
Susan Petty, Black Mountain Technology  
Paul Brophy, President, EGS Inc
- 2:15 Geothermal Due Diligence  
Subir Sanyal, President, GeothermEx
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Financing, Incentives, and Other Approaches to Influencing the Bottom Line  
Margret Rueger, Babcock & Brown  
Bob Banack, Dundee Securities  
Elizabeth C. Battocletti, Bob Lawrence and Associates and Geothermal Finance Working Group  
Gary Barnum, Stoel Rives LLP
- 4:00 Break
- 4:15 Running the Legal, Regulatory and Other Hurdles Facing New Projects  
John Pierce, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
Kevin McSpadden, Milbank and Tweed
- 5:00 Summation and Closing Remarks

Regular Admission \$125/GEA Member Admission \$90--includes lunch, program materials, and listing in participants guide Special Non-profit Discounted Admission Available: contact Karl Gawell at 202-454-5264, or email [karl@geo-energy.org](mailto:karl@geo-energy.org). Sponsorship Opportunities Available: contact Karl Gawell at GEA, 202-454-5264, or email [karl@geo-energy.org](mailto:karl@geo-energy.org)

To register or for more information visit GEA’s website at: [www.geo-energy.org](http://www.geo-energy.org)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:Daniela@geo-energy.org).

For information about the GRC Annual Meeting contact GRC at 530-758-2360 or email [grclub@geothermal.org](mailto: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](mailto:research@geo-energy.org)