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National News

House Tax Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Renewable Energy Tax Incentives

The House Ways and Means Committee’s Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures held a Hearing on Energy and Tax Policy, Thursday, April 19, 2007. Subcommittee Chairman Neal (D-MA) called the hearing to “focus on the current framework of tax incentives encouraging the development of alternative sources of energy.” The Subcommittee announcement explained:

“The Committee on Ways and Means has previously heard testimony on how the United States can help reduce the real and growing risks posed by climate change by encouraging the development and use of alternatives sources of energy. Tax incentives are one way in which the Federal government can accelerate the development of these technologies. The tax code currently provides tax incentives encouraging the development of alternative sources of energy. The industries utilizing these incentives are best positioned to describe the utility of tax incentives in helping develop and expand these innovative technologies.”

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Neal said, “We need to know which current tax incentives are working and which are not so that we can take that knowledge and apply it to future policy decisions.”

Witnesses testifying at the hearing were: Jaime Steve, Legislative Director, American Wind Energy Association, William H. Carlson, Chairman, USA Biomass Power Producers Alliance, Redding, California; Karl Gawell, Executive Director, Geothermal Energy Association; Rhone Resch, President, Solar Energy Industries Association; Robert R. Rose, Executive Director, US Fuel Cell Council; Bob Dinneen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Renewable Fuels Association; and Nina Bergan French, Ph.D, Director, Clean Coal Combustion Products, ADA-ES, Inc., Littleton, Colorado.

GEA’s Executive Director, Karl Gawell, told the Subcommittee that Congress decision to extend the Section 45 Production Tax Credit (PTC) to geothermal energy has resulted in a surge of new geothermal power projects. “The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) has resulted in a major, positive impact on the geothermal energy industry,” Gawell said. “In November of 2006, GEA’s survey of industry activity showed a substantial surge in developing geothermal power projects in the US. Some 61 projects were under various stages of development, a substantial increase from earlier years. Results of the survey provide dramatic evidence that new federal and state initiatives to promote geothermal energy are paying off.”

GEA urged the Subcommittee to “extend the credit five to ten years,” allow geothermal and other baseload projects to qualify once they have binding contracts and are under construction,” and “enact a new tax incentive for geothermal exploration.” The House and Senate are expected to pass energy legislation this summer, and during their early action this year, the House made a commitment to including energy tax incentives in its bill. *The statements for all witnesses and other materials about the Subcommittee hearing are available at: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=detail&hearing=549>.*

National Commission on Energy Policy Sends Revised Recommendations to Congress – Including PTC Extension and National RPS – Congress Moves Towards Energy Legislation

The National Commission on Energy Policy on April 19th sent Congress a series of new, sweeping recommendations to address the nation's leading energy challenges. In its new report, "Energy Policy Recommendations to the President and the 110th Congress," the Commission proposed revised policies regarding a cap and trade proposal for addressing global climate change, increases in fuel economy standards, approaches for the storage of nuclear waste, development and deployment of advanced coal technologies, adoption of a national renewable energy standard, and other major energy policy issues.

"We believe events of the last two years justify increasing the stringency of our initial recommendations on a number of major issues, especially climate change and automotive fuel economy," said William K. Reilly, former EPA Administrator and Commission co-chair. "At the same time, as in our original report, these revised recommendations continue to emphasize market-based, cost-effective approaches that we believe can gain the political support to become law."

Most dramatically, a Commission analysis finds that taken as a whole its new policy recommendations would reduce the absolute amount of U.S. greenhouse gases emissions starting in the very first year such a program would be implemented (2012), and would lead to emissions reductions of 15% below current levels by the year 2030.

"The science is clear on the importance and value of serious steps to reduce emissions of climate-altering gases sooner rather than later" said John Holdren, Teresa and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy at Harvard University, Director of The Woods Hole Research Center, and Commission co-chair. "The Commission's proposals for doing so can be implemented at low cost to the U.S. economy. There is no good reason for our government to continue to dither while the world warms."

Specific to renewable energy, NCEP made two basic recommendations:

- Continue to provide investment certainty by extending the eligibility period for federal production tax credits in five-year, rather than two- or one-year, increments. Given that the current window ends in 2008, this would imply extending the PTC eligibility period to at least 2013.
- Adopt a federal renewable portfolio standard aimed at increasing the share of electricity generated by renewable resources nationwide to at least 15 percent by 2020.

Meanwhile, Committees in both the House and Senate began gearing up for action on expected energy legislation. In the Senate, Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) was reportedly preparing draft legislation for a Committee mark-up that could occur in the coming weeks. A major issue to be resolved will be whether and what level of a national renewable portfolio standard (RPS) will be included in any bill reported by the Senate Energy Committee. In the past, RPS proposals have fared better on the Senate floor than in the Energy Committee, and Senator Bingaman is expected to offer a national RPS that would require at least 15% of all electricity to be from renewable sources by 2020.

Action in the House is also expected in the coming weeks, with a potential mark-up of tax legislation in House Ways and Means, and possibly energy legislation considered in House Energy and Commerce Committee, as well. The outlook for a national RPS in the House is less certain. Rep Tom Udall (D-NM) has been leading RPS advocacy in the House, sponsoring HR 969 which would establish a 20% national RPS by 2020. Nearly 70 House Members have joined as co-sponsors of Rep. Udall's legislation.

"A renewable portfolio standard should be passed this Congress," said Alan Noguee, Union of Concerned Scientist Clean Energy Program Director. "The bill gives the American people what they asked for in the election -- a smart, cost-effective strategy to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and get America on a track toward energy independence. And because power plants are a primary source of heat-trapping emissions, this bill can be an important part of solving global warming."

Response to NCEP Recommendations: Bingaman, Specter

Sens. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) recently received new policy recommendations from the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP) on how to design a mandatory, market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Bingaman and Specter have been working on a cap and trade proposal to address climate change for the past year. NCEP is a bipartisan group of energy experts from industry, government, labor, academia, environmental and consumer groups. The 19-member panel was created in 2002 to address major U.S. energy issues that affect national security, economic prosperity and environmental health.

In January, Sens. Bingaman and Specter circulated a discussion draft on global warming legislation that they had developed. As follow-up, their staffs in February and March conducted a series of workshops for Congressional and Administration staffs, to offer an overview of the legislation and hear opinions from top energy and environmental experts, including those from NCEP. In addition, Bingaman and Specter staffs met with more than 300 stakeholders from a wide range of non-governmental organizations to preview the bill and solicit feedback.

Sen. Bingaman: "NCEP's recommendations to strengthen the reduction targets and the safety valve are consistent with my goals of seriously addressing global warming in a way that does not harm the American economy. I will review these suggestions as we develop the legislation that Senator Specter and I plan to introduce."

Sen. Specter: "I look forward to reviewing the updated recommendations from the National Commission on Energy Policy. Senator Bingaman and I will look to these recommendations and insights that others have offered on our climate change discussion draft as we refine our legislative proposal." *To view the press release, please visit http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=235271&Month=4&Year=2007&Party=0.*

Response to NCEP Recommendations: NRDC

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently responded to the most recent report of the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP) by acknowledging improvements in the recommendations that NCEP issued three years ago, while also noting continuing deficiencies in the Commission's thinking. "We are encouraged that the Commission now recommends reducing global warming pollution below current levels," said Frances Beinecke, President of NRDC. "We are disappointed, however, that the Commission has failed to keep up with a growing coalition of environmentalists and business leaders who recognize that science demands greater and faster reductions in this pollution." Earlier this year NRDC joined 10 major corporations - including General Electric, BP, and DuPont - and three other nonprofits to form the U. S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP). The platform of USCAP proposes a package of near term and long term actions that would reduce global warming emissions below current levels within 10 years and by 60% to 80% from current levels by 2050. "USCAP points the way in the debate over U.S. climate policy, which is to take sufficient action as soon as possible" noted David Hawkins, Director of NRDC's Climate Center. "USCAP also has the full backing of the CEOs of the participating organizations." NRDC has mixed views about the Commission's other recommendations. "Global warming is the most crucial issue facing the planet, and we must strive to find a solution that meets that challenge," Beinecke concluded. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2007/070419a.asp>.*

Delays Undermining Energy Policy Act, Renewable Industry Group Charges

Bureaucratic delays in implementing the 2005 Energy Policy Act (EPAct) are undermining the achievement of our national energy policy goals, according to the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), the US geothermal industry trade association. "It's been nearly two years since Congress passed EPAct, and

rules implementing key geothermal provisions are still not completed," GEA charged in testimony submitted to the House Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources which is preparing for oversight hearings about the law.

"Legislators intended for EPAct to spur the development of domestic energy resources, particularly renewable resources like geothermal energy," GEA Executive Director Karl Gawell told the Subcommittee, "but the long delay in implementing EPAct geothermal leasing and royalty provisions has undercut achieving these goals."

"Legislators intended for EPAct to spur the development of domestic energy resources, particularly renewable resources like geothermal energy," GEA Executive Director Karl Gawell told the Subcommittee, "but the long delay in implementing EPAct geothermal leasing and royalty provisions has undercut achieving these goals." The Energy and Minerals Subcommittee originated the geothermal leasing provisions in EPAct.

"It has been frustrating to witness the Administration working to undermine and repeal various geothermal provisions of EPAct," GEA's statement said. Besides delays in implementing new geothermal leasing provisions, GEA detailed a list of other actions it charged the Administration has taken to undercut provisions in EPAct: "...the Administration has sought to terminate the DOE geothermal research program, has proposed repealing several provisions of the new geothermal leasing law, and has failed to move forward responsibly to complete a new national geothermal resource assessment as specifically directed," GEA reported to the Subcommittee.

In signing EPAct into law, President Bush recognized the legislation sought to "promote dependable, affordable and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy for America's future." GEA argues that geothermal energy should be among the important energy sources America looks towards to meet its future needs, pointing to recent reports by the GEA, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) each of which concludes there is a substantial untapped domestic resource base for geothermal energy production. These studies support the potential to achieve 100,000 MW or more of new geothermal power production from a range of technology applications -- 100,000 MW is roughly equal to the total installed electric generating capacity of Canada.

On a positive note, GEA applauds the Bureau of Land Management for their plans "to begin a multi-state geothermal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) similar to the one completed for wind energy in 2005." GEA noted that the Programmatic Wind EIS has been credited with "successfully advancing" wind energy development on the public lands. "It is important that this multi-year effort have adequate funds committed to it to ensure timely completion," GEA's testimony noted. GEA encouraged the Subcommittee to ask Administration witnesses about "the status, plans and funding for this new effort."

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Considers RE Opportunities and Issues on Federal Lands

The Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources recently held a hearing on renewable resources that featured geothermal energy. It was titled, "Renewable Energy Opportunities and Issues on Federal Lands: Review of Title II, Subtitle B – Geothermal Energy of EPAct"

The oversight hearing, lead by Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA), was called "Renewable Energy Opportunities and Issues on Federal Lands: Review of Title II, Subtitle B – Geothermal Energy of EPAct." The witnesses on the first panel were Jim Hughes, Director, Bureau of Land Management; Jeff Tester, Chair, MIT Climate Change Panel; Daniel Kunz, President, US Geothermal Inc.; and Paul Thomsen, Public Policy Administrator, ORMAT Nevada. Panel two featured representatives from the other renewable energy sectors.

Hughes talked about geothermal's significant presence on public land: "Fully 90 percent of the existing and future geothermal resources in the United States are on Federal lands. The BLM currently manages 354

geothermal leases, 55 of which are producing and generate over 1,250 MW of electrical power (enough to power 1.2 million homes).”

Tester began by saying, “Recent national focus on the value of increasing our supply of indigenous, renewable energy underscores the need for reevaluating all alternatives, particularly those that are large and well-distributed nationally. One such option that is often ignored is geothermal energy.” He set out a specific plan for funding an EGS program, noting that the total cost over fifteen years would not exceed the projected cost of a single carbon sequestration coal plant.

Thomsen and Kunz focused upon hydrothermal geothermal development. Kunz said, “I urge Congress to support the BLM in its efforts to complete the new rules for public land leasing and provide the human resources needed to focus much more effort on geothermal energy. I also urge Congress to boldly support this domestic energy source by enacting a long-term extension of the production tax credit, modifying placed in service treatment for baseload power plants, and providing specific incentives for new geothermal exploration.” Thomsen agreed: “ORMAT believes that the Production Tax Credit should be extended five to ten years for geothermal facilities,” he said. “ORMAT believes that the BLM and other state agencies need to move quickly on the pending lease applications and complete regulations that will implement the new law. BLM needs to hold new lease sales in every western state. Let’s implement the new law and urge Congress to actively oversee the process to ensure that all agencies keep the spirit of the legislation – to boost production of geothermal energy.”

During the geothermal testimony, Hughes was pressed about the timeline for the BLM ruling. He answered on the record that the ruling would be released in the next 30 days, and a leasing sale would begin the summer. When asked if he was “certain,” he replied, “as certain as a bureaucrat can be.” Hughes said a programmatic EIS draft of geothermal resources on public lands would be done by the end of the year.

Members asked some tough questions of all the renewable representatives in an attempt to gauge the environmental footprint of each of the technologies. Hughes acknowledged to ranking member Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) that about 95 percent of existing project proposals have generated environmental opposition on “some issue,” including the routing of transmission corridors that would require mitigation in at least three wildlife refuges, and the impacts to bird species by wind plants. “That’s the purpose of NEPA,” he said.

Costa and other members began and concluded with an endorsement of renewable energy, and expression of a strong belief the full range of energy options, including renewable energy and specifically geothermal energy, must be explored. Besides Costa, the other members present for the first panel were Pearce, Sali (R-ID), and Kennedy (D-RI).

Press reacted favorably to the hearing, with one E&E news daily article reporting:

“Industry witnesses projected huge generation possibilities for their respective resources: 100,000 MW of unconventional geothermal power by 2050.... But realizing these estimates will take billions of dollars more in federal funding, they said. ...The last [geothermal resource] assessment was done in 1979, and it did not take several factors into account that have made resources more accessible today, including technological improvements and rising oil and natural gas prices. Industry representatives said they expected the new assessment to greatly raise the estimated geothermal capacity on public lands, which according to the 1979 assessment is about 150,000 MW.

Paul Thomsen, public policy administrator of Ormat Technologies, who testified last July, echoed his previous assertion that it was too soon to discern EAct’s effect on geothermal resources and industry, due to the lack of a finalized resource assessment and other obstacles. But U.S. Geothermal CEO Dan Kunz said his company had already benefited from the act, as the Raft River project under construction in Idaho has qualified for the production tax credit of 1.9 cents per kilowatt-hour. Kunz and Thomsen both urged Congress to extend the PTC by a larger chunk of time than it has been thus far to encourage investment.”

To view the press release and read written statements from all witnesses, please visit <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=54>

CNBC Features Geothermal Energy

A recent five minute CNBC television news report focuses on the immense potential of geothermal energy, both using hydrothermal and EGS applications. It begins, “[Geothermal] could help end the country’s dependence on foreign oil, so why would the government ever want to cut off funding for it?” The newscaster goes on to cite geothermal as one way to help cure our addiction to foreign oil. The report interviews Ormat representatives, showcasing the company as a “pioneer in modern geothermal energy.” The report goes on to discuss EGS technology, pointing out that EGS power, while potentially significant, needs government funds to develop the technology. *To view the segment, please visit <http://www.cnbc.com/id/17534031>.*

Top Sustainable Cities Ranked, California Leads

SustainLane Government (www.sustainlane.us) determined the percentage of each city’s electricity that comes from renewables such as solar, wind, geothermal, and small-scale hydro energy. Just over 33 percent of greenhouse gases produced in the United States came from electricity production in 2004, making it the leading category of such emissions over other areas such as transportation (27.9 percent), industry (19.6 percent) and agriculture (7 percent).

The leading cities in renewable energy could have an advantage in any upcoming federal or state regulations aimed at regulating or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions or developing renewable energy standards. If the greenhouse gases that cause climate change get priced, cities with strong renewable energy programs could save a lot of money in the long run and their economies could gain a tax advantage.

Oakland, California led the nation with 17 percent of its electricity being produced by energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal energy. San Francisco, Sacramento and San Jose tied for second with 12 percent of their electricity coming from renewable energy sources. Other cities, such as Austin, Texas, and Portland, Oregon have leading residential and business green choice programs as part of city-owned utility service offerings.

Percentage of Power from Renewable Energy		
1	Oakland, CA	17%
2	Sacramento/San Francisco/San Jose, CA	12%
3	Portland, OR	10%
4	Boston, MA	8.6%
5	San Diego, CA	8%
6	Austin, TX	6%
7	Los Angeles, CA	5%
8	Minneapolis, MN	5%
9	Seattle, WA	3.5%
10	Chicago, IL	3%
Source: SustainLane U.S. City Rankings data 2006/2007		

For more information, please visit http://sustainlane.us/articles/city_renewable_energy.jsp.

Company News

Nevada Geothermal Power Inc.: Company Announces Development Drilling to Continue at Blue Mountain

VANCOUVER, BC (April 16th, 2007) -- Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. announces that a geothermal drilling contract has been signed with ThermaSource Inc. to drill up to two additional reservoir test wells at Blue Mountain. Rig #101 is expected to be mobilized on May 1st..

Well 38-14, previously drilled to 2008 feet, will be deepened through the anticipated geothermal production zone to approximately 3500 feet total depth. A second well will be drilled, if necessary, to complete the reservoir evaluation supporting the company's program to build the 'Faulkner 1' geothermal power plant under the Company's existing power purchase agreement with Nevada Power Company. Results are expected to yield similar results to well 26A-14, which encountered a "prolific" production zone, between 2215 feet and hole bottom at 2815 feet. .

In business since 1980, ThermaSource is a leading geothermal drilling company and project management consultant. The ThermaSource management team has over 90 years of combined geothermal drilling experience and is a respected member of the geothermal industry. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.nevadageothermal.com/s/News.asp?ReportID=181109& Type=News& Title=Announces-Development-Drilling-to-Continue-at-Blue-Mountain>.*

OIT: Wins Nationwide College Campus Ecology Competition

RESTON, VA – Converting much of the campus to sustainable geothermal energy saved Oregon Institute of Technology almost \$1 million per year in energy costs, reduced their global warming emissions, and made the college a winner of the National Wildlife Federation’s Campus Ecology Chill Out contest, a recent press release said.

The competition recognizes colleges and universities around the country which are implementing innovative programs to reduce the impacts of global warming, the number one environmental threat facing the nation. Oregon Institute of Technology was one of eight winning schools chosen for the award from over 100 competition entries received from colleges nationwide.

“Colleges and universities are key places for demonstrating how to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the major culprit of global warming,” Julian Keniry, Director of Campus and Community Leadership for the National Wildlife Federation said in the release. “Oregon Institute of Technology has demonstrated its leadership in promoting renewable energy options both on campus, throughout the United States and around the world.”

Due to high energy costs, Oregon Institute of Technology constructed a new campus in the 1960s to take advantage of geothermal energy. The school drilled three deep wells to tap geothermal hot water that now heats the entire campus of about 650,000 sq. ft., saving about \$1 million annually in heating and domestic hot water costs and 10,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions (compared to producing energy from petroleum).

This year, the college is proposing to drill a new well to generate energy from geothermal resources that will fulfill the remaining electricity needs on campus, provide an additional savings of around \$500,000 per year, and reduce CO2 emissions by about 16,000 tonnes annually (compared to producing it from petroleum).

The campus would then be 100 percent “green” by producing all of its energy needs from geothermal resources. In addition, the campus will be constructing a geothermally heated greenhouse and aquaculture facility to train interested students and potential developers in the use of geothermal energy for agricultural purposes.

For these impressive efforts, the National Wildlife Federation will be featuring the Oregon Institute of Technology in their Chill Out webcast on April 18, broadcast live from George Washington University in Washington DC, which will include a taped address from Al Gore. The webcast will be part of global warming events scheduled on over 100 college campuses throughout the nation. The college will also receive a \$1,000 grant to continue innovating global warming solutions. *For more information, please visit <http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/articles/2007/04/19/news/doc4627b88277052819517804.txt>.*

U.S. Geothermal: CEO Daniel Kunz to Testify Before U.S House of Representatives - Energy and Minerals Resources Subcommittee

BOISE, Idaho, April 18 -- U.S. Geothermal Inc. CEO Daniel Kunz has been invited to testify before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals Resources.

Kunz will testify Thursday, April 19 about the potential for concentrated geothermal power technologies and what challenges and issues impact development of geothermal resources on public lands.

"Geothermal projects have a unique and growing importance in the supply of green energy because they offer a consistent supply of clean, reliable, low emission power," said Daniel Kunz, president and chief executive officer of Boise-based, U.S. Geothermal. "The technology needed to convert geothermal heat to electricity is tried, true, and currently available with low technology risk."

U.S. Rep. Bill Sali (R-Idaho) is a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals Resources and plans on attending the hearing.

Kunz will emphasize to the subcommittee how the pace of growth of geothermal energy can benefit greatly from federal government deployment of resources in federal land leasing programs and the extension of critical high voltage transmission infrastructure in the West.

"I urge Congress to boldly support this domestic energy source and provide specific incentives for new geothermal exploration," said Kunz. "Our public lands have potentially vast stores of geothermal energy that can help our nation address its energy and environmental needs."

To view the press release, please visit <http://www.usgeothermal.com/news/18Apr2007>.

Climate Change News

Growing Number of Americans See Climate Change as Leading Environmental Threat

In a new poll, conducted jointly by the Washington Post, ABC News and Stanford University, most of those surveyed said that climate change is real and that they want the federal government to do more about it. A third of Americans say global warming ranks as the world's single largest environmental problem, double the number who gave it top ranking last year. According to the poll, seven in 10 Americans want more federal action on global warming, and about half of those surveyed think the government should do "much more" than it is doing now. Eighty-four percent think that average global temperatures have been rising over the past century. However, only four in 10 are "extremely" or "very" sure global warming is happening, and 56 percent continue to think there is "a lot" of disagreement among scientists about climate change. The poll was conducted by telephone April 5-10 among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. For more information, please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/19/AR2007041902527.html>.

Americans Urgently Want Action on Energy Independence and Global Warming

A poll for the Center for American Progress conducted by GreenbergQuinlanRosner Research found that a majority of Americans look to Washington for meaningful and timely action on climate change.

Among the most important findings:

- Americans want freedom and self sufficiency from our energy policies;
- Americans, in the tradition of our "can-do" spirit, believe we should be leading the world in clean, alternative energy. If the political will exists, they believe we can do anything;

- Americans want accountability. They want their leaders to show they will do the right thing, put money to good use and act accordingly themselves;
- They see clean energy as a path to economic growth and new jobs;
- Democrats, Independents, and Republicans believe the evidence of global warming is now clear and only strengthens the case for immediate action on energy independence; and,
- Americans overwhelmingly support vigorous standards for clean alternative energy technologies and better mileage. They also support a cap and reduction on global warming pollution.
- This public urgency is consistent with the scientific urgency illustrated by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that determined that human activity causes global warming and that climate change will put humans and our planet at real risk if left unchecked.

To view the press release, please visit

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/environment_poll.html.

Military Panel: Climate Change Threatens U.S. National Security

On April 16, the CNA Corporation, a nonprofit research and analysis organization, released a study on the national and international security risks posed by global warming entitled "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change." The report brought together eleven retired US admirals and generals as a Military Advisory Board. The study found climate change to be a "threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world," creating breeding grounds for extremism and terrorism. It also found that climate change raised tensions even in stable regions and presented a serious national security threat that could affect Americans at home and impact US military operations. The report found climate change to cause extreme weather events, drought, flooding, sea level rise, retreating glaciers, habitat shifts and spreading of life-threatening diseases. It recommended that the Pentagon and US intelligence agencies assess the national security implications of climate change and called for the United States to play a stronger national and international role in helping stabilize climate changes. It recommended that the United States to form strong partnerships with developed and developing countries. *Reported by EESI. To view the complete report, please visit* <http://securityandclimate.cna.org/report/>.

UN Security Council's Meeting on Climate Change

On April 19, the United Nations Security Council held its first ever debate on climate change. The debate was initiated by Britain, warning of the threats that climate change could pose to world security as conflicts over water and other resources are likely to increasingly fuel wars. The British mission to the UN circulated a paper stating that "areas of concern include the possible submergence of entire small island states [and] dramatically receding coastlines" and that 200 million people could be displaced by the middle of the century because "substantial parts of the world risk being left uninhabitable by rising sea levels." The Security Council's legitimacy to hold such a meeting was challenged by developing countries that argue that the threat to the global environment is not a subject within the purview of the Security Council. The Security Council was itself divided on the issue, with two veto-wielding permanent members—China and France—holding conflicting views. *Reported by EESI. For more information, please visit* <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6559211.stm>.

Oil Poses Security Threat, Experts Warn Lawmakers

On April 18, the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming held its first hearing and discussed the "geopolitical implications of rising oil dependence and global warming." Chairman Edward Markey (D-MA) introduced the "Global Climate Change Security Oversight Act" to authorize an intelligence report to assess the security implications of global warming to the United States and its military. The witnesses warned that climate change and the US dependence on oil pose a threat to national security. General Gordon Sullivan, chairman of the military advisory board for the CNA Corporation's report "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change," testified that climate change "will be a significant threat to our national security and in a larger sense to life on earth as we know it to

be.” Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club, said that the United States must enact a comprehensive global warming policy that combines a declining greenhouse gas emissions cap with aggressive standards for high-emission sectors, and he opposed coal to liquids technology.

Sen. Dodd Calls for Carbon Tax

Presidential candidate Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT) says the best way to cut pollution and curb global warming is to tax corporations for their carbon dioxide emissions. "You have to have a price-driven strategy if you are going to succeed in this thing," Dodd said in a telephone interview Wednesday with the Associated Press. "Otherwise, I'm afraid it's just a lot of talk. People are trying to avoid the difficult decisions." Several greenhouse gas-related bills and plans propose some form of a cap-and-trade system, aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions by allowing more efficient polluters to sell emission credits to less efficient polluters. Dodd supports that system, but said it only works if it is combined with a tax. "I don't know how we can possibly talk about honestly getting to the number we need to get to if you're going to just dance around that issue," Dodd said. "Price is the last real barrier." Sen. Dodd's "Corporate Carbon Tax" would produce some \$50 billion annually in revenues to fund research, development and production of renewable energy technologies and make them more affordable. *For more information, please visit <http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Dodd+brings+pollution+tax+proposal+to+NH&articleId=d2bfcced-cc95-407f-b1d1-fa1801371a36>.*

Sen. Boxer Charts Road Ahead on Global Warming

On April 18, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, gave a speech at the National Press Club where she outlined steps the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should take immediately to address global warming. She also discussed new developments in the Senate on legislation to address global warming pollution, and steps individuals can take to reduce their own contributions to global warming pollution. Sen. Boxer called for immediate measures to face global warming challenges, as a number of scientists expect the effects of human emissions to become irreversible in about ten years. In the wake of the Supreme Court's recent rulings on global warming pollution, Sen. Boxer will be holding a hearing on April 24 at which current and former EPA Administrators will testify. She will be challenging EPA Administrator Steve Johnson to use the power EPA has to address global warming. She called on the EPA to: (1) allow California and other states to implement global warming pollution standards for cars; (2) to set national global warming standards for cars that are at least as stringent as California's standards; and (3) to immediately set pollution standards for new and modified coal-burning power plants. Sen. Boxer also described positive signs that the Senate is moving closer to taking important action to deal with a major source of global warming pollution, referring to Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), who have recently introduced bills that address pollution from power plants. *For more information, please visit http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_55070.shtml.*

Carper Introduces Clean Air Bill to Cut Pollution from Power Plants and Combat Global Warming

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del outlined his Clean Air Planning Act of 2007 (CAPA), which is a version of clean air legislation he has introduced in previous Congresses. The 2007 version of CAPA would significantly reduce unhealthy emissions of mercury, as well as the harmful pollutants (nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide) that produce smog and acid rain. In addition, the legislation would set up a mandatory cap-and-trade program for utilities to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide, which causes global warming. Specifically, the Sen. Carper's CAPA bill would:

- Cut sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions by 82 percent by 2015. This acid-rain causing pollution would be cut from today's 11 million tons to a cap of 2 million tons in 2015.
- Cut emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 68 percent by 2015. Ozone pollution will be cut from today's 5 million tons to a cap of 1.6 million tons in 2015.
- Cut mercury emissions at each power plant by 90

percent in 2015. This is a stringent, yet achievable, goal to greatly reduce the risks this neurotoxin poses to children and pregnant women.

- Implement a cap-and-trade program to reduce CO2 emissions. CO2 emissions would be capped at today's levels in 2012 and 2001 levels in 2015. After 2015 power plants would then reduce CO2 emissions annually where by 2050, emission levels will be at least 25 percent below 1990 levels.

The six Senate bipartisan cosponsors of the Carper bill include: Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Chris Dodd (D-Conn.), Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif), Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.). The environmental and industry groups supporting the language in the Carper bill include: American Lung Association, Clean Energy Group, Environmental Defense, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Environmental Trust, National Parks Conservation Association, and Solar Energy Industries Association. *To view the press release, please visit <http://carper.senate.gov/test/release.cfm?type=press&id=272646>.*

EPA Chief: Bush Climate Policy Working

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency said recently that the growth of greenhouse gases by less than 1 percent in 2005 shows the administration's program to address global warming "is delivering real results." The pronouncement by EPA Administrator Dave Johnson brought a quick response from some environmentalists. The EPA said its annual greenhouse gas assessment showed that 7.26 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases were released by U.S. sources in 2005, an increase of 0.8 percent from the previous year. Greenhouse gas emissions have been increasing an average of 1.2 percent a year since 1990, according to the Energy Department, and the smaller increase in 2005 may have had little to do with Bush's climate policy, the New York Times reported. "The slow growth in emissions from 2004 to 2005 can be attributed mainly to higher energy prices that suppressed demand, low or negative growth in several energy-intensive industries, and weather-related disruptions," the Energy Department said in a separate report on greenhouse gas emissions. *For more information, please visit <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Greenhouse-Gases.html>*

Key Climate Question: What's the Cost of Carbon?

At least a half dozen bills in Congress aim to solve the problem of pricing carbon by letting the market decide through "cap-and-trade" systems. But those systems, where companies decide the most economical way to meet an overall cap, include widely varying details whose impact is largely unknown. How lawmakers implement the system could propel the program forward – or sink it entirely. That's why finding the right price of carbon is key. The region with the most experience in setting carbon prices is, arguably, Europe. Under the mandates of the Kyoto Protocol, the European Union modeled its cap-and-trade approach on a US program for reducing sulfur dioxide. But CO2 prices have gyrated between \$30 a ton and \$1 a ton. Those wild shifts have undermined emissions goals there and must not be replicated in the US, economists say. To avoid that, key economic problems must be resolved, including:

- Proper allocation of pollution allowances.
- Do companies need a "safety valve"? Many corporations say they need protection against dramatic spikes in carbon-emission prices.
- Foreign competition.
- Who's the emitter?
- Who gets the emissions revenue?

For more information, please visit <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0412/p03s01-uspo.html?page=3>.

Dingell, Boucher Release Industry, Environmental Views on Prospective Climate Change Legislation

Reps. John D. Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Rick Boucher (D-VA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, recently made public the responses of more than 70 industry groups, non-governmental organizations and labor unions to a letter soliciting

recommendations on prospective climate change legislation. Leaders from the energy industry and environmental community responded to questions focusing on the ramifications of greenhouse gas emissions and cap-and-trade policy.

“These responses illustrate the challenge we have before us in balancing our environmental and economic needs,” said Dingell. “As we continue our effort to craft sensible policies to address the matter of rising greenhouse gas emissions, we will take into consideration the variety of concerns that have been expressed to the committee. The responsibility to solve this problem does not lie solely with one industry. Each will be asked to make an appropriate contribution to the collection box.” This outreach effort is part of the Committee’s ongoing examination of climate change. The Committee has conducted 11 climate change hearings featuring testimony from more than 50 witnesses, including former Vice-President Al Gore.

“The challenge before the subcommittee is to write a mandatory greenhouse gas control measure with economy wide application that does not dislocate any economic sector,” said Boucher. “The responses we received from this diverse group of industry, environmental, and other organizations with a strong interest in climate change legislation offer beneficial insight for the subcommittee as we continue to consider the best method to accomplish this goal.” *To view the press release, please visit http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/110nr26.shtml.*

US Not Prepared for Peril from Global Warming, According to GAO Report

A government report released recently highlights the federal flood and crop insurance program’s failure to account for increased peril from global warming risk, according to policy experts at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The report was prepared by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and is called *Climate Change: Financial Risks to Federal and Private Insurers in Coming Decades are Potentially Significant* (GAO-07-285). It was commissioned by the chairs of the Senate Committee for Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME). “We can no longer afford to let political considerations blind us to the realities of rising global temperatures,” David Tuft, campaign director of the Natural Resources Defense Council’s (NRDC) Climate Center said. “As we saw with the response to Hurricane Katrina, our government is woefully ill-prepared to protect its citizens against catastrophic losses. Now this report has blown the whistle on how ill-prepared we are as a nation for further destruction. The key is that there is still time to reduce the threat of global warming, and avoid the worst consequences.” *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2007/070419.asp>.*

International News

Botswana: Country May Build Solar-Geothermal Power Plant

The Botswana government has called for companies to tender for the provision of consultancy services to conduct a pre-feasibility 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 have increasingly had to 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=106896.*

Croatia: Geothermal Power Proposals Submitted

Both Siemens and Ormat have submitted proposals to build a geothermal power plant in Bjelovar, Croatia, according to SETimes. *For more information, visit:*

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/roundup/2007/04/23/roundup-st-03.

Kenya: KenGen MD Clears Air Ahead of Second Offer

In a recent article meant to clear up some speculation about the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) share offers, the managing director Mr Eddy Njoroge, revealed that the Geothermal Development Company (GDC) will be a fully Government-owned company charged with exploration of viable steam wells within the country. The company shall then, upon striking viable wells, invite bids for energy producers to buy the steam and use it for setting up geothermal power plants.

"The recent media reports that KenGen is to be split were misleading," said Njoroge. "None of the company's assets is to be moved to the new GDC." He added that in fact even as it is now KenGen does not own any of the existing steam wells, they are owned by the Kenya Government with KenGen only owning the power generation plants. All the geothermal exploration equipment is also Government owned and, therefore, the company's fundamentals will remain intact even with the formation of the GDC.

The only difference, Njoroge said, is that with the formation of the new company KenGen will have to be paying for any steam used in the generation of geothermal power, a cost he feels will not be of much significance to the operation costs of the firm. Formation of the company is aimed at tapping the potential 7,000 megawatts (MW) of geothermal power that the country is estimated to have. This came after the realization that countries like the Philippines and Indonesia have surpassed Kenya in geothermal generation capacity, despite the countries having been at par in the 1970s. Kenya has an installed geothermal generation capacity of only 128MW while the Philippines have 1,900MW, with Indonesia boasting 1,300MW. *For more information, please visit* <http://allafrica.com/stories/200704161694.html?page=2>.

Notices and RFPs

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

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

The Geothermal Energy Association is hosting a "Geothermal Energy Development and Finance Workshop" May 10th in San Francisco. The event, sponsored by Ormat Technologies and Glitnir Bank, will take place May 10, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center. The Geothermal Education Office, Geothermal Resources Council and California Geothermal Collaborative are also cosponsors of the workshop.

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.

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