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National News

New Study Finds Extensive Undeveloped Geothermal Resource in Western US; Identifies Barriers, Challenges, and Opportunities for Future Geothermal Development

Washington, DC, February 1 2007 -- A new report released today finds extensive undeveloped geothermal resources in fourteen Western states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The new report, *An Assessment of Geothermal Resource Development Needs in the Western United States*, written by Dan Fleischmann for the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is the most in-depth study we've ever undertaken into the specific barriers and challenges to geothermal energy in the US.

Key conclusions of the 140 page report are:

- The West's geothermal resources appear to be more extensive than most people believe;

- The unidentified resource base is a significant near-term target of opportunity with up to 150,000MW;
- Federal and State policies need to be complementary and support a clear path for new project development;
- Federal programs and tax incentives will make a significant difference; and
- Federal efforts should be tailored to support the specific needs in each state

The report documents efforts in each state to develop geothermal resources and defines challenges and opportunities for expanding geothermal energy production in the US.

The cross-cutting recommendations made in the report are based upon the feedback received from over 150 different experts including consultants, engineers, project developers, utilities, regulators, clean energy advocates, researchers and geologists.

“If federal and state policies address the issues identified in this report, the potential for geothermal development is incredible,” says Daniel Fleischmann, the author of the report. “While the U.S. geothermal industry already has close to 60 projects and over 2000 megawatts in the pipeline – the development of which will double current capacity – much, much more is possible.”

According to the report, “If policymakers are serious about energy independence and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases and toxic pollutants, they must develop a comprehensive approach supporting geothermal development as one of several resources that can help meet these goals.” According to the report, such an approach requires that policymakers:

- Extend the production tax credit (PTC) so that geothermal facilities have the time they need to comply;
- Provide incentives for geothermal distributed generation and direct use projects;
- Fully fund and diversify the USDOE Geothermal Technologies Program;
- Facilitate strong interagency coordination on transmission issues, environmental reviews, leasing, and permitting for geothermal development on federal lands; and
- Update reconnaissance for both direct use and power purposes.

“The geothermal industry is now in a position to make significant progress, take advantage of ongoing momentum and invest in new technologies,” the report states. “With high energy prices, growing populations requiring additional energy supplies, and new technological advancements and applications the industry is heading towards a tipping point where what was theoretical will become standard.”

To download the report free of charge, please visit the GEA website. *An Executive Summary (12 pages) and Full Report (140 pages) are both available at <http://www.geo-energy.org/publications/reports.asp>.*

Hearing Critical for Fair Chance of Funding, Geothermal Group Tells Congressional Leaders

Washington, January 31, 2007 -- Legislation before Congress to fund federal agencies for the remainder of this fiscal year could be a “major setback” for geothermal energy unless Congress intervenes, the industry trade group told congressional leaders today. The bill before the House today, H.J. Res 20, includes a \$300 million renewable energy funding increase but lets DOE and OMB decide how to spend the funds.

In a letter to Senate Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) the Geothermal Energy Association’s Executive Director, Karl Gawell, argued that “the only way to ensure that DOE and OMB do not simply revert to their irrational insistence on terminating the geothermal research program is to schedule a congressional hearing specifically on geothermal energy, its potential, and the role of federal research.”

Last year, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed terminating geothermal research, arguing that it was a mature technology with little potential for research to produce worthwhile results.

Congress had effectively been on the path to reject that proposal, with the House adopting an amendment last year to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill sponsored by Representative Millender-McDonald (D-CA) appropriating \$5 million for geothermal research in FY 07, and the Senate Appropriations Bill restoring the entire \$23.5 million Geothermal Program.

“The DOE Geothermal Program merits a substantial funding increase in FY07,” the letter argued. “There is simply no justification for terminating geothermal energy research at the Department of Energy.” Gawell continued. “Recent studies by the National Research Council, the Western Governors’ Association Clean Energy Task Force, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology all support expanding geothermal research funding to develop the technology necessary to utilize this vast, untapped domestic renewable energy resource,” he continued.

Last year the Senate Energy Committee held a hearing regarding geothermal and other renewable energy resources on the public lands, but it did not examine the DOE research program or its role in expanding production from the vast geothermal resource base. No similar hearings were held in the House.

“While geothermal energy has had numerous hearings in the distant past, there has not been a specific hearing of this nature in many years, and one is long-overdue,” GEA told the congressional leaders. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/01-31-2007/0004517535&EDATE=>*

Rep. Pearce Opposes H.J. Res. 20, Supports Geothermal Funding

Rep. Stevan Pearce (NM-02), delivered a General Debate Statement on H. J. Res 20, Omnibus Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007 in Support of Geothermal Energy. His statement reads, in part:

“Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this massive \$463 billion dollar spending bill because it fails four critical tests: the accountability test, the common sense test, the compassion test, and most of all - the smell test.

Hatched behind close doors by the chairmen of the House and Senate appropriations committees with no input from Members or their constituents, H. J. Res. 20 levels a devastating blow against New Mexicans and their communities.

....Last, but certainly not least given the Majority’s lip service in support of supplemental and alternative energy technologies, H. J. Res. 20 shreds funding for promising initiatives in this area. Consider, for example, a letter I submit for the Record from Karl Gawell of the Geothermal Energy Association. Mr. Gawell states that this legislation “will be a serious setback for efforts in the House and Senate to restore the DOE geothermal research program.”

I have worked with Mr. Gawell to explore opportunities for expanded geothermal energy development in Southern New Mexico and I take his concerns very seriously. I hope that my colleagues will, too.

Madam Speaker, as one who remains committed to vigorously fighting wasteful spending, I understand – and share – the Majority’s desire to eliminate unnecessary earmarks. A rushed and ham-handed bill designed for appearances isn’t the right way to do it. My constituents deserve the chance to have their voices heard – an opportunity which the normal process of public hearings is designed to provide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in casting a no vote.”

GEA’s Executive Director Answers Questions about Geothermal Energy

A renewable energy website, Renewable Energy Access, has recently unveiled an “ask the experts” column, where visitors to the site can submit questions related to renewable energy. The site will publish geothermal questions approximately every 3 weeks. In response to a question about the new utilization of

low temperature resources in Alaska, the writer asked if geothermal electricity could be produced “practically any place nearby a hot spring.” Karl first discussed the Chena plant at length, and then continued with the following (exert):

“There's no question that our ability to produce power from lower temperature resources expands geothermal's potential for development. The availability of small power units makes distributed generation much more viable...But, it is difficult to know the extent of subsurface geothermal resources capable of economically producing power from small systems like those at Chena. The last geothermal resource assessment was conducted by the US Geological Survey almost thirty years ago, in 1978, and that report did not examine the potential for what would be called "medium" temperature resources. That's why Congress mandated that the US Geological Survey (USGS) complete a new national resource assessment in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. We hope their report will shed light on these and other questions.” *To view the entire article, please visit <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/ate/story?id=47266>.*

U.S. Mayors call for \$4 Billion US in Energy and Environmental Grants

U.S. mayors have called for \$4 billion US in an Energy and Environmental Block Grant to help cities combat global warming. The block grant would provide funding directly to cities and urban counties for programs that improve community energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil. "Cities are on the frontlines of climate change with mayors leading the way. But we can't do it alone. We need the federal government to be a real partner with us on the issues of climate protection and achieving energy independence," said, Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. To date, 372 mayors from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, have signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/news/detail.asp?ID=6963&Dept=40>.*

100+ Groups/Businesses Tell Bush – “Nuclear Power is Not ‘Renewable’”

In a letter sent recently to the White House, 108 environmental, business, consumer, faith-based, and energy policy organizations refuted President Bush's oft-stated claim that "nuclear power is a renewable source of energy." The letter was also signed by 22 individual citizens. In his efforts to promote nuclear power and to initiate the construction of new nuclear power plants, President George W. Bush has frequently attempted to portray the technology as being "renewable." The letter's signers rejected that argument, writing: "Please be advised that nuclear power is neither a renewable nor a clean source of energy. For that matter, oil, coal, and natural gas are also not renewable or clean sources of energy. Nuclear power and fossil fuels are environmentally polluting and non-renewable sources of energy that produce long-term radioactive wastes and/or greenhouse gas emissions. The primary renewable sources of energy are biomass (e.g., biofuels, biopower), geothermal, solar, water (e.g., hydropower, tidal, wave, ocean currents), and wind.” The groups object to the President's efforts to revive the nuclear industry by defining it as "renewable" so that it might be included in a future federal Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard or supported by federal tax incentives or research and development programs specifically designed to promote renewable energy technologies. *For more information, please visit <http://www.earthtoys.com/news.php?section=view&id=2076>.*

Geothermal Stocks: Heating Up

A recent article discusses “an alternative energy that hasn't received much press coverage: geothermal stocks.” It highlights the following companies: Calpine Corporation, Constellation Energy Group, IdaCorp, Inc., Nevada Geothermal Power, Inc., Ormat Technologies Inc., PG & E Corp. (PCG), Polaris Geothermal, Raser Technologies, Sierra Geothermal Power Corp, US Geothermal Inc., Western GeoPower Corp., WFI Industries. *To view the entire article, please visit <http://energy.seekingalpha.com/article/25398>.*

Company News

Petratherm: Company Joins with Beach Petroleum in Geothermal Joint Venture

Adelaide, Jan 30, 2007 (ACN Newswire) - A new geothermal or "hot rock" energy joint venture potentially worth tens of millions of dollars has been announced between Petratherm Limited (ASX: PTR) and Beach Petroleum Limited (ASX: BPT).

The agreement significantly underpins the commercial development of Petratherm's advanced and successful Paralana hot rock energy project just 11 kilometres from the Beverley uranium mine, and 130 kilometres east of Leigh Creek in South Australia.

This could see Paralana producing Australia's first large-scale commercial geothermal electricity supplies by the end of 2009, with potential to expand to base load supply.

Paralana is currently 100%-owned by Petratherm and has in its first two development stages already achieved one of the country's highest "hot rock" temperature indicators. Stage 3 will involve two new wells close to the Paralana test well, thermal resource definition, circulation tests and the establishment of an underground heat exchanger.

Terms of the farmin for Paralana Energy JV

Initial costs for Stage 3 are around A\$20 million. Under the terms of the farmin announced today for the Paralana Energy Joint Venture, Beach will earn a 21% interest in the project by:

- Contributing \$5 million to the drilling to around 4.0 kilometres depth, and the stimulation of, the first of the planned two new wells. Drilling is scheduled to commence in the second half of this year, subject to rig availability
- Contributing a further \$5 million to the cost of drilling and stimulating the second well, followed by the creation of an underground heat exchanger by circulating water through rock fractures between the two wells to demonstrate a commercial "hot rock" energy resource
- Subject to the success of the heat exchanger stage, Beach can earn a further 15% for a total project interest of 36%, by contributing a further \$20 million. This would contribute to the cost of installing the initial surface-based electricity generation plant of 7.5 Megawatts capacity, at Paralana.
- Beach can withdraw without equity after the completion of the first well or elect to remain at a 21% position after the completion of the second well.

In addition, the two companies are investigating the possibility of extending their relationship in other hot rock geothermal opportunities in Australia.

"The agreement focuses significant new financial and technical expertise on Paralana as well as an external rating of the commercial potential in this country for geothermal energy and its providers," Petratherm's Managing Director, Mr Terry Kallis, said.

"With our recent Memorandum of Understanding with Heathgate Resources to provide top-up supplies to the Beverley mine, we have moved Paralana up the ranks of genuine contenders among long-term alternative energy suppliers."

Beach Managing Director, Mr Reg Nelson, said the investment and partnership was a logical and strategic expansion for the Company.

"The farmin to the Paralana project is based upon Beach's view that future growth in the petroleum sector is likely to increasingly require a portfolio which includes both conventional and alternative energy projects," Mr Nelson said. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.petratherm.com.au/news/downloads/majorrocks.pdf>.*

U.S. Geothermal: Commended for Use and Development of Renewable Energy

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 31 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- U.S. Geothermal Inc. received the Governor's Clean Energy Award during the Harvesting Clean Energy Conference this week. The award recognizes U.S. Geothermal's contribution to the development of renewable energy in Idaho. "We are honored by this recognition. Idaho's vast geothermal energy potential, coupled with hydroelectric power and wind power, could allow our state to become a leader in renewable energy production," said Daniel Kunz, president and CEO of U.S. Geothermal. "The geothermal energy industry is showing the world the power of what's under our globe's rug: abundant energy generated by a natural power source low in emissions."

The conference is the Northwest's premier event, bringing agriculture and clean energy production together. Lt. Governor Jim Risch presented the Governor's Clean Energy award to U.S. Geothermal in acknowledgement of the company's development of geothermal resources in Idaho. "What U.S. Geothermal is showing us is that within the Earth's bedrock lies a resource that is always available, will never run out, and works like a model of efficiency using smart science," said Risch.

U.S. Geothermal is in the process of building a binary cycle geothermal power generation plant at Raft River, Idaho -- the first commercial geothermal power plant in the Pacific Northwest. The project covers 8.2 square miles and the first phase 13MW power plant is currently under construction. The seventh annual Harvesting Clean Energy conference is a three-day event in Boise with an estimated 500 attendees. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.usgeothermal.com/news/30Jan2007>.*

U.S. Geothermal: Ready to Tap Steam

A recent article discusses the Raft River power project near Malta, Idaho. Workers are drilling wells one mile deep in the Idaho desert, looking to extract 300-degree water, which can be converted into energy that would be sold to regional utilities and then pumped back into the earth's crust. Officials with U.S. Geothermal, the renewable energy development company that is overseeing plant construction, intend to produce 10 megawatts monthly average power output from the binary-cycle geothermal plant beginning in the fall of 2007. That would generate \$5 million in annual revenue, according to company officials. Idaho Power recently signed a 20-year purchase agreement with U.S. Geothermal. Daniel Kunz, the company's CEO, hopes a second phase of the plant will go online in late 2008, producing an additional 25 megawatts of power. Though geothermal power has not succeeded in the region in the past, EPA's PTC could make a big difference. "We see the ultimate potential here to produce a couple of hundred megawatts of clean energy," said Kunz. "The technology is not new. It's 25 years old. But it is unique in its reliability. It's tried-and true technology. We have the newest generation of it." *For more information, please visit http://www.energycentral.com/centers/energybiz/ebi_detail.cfm?id=272.*

Renewable News

Study Shows U.S. Spent \$400 Million on Renewable Energy In 2005

The Natural Marketing Institute (NMI), a Harleysville, Penn.-based provider of research and consulting services, has conducted research with Silvercliffe Media of Lafayette, Colo., and found that the U.S. lifestyles of health and sustainability (LOHAS) market for 2005 was \$209 billion. The study was conducted over a six-month period in 2006 and represents data culled from an array of primary and secondary research from industry groups, the U.S. government and other sources. Based on this research, \$400 million was spent on renewable energy, which includes green pricing programs and renewable energy

certificates. *For more information, please visit*
http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.430.

UPI Poll: More R&D on Alternative Energy

More than half of respondents in a UPI-Zogby International poll said the U.S. government should increase alternative energy research and development. Some 55.3 percent of respondents said increased government investment in looking into alternative sources would be the best way to encourage development of renewable forms of energy. Another 14.3 percent said people who use hybrid vehicles -- those that combine gasoline and electric power -- should be given tax breaks as the best way to boost alternative energy source development. Some 12.3 percent would like to see tax breaks for small businesses that use alternative energy sources, such as solar power. The Zogby interactive poll questioned 6,882 U.S. respondents from Jan. 16-18. The data have a 1.2-percentage-point margin of error. *For more information, please visit*
<http://www.washingtontimes.com:80/upi/20070123-100754-4188r.htm>.

Renewable Energy Investors Push for RE Subsidies

Green technology venture capitalists have traditionally been free-market advocates, favoring ideas and innovation over government intervention, a recent NY Times article reports. Thinking has shifted recently, however, as these venture capitalists focus on energy policy set in Washington. Many renewable energy projects in which venture capitalists have invested could stall without subsidies or government mandates for greater energy efficiency, say the capitalists. In recent months, venture capitalists have met with most of the ostensible 2008 presidential candidates, members of Congress, and officials in the Bush administration and the Energy Department, pushing their ideas for things like tax subsidies and efficiency requirements. In 2006, venture capitalists put \$727 million into 39 alternative energy start-ups, compared with \$195 million in 18 such firms for 2005, according to the National Venture Capital Association. *For more information, please visit*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/29/technology/29venture.html?_r=1&oref=sloginhttp://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/29/technology/29venture.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Climate Change News

House Hearing on Political Interference with Climate Change Science

The Bush administration has consistently misled the public about the threat of global warming, said scientists who testified before a US House committee hearing into political interference with climate change science. Witnesses at the House hearing included the following:

- Committee chair Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), who said he believes the public's right to know, and their democratic right to hold the government accountable, must take precedence in the committee's current investigation.
- Dr Drew Shindell, a researcher at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies for 12 years, who testified that his press releases about the findings of climate change studies had been "delayed, altered and watered down."
- Rick Piltz, who told the hearing that he resigned as senior associate with the US Climate Change Science Program in 2005 after White House officials repeatedly insisted that the language in official reports on global warming be weakened or deleted.
- Dr Francesca Grifo, who gave testimony on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Government Accountability Project, which defends whistle-blowers, said a survey of 279 scientists had revealed that nearly half the respondents had been pressured to delete the terms "climate change" or "global warming" from their reports, while one third of the scientists reported that officials had made public statements that misrepresented their findings.

UCS Investigation Reveals Widespread Suppression of Federal Climate Research

An investigative report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and the Government Accountability Project (GAP) has uncovered new evidence of widespread political interference in federal climate science. The report, which includes a survey of hundreds of federal scientists at seven federal agencies and dozens of in-depth interviews, documents a high regard for climate change research but broad interference in communicating scientific results. UCS distributed surveys to 1,600 climate scientists, asking for information about the state of federal climate research. The scientists who responded reported experiencing at least 435 occurrences of political interference in their work over the past five years. Nearly half of all respondents (46 percent) perceived or personally experienced pressure to eliminate the words "climate change," "global warming," or other similar terms from a variety of communications. Forty-three percent of respondents reported they had perceived or personally experienced changes or edits during review of their work that changed the meaning of their scientific findings. And nearly half (46 percent) perceived or personally experienced new or unusual administrative requirements that impair climate-related work. In contrast, scientists at the independent but federally-funded National Center for Atmospheric Research, who are not federal employees, reported far fewer instances of interference.

The report urges the federal government to ensure basic scientific freedoms and support scientists in sharing their research with the public, including respecting scientists' constitutional right to speak about any subject in their private lives and allowing scientists to make ultimate decisions about the communication of their research. *For more information, please visit http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/investigation-reveals-0007.html.*

Senate Hearing on Senator's Climate Change Views

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, conducted a hearing inviting Democrat and Republican senators to offer their views and solutions on climate change.

Witnesses at the Senate hearing included the following:

- Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who said his bill would cut greenhouse gases by 2 percent each year and reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.
- Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), co-sponsor of McCain's bill, who said that the Bush administration's lack of leadership had undermined global efforts to reduce emissions.
- Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), who complained that the hearing was being used by some senators to enhance their presidential ambitions, and gestured towards Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.). He said capping carbon emissions would adversely affect the US economy and lifestyle.
- Sen. Clinton, who said, as Craig walked out of the hearing, "I'm sorry that Senator Craig is leaving the room, because I wanted to certainly express my very strong support for maintaining America's lifestyle. As I recall, on my many trips to California, which has kept electricity use (low) for 30 years, the lifestyle is pretty good." She also said, "This is a problem whose time has come."
- Former committee chair James Inhofe (R-Okla.) repeated his claim that there is "no convincing scientific evidence" that human activity is causing global warming, "We all know the Weather Channel would like to have people afraid all the time."
- Sen. Boxer, who said, "We have the feeling that there is critical mass here to be very serious about this, at long last".
- Sen Jeff Bingaman (D-NM): "Senator Specter and I circulated a discussion draft on global warming legislation last week that begins with a modest emissions-reduction target that strengthens gradually over time."

At least 60 votes are needed in the Senate to overcome a potential filibuster that could prevent the passage of legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions. Sen. Boxer intends to first introduce measures to improve energy efficiency in federal buildings, which is supported by the White House.

For more information, please visit

http://www.bayoubuzz.com/News/US/Politics/Congress/Congress_Investigation_on_Global_Warming_Heating_Up_2701.asp.

Sierra Club, Renewable Energy Experts Unveil Report about EE/RE's Role in Reducing Global Warming Emissions

The Sierra Club joined with the American Solar Energy Society (ASES), key Congressional chairmen and representatives, and the nation's preeminent climate scientist to unveil a new report authored by ASES that lays out a plan for dramatically reducing the nation's global warming emissions. The roadmap--now the official Sierra Club global warming strategy--details how an aggressive, yet achievable increase in the use of energy efficiency and renewables alone can achieve a 60-80% reduction in U.S. global warming emissions by 2050. *For more information, please visit* <http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-18674.html>.

Climate Change Mitigation Costs Less Than Last Year's Estimates, Says New Report

The cost of combating climate change could be 40 percent lower than the figure given in last year's watershed Stern report on the economic impact of global warming, according to research recently announced. The research was presented by Lars Josefsson, chief executive of Vattenfall, the Swedish power company. Mr Josefsson's report says lower costs can be achieved using measures that "pay for themselves", such as insulation improvements and fuel efficient cars. But it also envisages more use of nuclear power and carbon capture technology. *For more information, please visit* <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/da4fedc6-a698-11db-937f-0000779e2340.html>.

Global Warming Concerns Will Drive Emissions Policies: Report

Global warming concerns are about to force North American governments to declare war on carbon emissions, according to a CIBC World Markets report. The report predicts all jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S. will have carbon dioxide (CO₂) regulations in place by the end of the decade. The report says every province and state will follow the lead of California and implement not only a CO₂ emissions cap but also an emissions trading system that will allow larger polluters to buy emissions credits from other firms whose emissions are less than what is allowed under the cap. "While North America has ignored implementing the Kyoto Accord, public concern about global warming is growing," says Jeff Rubin, chief strategist and economist at CIBC World Markets. "I expect this will force governments to declare war on carbon emissions on their own terms." The report says carbon abatement policies will have the greatest impact on the energy sector. The report also notes that while the energy markets currently seem focused on the perceived demand impacts of global warming, it will be the supply impacts that will be far more important over time.

For more information, please visit <http://www.businessedge.ca/article.cfm/newsID/14573.cfm>.

Industrialized Countries Call for Emerging Economies to Embrace Climate Change

With global warming becoming more and more of a pressing issue, senior United Nations officials are calling on both industrialized and developing countries to find ways to resolve this problem. Unfortunately, the two sides remain at a stalemate: industrialized countries fear unwillingness on the part of their developing country competitors to act and are, therefore, reluctant to take the first step while developing countries fear that a new round of climate change negotiations would impose obligations that would hurt their economic goals. Although the United States—the largest CO₂ emitter in the world—has been the primary focus of attention after refusing to sign the Kyoto Protocol, the spotlight is now beginning to shift towards developing nations such as China and India. According to the International Herald Tribune, China and India represent a combined population of 2.3 billion and both economies growing at a

pace of about 9 percent a year. Taking these numbers into consideration, industrialized countries assert that if emerging economies such as India and China address climate change and implement measures to reduce GHG emissions, the effects could be dramatic. Alternatively, lack of action by developing countries could have significant consequences.

Some experts believe a solution may already exist. The Kyoto Protocol—a climate change treaty signed in 1992—does offer a flexible component known as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The CDM allows industrialized countries to invest in emission reduction projects in developing countries and generate emission credits for themselves. Ironically, the United States was instrumental in writing the Protocol, however, President Bush withdrew from the agreement citing reasons similar to those above. *This information was reported by EESI.*

Arctic Ocean Pack Ice Disappearing

The Arctic Ocean's pack ice is expected to disappear entirely in the coming decades and will bring unforeseeable changes to the region according to international experts meeting this week in Norway. "Last time something like that happened was a million years ago. It is a tremendous change," said University of Manitoba researcher David Barber. Melting ice sheets—equivalent to some 70,000 square kilometers (27,000 square miles) a year—as well as sharp rises in temperatures since the end of the 1990s, and the failure of sea ice to recover ground lost during the summer months all characterize changes in the region. These changes are affecting Arctic wildlife. "The winters are getting warmer, the vegetation is changing and it has consequences for the reindeer that graze in winter ... they cannot reach lichen," the speaker of the Sami parliament Aili Keskitalo said. "Insects are more numerous, worms are eating the birch leaves, all this because we did not experience in the last winters ... the (typical) temperatures of minus 35 to 40°C (minus 31 to 40°F)," she added. *For more information, please visit <http://www.terradaily.com:80/2006/070125025600.zgu360p1.html>.*

Carbon Tax Center Announces Launch

The Carbon Tax Center (CTC), based in New York City, announced its launch on Thursday, January 25th. The CTC's mission is to give a voice to Americans who believe that taxing emissions of CO₂ is a useful way to help mitigate the effects of global warming. Specifically, the group aims to educate and inform policymakers, opinion leaders, and the general public about the perceived benefits of taxes on carbon emissions from fossil fuels. The Carbon Tax Center was co-founded by Charles Komanoff and Daniel Rosenblum, who collectively bring six decades of experience in economics, law, public policy, and social change. CTC believes a carbon tax system would be superior to a cap-and-trade system on the merits of predictability, immediacy, transparency, universality, and equity. CTC specifically advocates the implementation of a carbon tax as far "upstream" as possible which would allow for trickle down economics in the marketplace. *For more information, please visit <http://www.carbontax.org/>.*

State News

California: CISO Asks Government to Back Grid Plan

In a precedent-setting move that could have national implications, the California Independent System Operator Corporation (California ISO) filed with its regulator, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), to approve in concept a financing plan for transmission trunklines to remote locations in order to get green power from multiple users onto the grid. If the new payment mechanism is approved and implemented, it would be a first-of-its-kind means of removing financial barriers that can hinder development of geothermal and other renewable energy resources. Currently, transmission lines that connect one new generator to the grid (known as "gen ties") are paid for by the generation project developer. The cost of more extensive "network facilities" is spread among the loads that benefit from the project. This transmission investment is recovered via the California ISO's Transmission Access Charge (TAC). However, those financing methods are not a good fit for remotely-located, renewable generation.

The California ISO proposal calls for the initial costs of multi-user resource trunkline transmission projects to be paid by the transmission owners and recouped through the TAC. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.caiso.com/1b71/1b71d6ed71a90.pdf>.*

California: EU Working with State for Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Program

The European Union is working closely with California to bring it into the 27-nation bloc's trading scheme for greenhouse gas emissions, according to EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas. Members of his staff recently met with Californian officials and discussed ways of making the state's planned program fit with a European program that has been operating for two years. "We are trying to make their trading scheme harmonized in order to have them linked in the future," Dimas said. *For more information, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/dimas/index_en.htm.*

California: A.B. 94 Increases State's RE Goals from 20% to 33% by 2020

Building on the pro-renewable energy goals attained during last year's legislative session, Assemblymember Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys) has introduced Assembly Bill 94, which would require retail sellers of electricity to procure 33 percent of their retail sales from renewable power by 2020. Levine's legislation builds on the momentum created during last year's session by Senate Bill 107 by Senator Don Perata (D-Alameda), which Levine co-authored. The bill established the Renewable Energy Resources Program and called for 20 percent of total electricity sold to customers in California to come from eligible renewable energy sources by 2010. *For more information, please visit <http://californiachronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=18751>.*

California: PUC Sets GHG Emissions Performance Standard to Help Mitigate Climate Change

The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) adopted an interim Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Performance Standard in an effort to help mitigate climate change. The Emissions Performance Standard is a facility-based emissions standard requiring that all new long-term commitments for baseload generation to serve California consumers be with power plants that have emissions no greater than a combined cycle gas turbine plant. That level is established at 1,100 pounds of CO₂ per megawatt-hour. The PUC's actions implement Senate Bill (SB) 1368, which prohibits load-serving entities (investor-owned utilities, energy service providers, community choice aggregators) from entering into long-term financial commitments for baseload generation unless it complies with a GHG emissions performance standard. The adopted emissions performance standard is intended to serve as a near-term bridge until an enforceable load-based GHG emissions limit is established and in operation. At that time, as directed by SB 1368, the Commission will reevaluate and continue, modify, or replace this standard in consultation with the California Energy Commission and the California Air Resources Board. *For more information on the PUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.*

California, Illinois: States to Announce Renewable Energy Partnership

A \$500 million research program announced recently by the energy company BP will bring farm bio-energy production to Illinois on a grand scale, say researchers at the University of Illinois. Illinois will join the University of California at Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in forming the new Energy Biosciences Institute, with UC Berkeley taking the lead. Crain's Chicago Business reports that Governors Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and Arnold Schwarzenegger of California announced the partnership. The announcement involved both governors, officials from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and officials from BP, which acquired Chicago-based Amoco several years ago. *For more information, please visit <http://www.ilfb.org/viewdocument.asp?did=12908&r=0.5965845>.*

Idaho: Survey Points to Renewable Energy

Idahoans see renewable resources as the state's top energy priority and support using both incentives and rules to cause change, positions more aggressive than those embodied in the state's updated energy policy, a new survey says. The survey of 513 Idahoans by the Energy Policy Institute at Boise State University also found that residents are more comfortable with state intervention in siting of potential power plants than lawmakers. Half of Idahoans surveyed chose renewable electricity as the state's chief priority, 26 percent chose conservation programs and 20 percent chose increasing traditional sources. Availability of renewables surpassed the price of gas, water consumption and nuclear waste as the most pressing energy issue facing Idahoans. The Idaho plan, unlike those in nearby states such as Washington, Nevada and Montana, does not set mandatory targets for how much of the state's energy must be renewable. Slightly fewer than half of the respondents said they prefer voluntary renewable energy targets, while 38 percent said they favor stronger mandates. On a different question, 76 percent said the state should use a combination of both rewards and penalties if setting targets. Currently, renewables, such as wind, solar and geothermal power, make up just 1 percent, an amount expected to increase to 8 percent by 2015. *For more information, please visit <http://www.spokesmanreview.com/idaho/story.asp?ID=172142>.*

International News

Australia: Mines' Geothermal Power May Aid Indigenous Communities

A Kalgoorlie proponent of reconciliation says the use of geothermal power in remote mining operations could also provide cheap electricity to remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia. The director of the National Reconciliation Forum, Graham Thomson, says BHP Billiton will be among several companies speaking about the technology's potential at a conference in March in Kalgoorlie, in south-eastern Western Australia. Mr. Thomson says land close to the Northern Territory border is suitable and would benefit towns such as Warburton. He says the technology would not only solve a major logistical problem for remote mines, but also revolutionize life in nearby communities and save the huge expense of providing diesel-generated power. "It has the capacity to provide power to all of the lands communities within the Ngaanyatjarra Shire. Once you have a major source of power like that in an area like that, you open up all sorts of opportunities for new development," he said. *For more information, please visit http://abc.net.au/message/news/stories/ms_news_1835979.htm.*

China: Government Plans for Renewable Energy Generation to Meet 15% of the Country's Needs by 2020

In its "alternative oil strategy," which is part of the China's 2006-2010 Five-Year Plan, Beijing has called for a doubling in renewable energy generation to 15% of the country's needs by 2020. The target is in line with a new renewable energy law requiring grid operators to purchase resources from renewable energy producers. The law, which came into effect in January, also offers financial incentives to foster renewable energy development, including discounted lending and a range of tax breaks. China is set to spend US\$200 billion over the next 15 years to achieve this goal, which would make it the world's largest consumer of renewable energy.

But a report released last month by consultants at Capgemini suggests China has underestimated future demand, putting its target at risk. The report estimated an additional 280GW of electricity will be required by 2020 on top of the 950GW already planned, meaning coal-fired power plants would still provide 71% of China's electricity needs by 2010 and 65% by 2020. The country's power-generating capacity will reach a record high this year when new generators producing an additional 75 million kilowatts come on line in 2006. *For more information, please visit <http://www.ecoworld.com/home/articles2.cfm?tid=413>.*

Papua New Guinea: Geothermal Saves Money, Adds Profits to Major Company

The mining company LIHIR Gold Ltd, of Papua New Guinea, announced a rebound in its profit, saying it expects to exceed the new production records it set last year in the coming 12 months. “Costs will be driven down by our geothermal power station and we can isolate ourselves from higher oil prices,” said the company president. “We’ve had a 30 megawatt power station generating electricity for A\$0.01 a kilowatt hour, and that saved US\$25 million (K78.62 million) last year. “We will be commissioning an additional 20 megawatt in the next month, that will save us an additional US\$20 million (K62.7 million) or so this year.” *For more information, please visit <http://www.thenational.com.pg/013107/business2.htm>.*

Philippines: Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant Commissioned – Island Now 100% Renewably Powered, 99.6% Geothermal

The 49MW Northern Negros Geothermal Power Facility has been commissioned, the Philippines Information Agency reported on February 2. Philippines Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla applauded PNOG-Energy Development Corporation (PNOG-EDC) for its 49 MW Northern Negros Geothermal Production Facility. This is the first plant operating in the field located in Bago City, Negros Occidental. The power plant will provide power to local electric cooperatives. The opening of the plant marked an important achievement – they are now utilizing 100 percent renewable energy on Negros Island -- 99.6 percent comes from geothermal energy, 0.4 percent comes from hydro. The Philippines government showcases the Island as a “role mode for renewable energy development and utilization.”

Philippines: Company Seeks Partner in Bidding for 2 Geothermal Facilities

Manila Electric Company (Meralco) is open to a joint partnership in bidding for the 275-megawatt (MW) Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant in Tiwi, Albay and the 425.3-MW Makban Geothermal power plant in Laguna and Batangas of the Philippines. Meralco president Jesus Francisco said they are interested in the two facilities because they are in Meralco's franchise areas. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (Psalm) is preparing the Tiwi-Makban plants, which will be on the auction block in July. *For more information, please visit <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/man/2007/01/27/bus/meralco.seeks.partner.in.bidding.for.2.geothermal.facilities.html>.*

Russia: Massive Geothermal Potential

A recent article reported on an international team of scientists, which includes researchers from the United States Geological Survey, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Georgia Tech and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV), who have joined together to study and drill in the most volcanically active area in the world. The details were unveiled by UNLV geology professor Dr. Adam Simon in his presentation, “Harnessing a Dragon: The Study of Active Volcanoes in Russia” on Jan. 24, in the Marjorie Barrick Museum. As part of the groundbreaking Mutnosvky Scientific Drilling Project, Dr. Simon explained the distribution and mechanics of volcanoes and their potential for geothermal power.

According to Dr. Simon, the approximately 120 degree Fahrenheit (F) steam currently obtained generates 75 megawatts of geothermal electricity. The steam tapped by the international team’s proposed well(s) near the Mutnosvky’s magma supply could be in excess of several hundred degrees F. If the plant could reach an output of 300 megawatts, it could power the entire Kamchatka Peninsula. Thus, once the academic research is complete, Dr. Simon and team plan to hand over their well(s) to the power plant. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.unlvrebeyell.com/article.php?ID=10276>.*

Notices and RFPs

Sustainable Energy Coalition Renewable Energy Expo: GEA Seeks Participants and Supporters

The annual Sustainable Energy Coalition (SEC) Renewable Energy Expo will take place in mid-June. GEA is one of several organizations planning the event. Last year, the event brought in hundreds of congressional staffers, dozens of Representatives and Senators, numerous government officials and members of the public. We expect similar crowds this year. As part of the day-long event, each renewable technology will have a display area, and GEA will be coordinating the geothermal area. GEA is looking for participation and/or support from GEA member companies in presenting geothermal technology and potential to this influential audience. Last year, GEA co-hosted the display with a major geothermal company who called the event “extremely successful.” *If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, or have further questions, please contact Alyssa at research@geo-energy.org.*

Innovation Grants – California (Due February 6)

The California Energy Commission requests proposals for the Energy Innovations Small Grant (EISG) Program. This program supports small businesses, non-profits, individuals and academic institutions to conduct research that establishes the feasibility of new, innovative energy concepts that address a CA energy problem, provide a potential benefit to CA electric and natural gas ratepayers, and target one of the following: Industrial/Agriculture/Water End-use Efficiency; Building End-use Efficiency; Environmentally Preferred Advanced Generation; Renewable Generation; Energy-Related Environmental Research; Energy Systems Integration. Individual awards NTE \$95K. Responses due 2/6/07. *For more info, contact eisgp@energy.state.ca.us or go to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/smallgrant/index.html>.*

Arctic Energy Summit Call for Papers (Due Feb 15)

The Arctic Energy Summit is an International Polar Year program on energy development and rural power as it relates to the Arctic regions. The Summit has received the official endorsement of the ICSU/WMO (International Council for Science/World Meteorological Organization) Joint Committee for the International Polar Year 2007-2008. The Summit has also received the endorsement of the Arctic Council as an approved Arctic Council project. The Summit features a technology conference to be held October 15-18, 2007. Abstract submissions are due February 15, 2007. Abstract should demonstrate clearly that your paper:

- Will contribute to energy technology or rural power issues applicable in the Arctic, particularly in the area identified as the technical focus for the specific section, or will present other information of immediate interest,
- Will present information that is technically sound,
- Will present new knowledge or experience, the substance of which has not been previously published,
- Will not be commercial in nature and will not promote specific companies, products or services.

For more information, please visit <https://www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=680>.

DOE Request for Information – Ways to Improve Geothermal Well Productivity (Comments Due Feb 12)

Request For Information DE-PS36-07GO37001

Program Manager / Area: Allan Jelacic, Acting Program Manager, Geothermal Technologies Program
Description: Wells of Opportunity for Geothermal Stimulation, under provisions of the Geothermal Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1976, PL 93-410.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking information from the geothermal industry and academia regarding the most effective and efficient ways to improve productivity of geothermal reservoirs. The information will be used by DOE for internal planning and decision-making purposes.

Request for Information Guidelines:

DOE will not pay for information provided under this Request for Information (RFI), and there is no guarantee that a geothermal well stimulation project will be supported as a result of this RFI.

Comments in response to this RFI must be provided to the DOE Golden Field Office as an attachment to an e-mail message at RFI-07GO37001@go.doe.gov. Comments must be provided no later than 8 p.m., Eastern Time, on February 12, 2007.

All documents providing comments in response to this RFI must be delivered electronically to the indicated e-mail address above using Microsoft Word (doc.) format. DOE recommends that responses to the RFI be under 10 pages in length, no greater than 5MB in file size, with 1 inch margins, single spaced, and a minimum of 11 pt font.

Questions regarding the content of this RFI should be submitted through the "Submit Question" feature of the DOE Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at <http://e-center.doe.gov>.

Information Requested

DOE would appreciate information and suggestions to assist in the possible formation of a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) designed to stimulate geothermal wells for purposes of enhancing geothermal fluid production. You may consider the list of topics below as you prepare your response.

- Geothermal Rights
- Availability of the Geothermal Resources
- Well Location and Selection Criteria
- Well History, Geology, Geophysical Data, etc.
- Documentation of Well Condition
- Motivation/Potential Resource Improvement Resulting from Stimulation
- Stimulation Technologies (Hydraulic, Chemical, Thermal, Etc.) and Approach
- Data Collection Methods for Pre and Post Stimulation (Tracers, Microseismicity, etc.)
- Proposed Cost and Schedule for Stimulation Activities
- Proximity to Power Plant and Transition Lines
- Evidence of Cost Share (Non-Federal Share)

If there are other topics or issues you may wish to raise, please include them in your response.

In summary, please provide comments to aid and inform DOE in the composition of a competitive solicitation to stimulate geothermal wells for purposes of enhancing geothermal fluid production.

The Department thanks you for your assistance and input.

Nicaragua's Energy Regulator Launches Geothermal Concession Tender (Documents Due Feb 15)

Nicaragua's energy regulator INE has launched an international E&P concession tender for three geothermal blocks with a combined potential to generate 1,500MW. The blocks are Volcn Casita-San Cristbal, Caldera de Apoyo and Volcn Mombacho, which hold Central America's largest reserve of geothermal resources, according to INE. The regulator has opened a data room with company documents due February 15. The contract is due to be awarded in April. Site visits are scheduled for next month. In 1999, INE awarded two production concessions for geothermal power and this year granted two exploration concessions. *The information can be viewed at <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2006/09/19/1905118.htm>.*

GHG Reduction and Pollution Prevention - Region 10 (Due March 9)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, seeks proposals for the Regional Geographic Initiative (RGI). RGI supports projects that use integrated, collaborative, or community-based approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or prevent pollution by promoting the availability of energy efficiency, renewable energy, or carbon sequestration. Project implementation must take place in Region 10 which includes AK, ID, OR and WA. \$400K expected to be available, up to 4 awards anticipated. Responses due

3/9/07. For more info, please visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=12229>. Refer to Sol# EPA-R10-RGI-2007. (Grants.gov 1/11/07)

Sustainable Development Technology Canada seeks Clean Energy Technologies (Due March 14)

Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC), a Government of Canada foundation that finances and supports the development and development of clean technologies is accepting Statements of Interest (SOI) for its eleventh round of funding. Projects will be considered for technology solutions designed to improve sustainability for all Canadian economic sectors including energy exploration and production, power generation, energy utilization, transportation, agriculture, forestry and waste management. SDTC actively seeks applications for technology innovations that deliver clean water, clean soil, clean air, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The deadline for proposals is March 14, 2007. For more information, please email applications@sdtc.ca or call www.sdtc.ca.

Sustainable Development Technology Canada seeks Clean Energy and Transportation technologies (Due March 15)

Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC), a Government of Canada foundation that finances and supports the development and development of clean technologies is accepting Statements of Interest (SOI) for its eleventh round of funding. Projects will be considered for technology solutions designed to improve sustainability for all Canadian economic sectors including energy exploration and production, power generation, energy utilization, transportation, agriculture, forestry and waste management. SDTC actively seeks applications for technology innovations that deliver clean water, clean soil, clean air, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The deadline for proposals is March 14, 2007. Please visit www.sdtc.ca for more information.

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (Due March 30)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Business Opportunity Grants. This program promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs through support of economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, and training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials. \$1.5 million expected to be available, average grant \$50K. Responses due 3/30/07. For more info, go to: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbog.htm>. Refer to Sol# RBS-RBOG2007. (Grants.gov 12/18/06)

Upcoming Events

George Washington University Climate Conference, GWU, February 4-5

A conference entitled "Implementing Solutions to Climate Crises: Strategic Actions for the Businesses, Communities, and Citizen/Consumers" will be held on February 4th and 5th in the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs City View Room and the Marvin Center Continental Ballroom and 3rd Floor Breakout Rooms, Washington, D.C. Join Chad Holliday, Chairman/CEO of DuPont. and Lester Brown, Founder, Earth Policy Institute and Worldwatch Institute for this discussion. The goal of this event is both plainly simple and astoundingly complex --- to promote effective change toward significantly reducing harmful human-induced climate impacts. We have planned a blend of interesting, informative, and inspiring action-oriented sessions that will foster on-going, climate-related collaboration among attendees. For more information, please visit <http://www.climateactionconference.org/>.

DoD Presentation on the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, Washington, DC, February 5

The DoD Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and the Office of Force Transformation are pleased to invite you to attend a conversation about our national addiction to energy. This dialog explores the central role energy plays in achieving both national and program goals. The speaker is Justin Mundy, Senior Advisor on Climate Change to the Foreign Ministry of the UK, who will discuss the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. The event will be held Monday, February 5 from 6:00-8:30 PM at the Doubletree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Crystal City, VA. For more information, please visit <http://energyconversations.cna.org/energy/mtgList.asp>.

Senate Energy Committee Hearing on DOE FY'08 Budget Request, Washington, DC, February 7

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy. The hearings will take place at 9:30 am in SD-366.

Senate Committee on Commerce to Hold Climate Change Hearing, Washington, DC, February 7

The full Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold hearings to examine climate change research and scientific integrity. The hearings will take place at 10 am in SR-253. No Witnesses Scheduled At This Time.

Environmental Trading 101 Seminar, 2007, Palatine, IL, February 7

Financial Research Associates' Environmental Trading 101 Seminar - Strategies for succeeding in the environmental financial markets - is designed as a practical forum to facilitate a productive exchange between industry leaders from the financial, agriculture, energy and utility markets. The conference will cover five primary trading instruments: water quality trading, emissions trading including carbon, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and greenhouse gases, renewable energy credit trading, demand response trading / energy efficiency trading and weather derivatives trading. The event will be held at the Hotel Indigo. For more information, please visit www.frallc.com/register.aspx?ccode=sh139.

ICLEI Emissions Analysis Software Training, Washington, DC, February 8

In conjunction the State and Local Branch of the U.S. EPA, ICLEI is offering an interactive webcast training on our Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACP) software on Thursday, February 8, from 1-4pm EST (10am-1pm PST). This training will offer an introduction to using the CACP software, and is designed for new users or anyone hoping to brush up on the basics of using CACP to complete greenhouse gas emissions inventories, forecast future emissions, and model various emissions reduction scenarios. To RSVP please contact Timothy Burroughs, Program Officer, Tel +1 (510) 844-0699 x307, or visit www.iclei.org/usa.

Senate Energy Committee Hearing on the "Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change," Washington, DC, February 13

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold hearings to examine the "Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change" examining the economic impacts of climate change and stabilizing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The hearings will take place at 10 am in SD-106.

Senate Energy Committee Hearing on FY'08 DOI Budget, Washington, DC, February 15

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Interior. The hearings will take place at 9:30 am in SD-366.

Essentials of Energy Risk Management, Houston, TX, February 12-13

The resurgence in energy trading and the volatility of energy prices has highlighted the need for energy professionals in all areas to develop a functional proficiency in the management of energy risks. This program imparts a practical understanding of the array of tools and concepts that are at the core of the contemporary energy markets. It also provides insights into diverse approaches to evaluating and managing risks unique to the energy business. This course compresses into two days much of the material covered in Paradigm's four-day (two two-day) programs on Fundamentals — 1) Energy Trading and Hedging and 2) Using Energy Options. Participants preferring to learn these concepts in a less hurried and less intense format should consider the two two-day programs. *For more information, please visit http://www.paradigmtraining.com/brochures/eerm_feb12_ec.pdf.*

Utility Rate Case Issues & Strategies, Feb 22 - 23, Las Vegas, NV

Law Seminars International present regulators, attorneys and consultants who will update participants on strategies for bringing about win-win results for shareholders and customers. The Hon. Marc Spitzer, FERC Commissioner, will review recent FERC initiatives and decisions with an impact on state rate cases, and the Hon. Donald L. Soderberg, Nevada PUC Commissioner will address the agency perspective on working with Interveners and settling cases. Learn about: Filing strategy tips for utilities ~ Rate case issues arising from policies favoring cleaner energy supplies ~ Rate case treatment of fuel costs ~ Regulatory treatment of new technologies ~ State authority, policy priorities, and regulatory. *For more information, please visit http://www.lawseminars.com/section_details/07RATENV.htm#%20.*

Cleantech Forum™ XII, February 19-22, San Francisco CA

Join 600 of the leading venture capitalists, investment bankers, pensions, endowments, family offices and corporate executives for senior level networking and an exceptional thought-leadership program. The Cleantech Forums™ are the world's premier cleantech investment platforms, providing unparalleled access to emerging innovation, analysis, networking, deal flow and thought-leadership for the rapidly emerging cleantech industry. In North America, over \$2.9 billion was invested in cleantech by venture capitalists representing over an 80% increase over 2005 which followed a 25% increase over 2004 according to Cleantech Venture Network® researchers. The influx capital from private equity, family offices, endowments, pension funds, hedge funds, angel investors as well as venture capitalists requires a solid understanding of trends and emerging opportunities provided by the Cleantech Forums™ for four years. *For more information, please visit <http://www.RenewableEnergyAccess.com/partner/Cleantech/>.*

Financing Renewable Energy Projects, Mar 1 - 2, Berlin, Germany

The European renewable energy markets are in growth mode, affording investors and developers great opportunities. Political initiatives are fueling the development of the renewable energy industry, and investors are now looking to capitalize on the growing demand for green power markets. The event will take place at the Kempinski Hotel Bristol. *More information is available at <http://www.c5-online.com/renewableenergy/pr10>.*

Power-Gen Renewables Conference, March 6 – 8, Las Vegas, Nevada

With the passing of the Energy Bill coupled with critical initiatives to reduce our dependence on oil imports, one thing is clear - the future of renewable energy is NOW. In its 4th year of partnership, PennWell Corp. and the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) present the industry's premier event covering the most important trends and issues impact the industry's progress. Bringing the wind, solar, biomass and fuels, hydro and geothermal sectors together for three days of information exchange and fast-track networking, POWER-GEN Renewable Energy & Fuels attracts the biggest names in renewables to discuss technical, strategic, regulatory, structural and economic issues. *For more information, please visit <http://pgre07.events.pennnet.com/fl/index.cfm>.*

GeoExchange Conference and Trade Show, March 7-9, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

GeoExchangeBC is pleased to announce confirmation of the 2nd Biennial International GeoExchange Conference and Trade Show. Scheduled for March 7-9, 2007 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown in Burnaby, British Columbia, this event will feature regional and international speakers, an expanded trade show, informative site tours and a proposed geoexchange system designer training course coinciding with the conference. *Call for papers now being accepted. Check back for regular updates: <http://www.geoexchangebc.ca/announcement.aspx>*

Utah Geothermal Working Group Meeting, March 14-15, Salt Lake City, UT

The event will include topics such as Geothermal Development Activity in Utah, New Federal Rules for Geothermal Leasing and Permitting, Utah State Legislative Update – New incentives for renewable energy development, Review of Activities of the Geothermal Utility Working Group, Renaissance Geothermal Project, Blundell Geothermal Plant Expansion, and Raft River Geothermal Project, among others. *For more information and to RSVP, contact Jason Berry at Utah Department of Natural Resources, State Energy Program – jasonberry@utah.gov, (801) 538-5413, or Robert Blackett, Utah Geological Survey – robertblackett@utah.gov, (435) 865-9035.*

Energy Markets and Regulation, Mar 15- 16, Washington, DC

Law Seminars International presents a conference on energy markets and regulation that provides basic and updated information for professionals. *For more information, please visit <http://www.lsinews.com/07endccentral.htm>.*

Geothermal Resource and Finance Workshop, April 2007, San Francisco, CA

GEA announces plans for a workshop bringing together professionals in the geothermal community to discuss the issues and strategies involved in identifying and developing geothermal resources in the United States and to discuss approaches and considerations for financing geothermal projects. Exact date and hotel location are under negotiation and will be announced in Mid-January. *Those interested in being sponsors for the event or making presentations, please contact Karl Gawell at 202-454-5264 or email karl@geo-energy.org.*

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/>.*

GEA TRADE SHOW/GRC ANNUAL MEETING, September 30-October 3, Reno, Nevada

It's not too early to be planning for the next GEA Trade Show/GRC Annual Meeting. This coming year they will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada, September 30 - October 3, 2007. 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 grclib@geothermal.org.*



GEA Update

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