



# GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ASSOCIATION

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## GEA UPDATE January 19, 2007

<b>National and Legislative News.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Clean Energy Act approved by House of Representatives .....	2
Reid Focuses Senate on Energy Policy .....	3
Chairman Renews Effort to Create Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy .....	4
Rep. Dingell Considers Warming Bill, Invites Gore to Testify .....	4
Six Major Energy Companies Endorse Senator Feinstein's Cap-and-Trade Legislation .....	4
Pelosi May Create Global Warming Panel .....	5
Bush to Address Global Warming and Oil Addiction; Administration and Congress May Work Together on these Issues .....	5
Sens. Lieberman, McCain to Introduce Global Warming Legislation .....	6
Scientists Praise Bill that Would Significantly Reduce Global Warming Emissions.....	6
Oil Keeps U.S. Vulnerable, Lawmakers Told .....	6
Water Desalination Plants Could Run on Geothermal Energy .....	7
<b>Company News .....</b>	<b>7</b>
U.S. Geothermal Sponsors Frank Church Institute Conference on Global Warming .....	7
Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. Announces Private Placement.....	7
Progress Report at Blue Mountain Geothermal Site (From Nevada Geothermal Power).....	8
Ormat Subsidiary and Basin Electric Sign Option Agreement for the Supply of 27.5 MW from Recovered Energy.....	9
PG&E Supports Renewable Energy, Greenhouse Gas Regulations.....	10
<b>Renewable Energy and Climate Change News .....</b>	<b>11</b>
77% of Americans Say U.S. Must Do More to Spur Green Technologies, According to New Poll .....	11
Banks Urged Not to Finance Coal Power; Developers Push Plants Through Before Climate Change Legislation is Passed, Says Rolling Stone.....	11
Senate Energy and Environment Committee Leaders Warn Against Betting New Coal Plants Will Get Climate Break.....	12
Expert Suggests it is Time to “Move Beyond Kyoto” .....	13
China Releases First National Report on Climate Change .....	13
New Report: “Combat Climate Change” .....	13
Commission Proposes an Integrated Energy and Climate Change Package to Cut Emissions .....	14
Global Risks 2007 Report Highlights New Ways to Address Global Risks.....	14
Analysis: California Model for Energy Consumption and Addressing Global Warming.....	14
<b>State News.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Alaska: Alternative Energy Grant Fund Proposed .....	14
California: U.S Geothermal Energy: SF Chronicle Article .....	15
Colorado: Gov. Bill Ritter Promises 20 Percent Improvement in State Electricity Use.....	15
Idaho: Geothermal Resources should be developed in Stanley .....	15
Iowa: Combines Wind and Geothermal .....	15
New Mexico: Governor Urges Lawmakers to Back His Renewable Energy Plan.....	16
Oregon: Bill Introduced to Increased to Expand Credits for Renewables .....	16
Texas: Land Office to Hold First Geothermal Lease Sale.....	16
Utah: Poll Shows Majority Support Renewable Energy .....	16
<b>International News .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Canada: Policy Announcements on Renewables Planned in Coming Weeks.....	16
Ethiopia: Geothermal a Priority for Power Company .....	17

Hungary: Geothermal Power Potential Explored.....	17
India: Geothermal Initiative Planned .....	17
Philippines: President to Visit Geothermal Plant.....	17
Philippines: Island Representative Considers Geothermal .....	18
Turkey: Locals Want to Use the Geothermal Power Produced in Their Town.....	18
<b>Notices and RFPs.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Sustainable Energy Coalition Renewable Energy Expo: GEA Seeks Participants and Supporters.....	18
BPA Issues RFP (Due January 19).....	18
Conservation Innovation Grants (Due February 2).....	19
Innovation Grants – California (Due February 6).....	19
DOE Request for Information – Ways to Improve Geothermal Well Productivity (Comments Due Feb 12).....	19
Nicaragua's Energy Regulator Launches Geothermal Concession Tender (Documents Due Feb 15) .....	20
GHG Reduction and Pollution Prevention - Region 10 (Due March 9).....	20
Rural Business Opportunity Grant (Due March 30) .....	21
<b>Upcoming Events.....</b>	<b>21</b>
EUEC Conference/Expo on Clean Air, Mercury, Global Warming & RE, Jan 21-24, Tuscan Arizona..	21
Stanford U. 32nd Workshop on Geothermal Reservoir Engineering, January 22-24, Stanford, CA .....	21
Clean Energy Power 2007, Jan 24, Berlin, Germany.....	21
7th Annual Northwest "Harvesting Clean Energy" Conference, January 28-30, Boise, Idaho.....	21
Colorado State Working Group Meeting, January 31, Lakewood, Colorado .....	22
Essentials of Energy Risk Management, Houston, TX, February 12-13 .....	22
Utility Rate Case Issues & Strategies, Feb 22 - 23, Las Vegas, NV .....	22
Cleantech Forum™ XII, February 19-22, San Francisco CA.....	22
Financing Renewable Energy Projects, Mar 1 - 2, Berlin, Germany .....	23
Power-Gen Renewables Conference, March 6 – 8, Las Vegas, Nevada .....	23
GeoExchange Conference and Trade Show, March 7-9, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada .....	23
Utah Geothermal Working Group Meeting, March 14-15, Salt Lake City, UT.....	23
Energy Markets and Regulation, Mar 15- 16, Washington, DC .....	23
Geothermal Resource and Finance Workshop, April 2007, San Francisco, CA.....	23
Wall Street Green Trading Summit VI , Apr 16 - 17, New York City.....	24
Accelerating Development/Deployment of Asia Pacific Clean Technologies, Apr 17- 18, Melbourne, Australia.....	24
RENEXPO Central & South East Europe, Apr 19 - 21, Budapest, Hungary .....	24
RENEXPO India 2007, Apr 25 - 26, New Delhi .....	24
GEA TRADE SHOW/GRC ANNUAL MEETING, September 30-October 3, Reno, Nevada .....	24

## **National and Legislative News**

### **Clean Energy Act approved by House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives voted 264 to 163 to pass “The C.L.E.A.N. Energy Act of 2007,” (H.R. 6) which would close some tax loopholes for big oil companies, and recover royalties from oil and gas produced in public waters. H.R. 6 will shift more than \$14 billion from these subsidies to investments in clean energy, such as energy efficient technologies and renewable power. The bill was the last of the six bills brought up for consideration during the House’s first 100 legislative hours.

H.R. 6 would establish a “clean energy fund” that would create incentives for and investments in energy efficient and renewable energy technologies. These funds could:

- spur the construction of wind and solar energy power generation facilities;
- save consumers money on their energy bills with incentives for energy efficient appliances, buildings, and equipment
- enable more to purchase gas-saving hybrid cars and trucks

The resources for the fund would come from the elimination of more than \$14 billion in subsidies and tax breaks that benefit oil and gas companies that made record profits over the past few years. The bill would provide a strong incentive for oil companies to renegotiate offshore drilling leases signed in 1998 and 1999 that provided unlimited royalty relief. It would also repeal several royalty relief provisions authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

A recent study by the U.S. Department of Interior found that royalty relief has led to “only a tiny increase in production,” (New York Times, 12/22/06) but would cost nearly \$48 billion over the next 40 years.

The bill would also prevent major oil companies such as ExxonMobil from claiming a tax break for “geological and geophysical” expenditures enacted in 2005. It would also remove a tax benefit from 2004 that lowers the income tax rate paid by oil companies by reclassifying oil and gas production as a manufactured good. *To view the press release, please visit <http://masspirg.org/MA.asp?id2=29843>.*

## **Reid Focuses Senate on Energy Policy**

January 17, 2006, Washington, DC—Standing alongside the new Committee Chairs who will be key in transforming the nation's energy policies and moving legislation through the United States Senate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada today announced the new Senate Democratic majority is moving forward to bring dramatic change to America's energy policy.

“Nevadans and Americans alike are ready to confront the enormous challenge of energy independence,” said Reid. “I am making better energy policy a top priority of the Senate to make our country safer, lower energy rates, create domestic jobs, and protect the environment. In Nevada, more than 3,300 jobs would be created—primarily in rural areas—if we invested more in renewable energy solutions.”

Reid, Commerce Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman, Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, Homeland and Government Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, and Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer announced that their Committees will begin working right away on new legislation to begin to deliver results for the American people.

America's national security and economic prosperity, not to mention the future health of the planet, demand a radically new course. The Senators today made clear their commitment represented a paradigm shift for how Congress will address America's energy future. From now on, energy legislation will not be a means to prolong the failed policies of the past. Instead, Congress will direct its attention to investing new strategies and new alternative energy technologies to bring about the change the American people expect and demand.

This new commitment represents the first—and critical—step toward freeing America from its dependence on foreign oil and the national security threat it represents, tackling the growing problem of global climate change, and developing the new and job creating technologies that will power America's economy in the 21st Century. A recent study by the nonpartisan Apollo Alliance suggests that a major investment in alternative energy technologies could add more than 3.3 million new jobs to America's economy, stimulate \$1.4 trillion dollars in new Gross Domestic Product, and pay for itself within 10 years.

For the past six years, despite mounting evidence of the threat of global warming, growing evidence of the threat posed by our dependence on foreign oil, and massive profit growth by OPEC and Big Oil on the backs of American consumers, little has been accomplished in Washington to address our nation's energy security. The new Democratic Congress is committed to changing course, delivering results, and taking America in a new direction. *To view the press release, please visit <http://reid.senate.gov:80/newsroom/record.cfm?id=267666&&year=2007>.*

On Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, GEA's Executive Director, Karl Gawell, joined Senators Reid, Bayh (D-Indiana) and Klobuchar (D-Minn.) in a panel discussion the importance of a real commitment by the federal government to efficiency and renewable sources of energy.

### **Chairman Renews Effort to Create Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy**

Renewing his effort to strengthen global competitiveness and improve math and science education, House Committee on Science and Technology Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) re-introduced several pieces of legislation he authored in the 109th Congress, and vowed to make these bills among the first the Committee considers in the 110th Congress. One such bill in the innovation package introduced is the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) Act (H.R. 364). Charged with the mission of decreasing U.S. dependence on oil through clean energy technologies, ARPA-E will provide aggressive funding for innovative, out-of-the-box research projects carried out by industry, universities and consortia of groups, including federal laboratories. Chairman Gordon expects the Committee to meet in the coming weeks to formally organize and assemble subcommittees. The first order of legislative business will likely be a mark-up session aimed at clearing some of the more narrow bills slated for early action on the House floor. *To view the press release, please visit <http://science.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1238>.*

### **Rep. Dingell Considers Warming Bill, Invites Gore to Testify**

The chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and longest-serving member of Congress, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), is planning an in-depth examination of global warming -- including an invitation to former Vice President Al Gore -- in the hope of driving Congress to pass new legislation. Climate ranked atop Dingell's list for both hearings and potential changes to U.S. policy. Dingell has formally invited Gore -- a former senator and congressman who served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee -- to appear at the first hearing. Washington insiders are mixed about whether or not Dingell will act to initiate legislation, but it is clear that his actions represent an important shift, as global warming becomes an increasing concern both in Congress and amongst the general public.

*To view the press release, please visit*

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=1:558086199&start=2>

### **Six Major Energy Companies Endorse Senator Feinstein's Cap-and-Trade Legislation**

Washington, DC – At a news conference on January 18, six major energy companies announced their endorsement of legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to establish a national program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector. The Electric Utility Cap-and-Trade Act would establish a national cap-and-trade system that would first cap, and then ratchet down electricity sector emissions by 25 percent below projected levels by 2020. The bill is also sponsored by Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.)

Over the coming weeks and months, Feinstein says she will author additional bills to address the root causes of global warming. The other bills will include:

- A cap-and-trade bill for the industrial sector;
- A bill that increases fuel economy standards by 10 miles per gallon over the next 10 years;
- A bill to promote bio-diesel and E-85, and other low carbon fuels; and
- An energy efficiency bill modeled after California's programs.

Calpine, a company that operates power plants in 20 states and Canada, and generates nearly 26,000 megawatts of electricity has endorsed the plan. PG&E Corporation, another supporter, is the parent of Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Currently, PG&E Corporation operates only in California. It is the

State's largest utility and serves approximately 1 in every 20 Americans. Other supporting companies include Entergy, Exelon, Florida Power & Light, and Public Service Enterprise Group

Together, these companies operate in 42 states and supply more than 15 percent of the electricity consumed in the U.S. today, or approximately 150,000 megawatts out of the 1 million megawatts produced nationwide. This is enough energy to power 50 million homes.

“Calpine's fleet of natural gas combined-cycle and geothermal power plants are among the cleanest and most efficient in the country. We have built this portfolio while advocating for more stringent environmental standards at both the state and federal level. In particular, we believe that the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the climate is a serious problem and that the nation must take immediate steps to address the issue,” Robert May, CEO of Calpine said. “I am proud to support Senators Feinstein and Carper as they take this bold step of introducing legislation that directly addresses greenhouse gas emissions and its effect on the climate.” *For more details about the bill, please visit <http://feinstein.senate.gov/07releases/r-elec-sector-intro.htm>.*

### **Pelosi May Create Global Warming Panel**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is moving to create a special committee to recommend legislation for cutting greenhouse gases, most likely to be chaired by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., a Democratic leadership aide said. Pelosi has discussed the proposal with at least two Democratic committee chairmen: fellow Californian Henry Waxman of Oversight and Government Reform, and West Virginia Rep. Nick Rahall, who heads the Natural Resources panel. Pelosi intends to announce the move in the coming days, said the leadership aide, who spoke to the New York Times on condition of anonymity because not all of the details have been worked out. *To view the complete article, please visit [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-House-Global-Warming.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-House-Global-Warming.html?_r=1&oref=slogin) (login required).*

### **Bush to Address Global Warming and Oil Addiction; Administration and Congress May Work Together on these Issues**

President Bush will outline a policy on global warming in his State of the Union speech but has not dropped his opposition to mandatory limits on greenhouse-gas emissions, the White House said recently. After years of skepticism and calls for more research into the causes of global warming, Bush acknowledged last summer that humans exacerbate the problem. White House Spokesman Tony Snow, however, suggested the president was sticking to his emphasis on voluntary steps to curb emissions.

Administration officials say Bush's seventh annual address to Congress on Jan. 23 will also reiterate his vow to cut Middle Eastern oil imports by 75 percent by 2025. In each of his past State of the Union addresses, President Bush has pledged to wean the U.S. off foreign oil. A recent Bloomberg article reported that moving toward U.S. ‘energy independence’ is one of the few areas where Bush may find common ground with the congressional Democrats. “There's a lot of common ground” on alternative energy, says Senator Jeff Bingaman, 63, a New Mexico Democrat who heads the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. “We're prepared to do more, so I hope we will be working in partnership with Congress on what makes sense,” Rob Portman, Bush's budget director, said in an interview. The White House may also face pressure to do more on energy from members of Bush's party as some Republican lawmakers begin to show they may be willing to review their opposition to conservation measures they had previously condemned as punitive to U.S. businesses. Despite the potential for change, energy independence and reducing the use of fossil fuels are goals that date back three decades, Bloomberg points out. *For more information, please visit [http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-bush-climate.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-bush-climate.html?_r=1&oref=slogin) and <http://quote.bloomberg.com:80/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=asRircBcXyV4>.*

## **Sens. Lieberman, McCain to Introduce Global Warming Legislation**

Several key Senate players in the global warming policy debate introduced legislation to limit heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions. The bill, from Sens. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.), calls for a series of emission cuts from the U.S. economy starting in 2012. Returning cosponsors are Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), along with new convert Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.). McCain and Obama are notables as early front-runners for their respective parties in the race for the White House. Lincoln stands out because she twice voted against an earlier and somewhat less stringent version of the same legislation. The Lieberman-McCain bill (as it is now called to reflect the Democratic majority) still advances provisions aimed at encouraging the expansion of U.S. nuclear power. Besides stronger emission targets, another change to the Lieberman-McCain bill gives companies greater access for compliance by purchasing "offset" credits, such as the funding of no-till farming projects.

*To view the article, please visit*

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=1:557306837&start=7>.

## **Scientists Praise Bill that Would Significantly Reduce Global Warming Emissions**

Eleven senators, including Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) recently introduced a bill setting firm emissions reduction targets needed to avoid the effects of global warming. The Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act calls for reductions in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other heat-trapping emissions to 80 percent below their 1990 levels by 2050. Staying under the 450 ppm threshold requires cutting global emissions roughly in half from today's levels by mid-century, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). The Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act takes an incremental approach to reaching this goal: U.S. emissions would decrease approximately two percent each year from 2010-2020 to reach 1990 levels. Emissions would be cut 26 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, 53 percent below 1990 levels by 2040 and fully 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The bill allows for acceleration of the emission reductions if necessary to stay below the 2C target. It also includes provisions to increase our reliance on clean renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency, test carbon capture and storage technologies, reduce heat-trapping emissions from passenger vehicles and re-engage in international negotiations on global warming. The bill's nine other sponsors are Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Jack Reed (D-RI), Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Russ Feingold (D-OR), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). *To view the press release, please visit* [http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article\\_49448.shtml](http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_49448.shtml).

## **Oil Keeps U.S. Vulnerable, Lawmakers Told**

The United States' role as dominant global military and economic power hinges on secure access to crude oil, but U.S. politicians who call for "energy independence" are shouting into the void, experts told a U.S. Senate panel recently, according to a Reuters article. The U.S. economy will continue to rely on crude oil imports -- which currently account for more than half the nation's oil consumption -- panelists said at a hearing before the Senate Energy Committee on global oil supplies. In fact, the idea of "energy independence" is a myth, and attempts to insulate U.S. consumers from world crude oil markets could actually drive up domestic energy prices, said Linda Stuntz, an energy attorney and former Energy Department official. "Energy independence at this point is not possible, but we can manage our vulnerability a lot better than we are doing today," Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs said. *To view the article, please visit* <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-energy-usa-security.html>.

## **Water Desalination Plants Could Run on Geothermal Energy**

Municipalities throughout the Southwest may soon be receiving drinking water from a new desalination device capable of operating on geothermal energy when the power grid goes down, according to a recent report on TheStreet.com. The Delta T, developed by entrepreneurs Doug Firestone and Ronald Newcomb of Las Vegas-based Aqua Genesis Ltd., is a gas-vapor heating and cooling cycle desalination device that relies on a fully reversible thermodynamic process, not membrane treatment, to produce drinking water, the company's Web site explains. Because the geothermal device uses heat to desalinate water, it is more cost-efficient than a membrane treatment system that requires high pressure to produce drinking water, according to the company. The developers plan to open a series of private desalination plants and to sell water to municipalities around the Southwest, a market that Newcomb estimates at \$1 billion, the report said. *For more information, please visit*

[http://www.watertechnology.com/news.asp?mode=4&N\\_ID=65760](http://www.watertechnology.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=65760).

## **Company News**

### **U.S. Geothermal Sponsors Frank Church Institute Conference on Global Warming**

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 16 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- U.S. Geothermal Inc. ("U.S. Geothermal") (OTC Bulletin Board: UGTH; TSX.V: GTH), today announced that the renewable energy development company is a sponsor of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Frank Church Conference, "Global Warming: Beyond the Inconvenient Truth." Former Vice President Al Gore will be the keynote speaker at the January 22 conference. His recent documentary film and best-selling book about global climate change, "An Inconvenient Truth," focused national attention on the issue of global warming and helped widen discussions about the need for non-greenhouse gas producing energy sources. Gore's 7 p.m. speech is scheduled at the end of the day-long conference at Boise State University

U.S. Geothermal is a renewable energy development company in the process of building a binary cycle geothermal power generation plant at Raft River, Idaho. Free of the primary fossil fuel greenhouse gases and based upon a renewable energy resource, the plant would be the first commercial binary geothermal power plant in the Pacific Northwest. "Geothermal energy sources will be an important part of the alternative energy portfolio the world needs in order to address the changes being created by global warming," said Daniel Kunz, President and CEO of U.S. Geothermal. "Our Raft River project is a prime example of how technology improvements in recent years have brought significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions within reach. Idaho's vast geothermal energy potential, coupled with wind power and hydroelectric power, could allow our state to become a leader in renewable energy production."

Kunz is also scheduled to speak during an afternoon session of the conference. His comments will focus on a recent Geothermal Energy Association report that outlined Idaho's tremendous potential for geothermal energy production.

"The topic of this conference is timely and important," Kunz said. "I would like to thank the Frank Church Institute and Vice President Gore for bringing this important message to Boise."

*For more information about the conference go to <http://www.boisestate.edu/fci/>. For more information about U.S. Geothermal go to <http://www.usgeothermal.com>.*

### **Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. Announces Private Placement**

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(CCNMatthews - Jan. 16, 2007) - Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. (NGP)(TSX VENTURE:NGP)(OTCBB:NGLPF) announced that it will be proceeding with a brokered private placement, on a bought deal basis, consisting of 3,850,000 units ("Units") at C\$.65 per Unit for gross proceeds of approximately C\$2,502,500. NGP has also agreed to grant the underwriters an over-

allotment option exercisable for up to 30 days following the Closing Date (expected to be January 23, 2007) to increase the size of the Offering by up to 7,700,000 units at C\$0.65 or C\$5,005,000.

Each unit will consist of one common share and one share purchase warrant (a "Unit"). One warrant will entitle the holder to purchase one additional common share for a period of 24 months at a price of C\$1.10 per warrant share, subject to an acceleration provision such that if at any time six months after the closing the price per NGP share on the TSX Venture Exchange is C\$1.65 or higher for ten (10) consecutive business days, then NGP shall give the investors notice that the warrants must be exercised or they will expire within 30 days.

Dundee Securities Corporation ("Dundee") will manage the Offering. The underwriters will receive a 7% cash commission and will be granted an option (the "Compensation Option") to acquire that number of Units that is equal to 8% of the number of Units issued under the Offering. The Compensation Option shall entitle the underwriters to purchase Units, exercisable at the offering price of the Units for a period of 24 months following closing of the Offering.

If all of the Units are sold, including the over-allotment option, the net proceeds to be realized by NGP from the private placement will be approximately C\$6,941,975 which shall be used to fund further development at the Blue Mountain Geothermal Site and for general working capital. The securities to be issued under the Offering shall be subject to a four month hold period, and the Offering is subject to the acceptance of the TSX Venture Exchange. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=630900>.*

## **Progress Report at Blue Mountain Geothermal Site (From Nevada Geothermal Power)**

VANCOUVER, BC (January 15, 2007) -- Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. (NGP) (TSX-V: NGP, OTCBB: NGLPF) announces a progress update on the development at the Blue Mountain Geothermal site.

### **Blue Mountain Resource - Development Drilling Update**

Well 38-14 has been drilled to 2006 feet with 13 7/8 inch production casing cemented in place. Drilling has been temporarily suspended with the hole at 2006 feet due to a major equipment breakdown that occurred on December 5th. The mechanical difficulty had been that the draw works motor seized and on December 9th the second motor that had been installed ran for less than 1 minute before it seized leaving the drill pipe suspended in the hole. The pipe was recovered on December 31, 2006 and the pipe laid down and the rig was subsequently released.

A replacement geothermal rig has been identified and is expected to be on site mid-February. The new contractor is reputable and very well known, with over twenty years of experience in the completion of geothermal production wells in Nevada. Well 38-14 is anticipated to be drilled to approximately 3500 feet and is expected to yield similar results to Well 28A-14. As per the news release on (October 18, 2006), Well 28A-14 encountered a "prolific" production zone between 2215 feet and hole bottom at 2815 feet.

Drilling problems at Well 38-14 have been resolved without any impact on the overall development schedule. This means that the Faulkner 1 Geothermal Power Plant at Blue Mountain will still be brought on line in 2009.

There has been considerable progress in the development of the Blue Mountain "Faulkner 1" power project:

- The Company's initial development well 26A-14 has a gross power capacity of 9.6 MW (enough to supply power to 7,000-10,000 homes). Furthermore, the 365 F°(185°C) temperature and the energy content of produced fluids per unit of volume was higher than anticipated at the depth encountered. New chemistry of representative geothermal waters from 26A-14 predicts source temperatures of 225-235°C (Thermochem

Laboratory and Consulting Services Report, December 18, 2006). Drilling and geothermometry results indicate that the Blue Mountain reservoir may be capable of supporting a flash-type geothermal plant which would result in lower capital and operating costs.

- A 20-year Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") was completed in July 2006. According to this Agreement, Nevada Geothermal Power Company, NGP's U.S. subsidiary will provide Nevada Power Company, a Nevada utility, with up to 35 MW (gross) 31.25 MW (net) of geothermal power and associated Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). In October 2006, Nevada Power Company filed the NGP PPA along with others as an amendment to its Resource Plan and submitted them to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission of Nevada ("NPUC") for approval. NPUC approval of the power contract is anticipated early 2007.

#### Project Infrastructure

- System Impact Studies for the electrical grid connection of the Faulkner 1 Power Development Project have been completed. Additionally, a location north of Mill City, Nevada was approved for the Blue Mountain power line to connect with the SPPCo #162 (120 kV) transmission line in September 2006. Separately, a Facilities Study will be completed by February, 2007.

- In November 2006 an initial Utility Environment Protection Act (UEPA) permit application was submitted to the Public Utility Commission. In addition, work has commenced on all of the other major permits required by the project.

- NGP met with the Humboldt and Pershing County Commissions in November 2006 and also held public forums to discuss the Blue Mountain Faulkner 1 Power Development and the transmission line project. The commissioners of both Humboldt and Pershing and other public authorities have expressed their support for the Blue Mountain project. *For more information, please visit <http://www.nevadageothermal.com/s/News.asp?ReportID=166636& Type=News& Title=Progress-Report-at-Blue-Mountain-Geothermal-Site>*

### **Ormat Subsidiary and Basin Electric Sign Option Agreement for the Supply of 27.5 MW from Recovered Energy**

RENO, Nevada, Jan. 16 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Ormat Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: ORA) today announced that it entered into a Power Purchase Option Agreement with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) regarding five new Recovered Energy Generation (REG) Power Plants along the Northern Border Pipeline in the states of Montana, North Dakota and Minnesota. These new REG power plants are in addition to the existing four facilities in North and South Dakota that have been in commercial operation since autumn 2006.

According to the Option Agreement, Basin Electric will work towards fulfilling certain conditions with the goal to confirm that it is ready to enter into a definitive 25-year Power Purchase Agreement. These conditions include the interconnection and rights to the site on which the power plants will be constructed. The Power Purchase Agreements will be similar to the existing power purchase agreement between Basin Electric and Ormat relating to the four 22 MW (total) existing OREG 1 power plants.

Ormat has already secured the rights to the waste heat for two of the new power plants and will continue to work towards obtaining the rights to the remaining three new power plants. The release for construction of the new power plants is expected during 2007 once each of the parties has fulfilled its conditions under the Power Purchase Option Agreement.

"We have found Ormat to be the kind of reliable partner we want to do business with," said Ron Rebenitsch, Basin Electric Manager of Member Marketing. "Ormat made commitments to us and met those commitments. We are very pleased with the existing projects and look forward to doing more projects."

Dita Bronicki, Chief Executive Officer of Ormat stated; "We are very pleased with Basin Electric's decision to expand its partnership with Ormat by entering into this new agreement. If completed in full, a total of 27.5 MWs of electricity from the new power plants will be sold to Basin Electric under a long-term power purchase agreement that we expect will add up to approximately \$8 million in yearly revenues to our electricity segment and increase Ormat's portfolio of owned and operated REG projects to approximately 50-55 MWs."

"Ormat's proprietary Organic Rankine Cycle technology will be used to generate base load, clean power from waste exhaust heat that would otherwise go unused," Ms. Bronicki concluded. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.ormat.com/news.php?did=134>.*

## **PG&E Supports Renewable Energy, Greenhouse Gas Regulations**

Speaking from Capitol Hill, Peter A. Darbee, Chairman, CEO and President of PG&E Corporation (NYSE: PCG) joined U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D - Calif.) and other business leaders, including Calpine, to voice support for Feinstein's landmark bill, co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D - Del.), to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's electric utility sector (see earlier story).

"Adopting legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions at the federal level is the greatest way of efficiently addressing climate change and a necessary step in positioning the U.S. as a global leader on environmental issues," said Darbee. "As the single largest source of emissions in the U.S., the utility sector must play a key role in meeting our national emissions reductions goals. This bill will significantly reduce emissions from the utility sector and it will do so by leveraging the innovation and efficiency of the market."

"It's pragmatic, aggressive, and it's a serious response to a serious problem. We're proud to support it — just as we supported California's landmark climate law. And we are committed to working with leaders at the federal level to advance clean energy solutions and meet the challenge this bill is designed to address."

At a separate event, Darbee, urged federal policy makers to take a series of actions aimed at accelerating the nation's efforts to advance clean energy solutions and address global warming. In particular, Darbee called on Washington to respond to this challenge by setting clear and achievable long-term national requirements for lowering global warming emissions across all sectors of the economy. Mandatory federal emissions targets would, he said, create the certainty and consistency that U.S. companies need to move forward with the strategic planning and investments that will be essential for progress on clean energy and climate change. Darbee advocated strongly in favor of establishing a broad-based, national cap and trade system to achieve the long-term requirements. He also asked federal policy makers to take a number of concrete, pragmatic steps on energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean conventional power generation, transparency and greenhouse gas emissions reporting, and alternative transportation technologies. Specific recommendations for federal action included:

- Renewable Energy: Set a federal renewables target goal and timeline.
- Extend production and investment incentives for renewables to reduce the cost of technology development and encourage fuller deployment.
- Increase R&D spending on large-scale renewable development and demonstration projects.
- Clean Conventional Generation: Drive new efficiencies in natural gas fired generation.
- Facilitate development of new supplies and infrastructure to get supplies to the market.
- Fund large-scale clean coal development and demonstration projects.
- Establish rules for carbon dioxide capture, transport and storage.
- Evaluate the future role of nuclear power in the U.S. energy supply.
- Greenhouse Gas Reporting: Establish reporting processes, protocols and standards to ensure that businesses in all sectors report and certify their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide credit for early adopters and investors in emissions reductions programs.
- Advanced Transportation Technologies: Provide financial incentives for individuals and fleet owners to invest in alternative fuel powered vehicles.
- Encourage utilities and other energy providers to invest in infrastructure to support emerging transportation technologies.

Darbee delivered his remarks during a ceremony at which Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) honored PG&E for the company's long and ongoing track record of environmental leadership -- only the third such presentation that the NRDC has made in the group's history. *To view the press release, please visit [http://www.pge.com/news/news\\_releases/index.html](http://www.pge.com/news/news_releases/index.html).*

## **Renewable Energy and Climate Change News**

### **77% of Americans Say U.S. Must Do More to Spur Green Technologies, According to New Poll**

Only one in four American voters today believe the nation is doing enough to promote and utilize alternative or "green" technologies to reduce our nation's reliance on foreign energy sources, according to a new poll by Zogby International and TechNet's Green Tech Task Force. The Zogby/TechNet nationwide poll of 1,043 Americans found that 77% of U.S. voters believe that our nation must do more to promote green energy, and 75% of the voting population said that their purchasing decisions in the past year have been influenced by a desire to save energy. *For more details, please visit <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=1:558983670&start=7&dateId=20070117>*

### **Banks Urged Not to Finance Coal Power; Developers Push Plants Through Before Climate Change Legislation is Passed, Says Rolling Stone**

A coalition of environmental groups is demanding that banks reject loan requests for projects that emit high rates of greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming. The groups say they have won commitments from more than a dozen banks in the last few weeks to turn away from supporting coal-fired electric plants. Now, the issue is coming to a head in a plan by the Texas utility TXU Corp. to build 11 new pulverized-coal power plants at a cost of \$11 billion. Three banks -- Merrill Lynch, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley -- have agreed to arrange TXU's financing, and are trying to persuade investors to buy in. Just one US bank -- Bank of America, which more than two years ago bought FleetBoston -- has committed to cut back all its funding of energy projects that produce large quantities of greenhouse gases. Forty-five banks have signed the Equator Principles, a set of guidelines used to determine the social and environmental risks associated with a project. Citigroup, one of the three banks arranging the financial package for the TXU project, has signed the principles. *To view the article, please visit [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2007/01/16/banks\\_are\\_urged\\_not\\_to\\_finance\\_coal\\_power/?page=2](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2007/01/16/banks_are_urged_not_to_finance_coal_power/?page=2).*

In related news, a recent article in Rolling Stone Magazine contends that TXU and other coal developers are trying to push as many coal projects as they can through before global warming legislation is passed, which now seems more likely with Democrats in power in Congress. When pressed, TXU executives respond that much of the criticism levied against them is unfair or ill-informed. "I think a lot of the negative reaction to our plan is from people who don't fully understand the issues, or simply have a knee-jerk reaction against coal," says Morgan, the TXU spokeswoman. Environmentalists and others are annoyed not only that these coal plants are being pushed through, but also that the coal facilities will use old technology, rather than the newer and cleaner method known as coal gasification. According to Rolling Stone, the new Texas plants alone will release 78 million tons of pollution each year. *To view the article, please visit [http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/13159559/national\\_affairs\\_big\\_coals\\_dirty\\_move/2](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/13159559/national_affairs_big_coals_dirty_move/2)*

## **Senate Energy and Environment Committee Leaders Warn Against Betting New Coal Plants Will Get Climate Break**

In the January 19th Dallas Morning News Senators Jeff Bingaman and Barbara Boxer, Chairs of the Senate Energy and Environment Committees published the following op-ed. According to Democratic press staff, “The Chairs wanted business leaders to better understand the impacts of financial and investment decisions being made right now by big utilities and other companies.”

Op-Ed By Senators Jeff Bingaman and Barbara Boxer:

### ***Utilities that rush new coal plants now won't get bigger emission breaks later***

Many leaders of American industry are coming around to the view that global warming is happening and that Congress is going to address the problem. But a few companies are now considering major investments in old technologies for burning coal that would both endanger the climate and jeopardize the financial position of their investors and shareholders.

As members of the United States Senate, we have both worked on legislation designed to combat global warming and to reduce greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide emitted from fossil fuels. Although our approaches have differed slightly, we both agree that global warming is real, that we need to act rapidly to pass legislation, and that we are committed to working together to achieve that result as soon as possible. Global warming is an enormous threat to mankind and the United States can, and must, be a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions comes from burning coal to produce electricity. While ultimately our goal should be to move towards efficient use of renewable energy sources, we recognize that currently coal is America's most abundant domestic energy source and will be a critical resource for many years to come. Fortunately, several technologies are available and under development to facilitate our ability to continue using coal in the United States in ways that are both financially sustainable and that will address its climate impacts. Power plants that rely on technologies such as coal gasification, for example, will ultimately allow carbon dioxide emissions to be captured and stored at a much lower cost than coal plants using old-fashioned technology.

The bills that we and our colleagues have worked on anticipate that coal-fired power plants will need to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Perhaps most importantly, companies building new coal-fired power plants today should acknowledge that over the 50-year lifespan of such plants, reduction of global warming emissions will become mandatory—probably sooner rather than later. Building a new coal plant without taking into account global warming is neither good for the environment, nor smart financially.

We have been dismayed to watch some companies unveil plans to spend billions of dollars to build new coal-fired power plants using old technology that cannot capture global warming emissions. Apparently part of the motivation for building these plants is that the companies mistakenly believe that these new plants will garner “grandfathered” emission allowances under some future law. Such plans assume that future legislation will freely award the majority of such allowances to the biggest emitters, and, therefore, increasing pollution through new plants will reap large sums of emission allowances. This flawed thinking will be a tragedy for the climate because of the additional carbon dioxide emissions this old technology creates. It also is a dangerous business strategy for the utility's investors and shareholders, who are putting money into technology that will be obsolete the very day it goes into service.

As the new Senate Chairs of Committees engaged in the fight against global warming, we think it is important for investors to understand that there is little chance that the majority of such allowances will be allocated without cost and exclusively to large emitters of greenhouse gases. In fact, companies that appear

to be inflating their emissions right before legislation is passed are likely to find themselves in a position of having to make even larger emissions reductions than companies that do not attempt this strategy.

We do not envision that any successful legislative proposal will contain a provision that would allow those building traditional coal-fired power plants to economically benefit from coming in “under the wire” and being considered part of the emissions baseline – in fact, the opposite is likely to occur. Any company planning to spend billions of dollars on new coal-fired power plants, and any investor in such a company, should think carefully about how to spend their funds so as to be part of the solution to climate change, not a part of the problem.

### **Expert Suggests it is Time to “Move Beyond Kyoto”**

Jeffrey D. Sachs, director the Earth Institute at Columbia University, recently wrote an article arguing that in order to seriously address the issue of global climate change, policymakers need to establish a framework that extends through the end of the century. According to Sachs, the key now is to move beyond the Kyoto Protocol. This time around, Sachs believes, it is better to start with a long-term view. He suggests strategies such as market incentives to reduce emissions; greatly expanded research on sustainable energy use, land use and industrial development; and technology transfers from rich to poor countries. Further, he cites the Stern Review as making clear that the costs of such control will be far lower than the costs of inaction. Low-cost, high-benefit efforts look promising in at least three major areas: improved energy efficiency, energy technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and sustainable land use. *To view the article, please visit*

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa006&colID=31&articleID=16AA5BA3-E7F2-99DF-309CB16EFFCF440>

### **China Releases First National Report on Climate Change**

At the close of 2006, the warmest year in China since 1951, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the China Meteorological Administration, and the Chinese Academy of Science released the country's first-ever National Assessment Report on Climate Change. Policies and measures to address global climate change discussed in the report include enhanced monitoring of environmental change and countermeasures, the adoption of energy-saving technologies, and the embrace of renewable energy. The report predicts that the average temperature in China will rise 1.3 to 2.1 degrees Celsius by 2020 and 2.3 to 3.3 degrees Celsius by 2050. Meanwhile, the country's annual average rainfall is projected to increase 2-3 percent by 2020 and 5-7 percent by 2050. The assessment also forecasts that extreme weather events and natural disasters will occur more frequently as a result of climate change, reports Science and Technology Daily. According to the report, the most direct and greatest threat is to the food security of the country of more than 1.3 billion people. The report predicts that both crop distribution and production will be affected by the changes in temperature and precipitation, with the output of major crops such as wheat, rice, and corn falling by up to 37 percent in the second half of the century if no effective measures are taken in the next 20 to 50 years to address climate change impacts, according to Xinhua News.

As the world's second largest emitter of carbon dioxide after the United States-and likely the world's largest emitter of the gas by 2010-China finds itself with a growing obligation to cut its mounting emissions of greenhouse gases, driven by the country's increasing economic growth. *To view the article, please visit* <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/chinawatch/story?id=47100>.

### **New Report: “Combat Climate Change”**

This report, originally published in 2006 by the Swedish energy company Vattenfall, has become the call to arms for a group of large companies calling themselves Combat Climate Change. The 80-page report outlines the components of an effective global climate policy in some detail. "Curbing climate change is about combining technology, finance, and policy in a wise way," write the report's authors. "If that is done

worldwide a carbon dioxide market will follow. Technology is not an unsolvable problem, given time and incentives, neither is financing. The real challenge is policy." *To view the report, please visit <http://www.resourcesaver.org/file/toolmanager/Custom016C45F75414.pdf>.*

### **Commission Proposes an Integrated Energy and Climate Change Package to Cut Emissions**

The European Commission proposed a comprehensive package of measures to establish a new Energy Policy for Europe to combat climate change and boost the EU's energy security and competitiveness. The package of proposals set a series of ambitious targets on greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy and aim to create a true internal market for energy and strengthen effective regulation. The Commission believes that when an international agreement is reached on the post-2012 framework this should lead to a 30% cut in emissions from developed countries by 2020. To further underline its commitment the Commission proposes that the European Union commits now to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020, in particular through energy measures. *To view the press release, please visit <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/29&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.*

### **Global Risks 2007 Report Highlights New Ways to Address Global Risks**

The Global Risks 2007 report released recently highlights a growing disconnect between the power of global risks to cause major systemic disruption, and our ability to mitigate them. The annual Global Risks report – published by the World Economic Forum in cooperation with Citigroup, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Swiss Re and the Wharton School Risk Center – suggests that many of the 23 core global risks explored in the report have worsened over the last 12 months, despite growing awareness of their potential impacts. In addition to specific risk mitigation measures, institutional innovations may be needed to create effective responses to a complex risk landscape. The report suggests two such innovations – the appointment of Country Risk Officers and the creation of flexible "coalitions of the willing" around specific global risk issues, providing crucial momentum to mitigation efforts. The first would provide a focal point in government for mitigating global risks across departments, learning from private-sector approaches and escaping a 'silo-based' approach. The second would allow mitigation strategies to emerge from dynamic interplay between governments and business, achieving a balance between inclusiveness and decisiveness. In addition, the report recommends a number of key needs for addressing specific global risks, all of which are outlined in the press release. *To view the press release, please visit [http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/Global\\_Risks\\_2007\\_report](http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/Global_Risks_2007_report).*

### **Analysis: California Model for Energy Consumption and Addressing Global Warming**

Joseph Romm, President Clinton's assistant secretary of energy for renewables and energy efficiency, has released a new book on global warming, "Hell and High Water: Global Warming, the Solution and the Politics," calling on the country to address the issue by changing how -- and which -- energy sources are consumed. In the book, Romm outlines strategies which he says can help avoid possible global catastrophe. Speaking recently at the Center for American Progress, in Washington, Romm recommended a California model of energy consumption for the rest of the country.

*To view the article, please visit <http://www.upi.com/Energy/view.php?StoryID=20070112-043700-2737r>.*

### **State News**

#### **Alaska: Alternative Energy Grant Fund Proposed**

A bill was prefiled to establish the Alternative Energy Grant Fund, a recent Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. Update reported. The Fund will be funded by revenue from crude oil produced in the state.

## **California: U.S Geothermal Energy: SF Chronicle Article**

On January 14, the San Francisco Chronicle ran a story on geothermal energy and development. The article begins with a discussion of the Bottle Rock geothermal power plant, which will reopen this year after sitting dormant since 1990. The plant will generate 20 megawatts of electricity, someday increasing to 50 megawatts.

The article goes on to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of geothermal energy and the overall production and potential of the renewable resource. Details are included about The Geysers and the measures necessary to sustain the resource over time. One expert noted, "Managed properly, the Geysers should be able to continue producing electricity for the foreseeable future." A discussion also ensued over Calpine's controversial plans for new development in a California tribal area. The article postured about why geothermal remains the "overlooked" renewable, citing the possible reason that most of the developed resource is limited to a few states in the West without substantial political clout.

According to Sheryl Carter, director of the western energy program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, "Every form of electricity production has environmental impacts, but geothermal has magnitudes less than fossil fuel." *To view the article, please visit <http://www.sfgate.com:80/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/01/14/BUGV2NHQP61.DTL>.*

## **Colorado: Gov. Bill Ritter Promises 20 Percent Improvement in State Electricity Use**

Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter has said he will adopt the Western Governor's Association's recent resolution calling for a 20 percent improvement in the efficiency of electricity use statewide by 2020. He also "is excited about the possible creation of a Colorado Clean Energy Fund that will help with technology transfer of research to the marketplace" and will recognize people, businesses, institutions and nonprofits who work in the renewable energy field through the creation of the Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy Award. *This information was reported by the State of Colorado ([www.colorado.gov/governor/](http://www.colorado.gov/governor/)).*

## **Idaho: Geothermal Resources should be developed in Stanley**

Tapping into geothermal resources for heat or power generation is a suggested component of a new vision for the city of Stanley. A public-private partnership has issued recommendations to Stanley, Idaho officials as the city gears up for the sale of nearly a quarter of its land area. The partnership of planning and development professionals was brought together and facilitated by Idaho Rural Partnership at the request of Stanley Mayor Hannah Stauts. Long-term ideas include the formation of an urban renewal agency, which is an independent governmental entity that targets under-performing areas of a city for revival, investigation of geothermal resources for heat, power generation or a health spa; and determination of whether a community development corporation—a nonprofit entity—would be useful. *To view the article, please visit [http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?issue\\_date=01-17-2007&ID=2005113834](http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?issue_date=01-17-2007&ID=2005113834).*

## **Iowa: Combines Wind and Geothermal**

Utilities in Iowa and several surrounding states proposed a new energy park that would integrate a wind farm with Compressed Air Energy Storage technology, the Earth Times reported. The project, called the Iowa Stored Energy Park, is backed by the U.S. Department of Energy and would use electricity generated by the 75 to 100 megawatt wind turbines to store air underground in porous rock formations, Renewable Access reported. The rock holds the air and when there's increased electricity demand it's released, heated and used to power generators in Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/19723.html>.*

## **New Mexico: Governor Urges Lawmakers to Back His Renewable Energy Plan**

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson recently urged lawmakers to approve four initiatives in the first 30 days of their 60-day session, one of which would create an energy authority that would transmit power from renewable sources. "We can, and should become the first state in the country to use 100 percent renewable energy in government buildings," the Governor added. "We should also provide tax credits to promote green offices and homes, create an energy innovation fund to develop clean energy projects and give consumers a one-month tax holiday to purchase energy-efficient appliances." He proposed "an advanced coal-tax incentive. This will help ensure that any new coal-fired power plant built in New Mexico will install state-of-the-art pollution controls and achieve significant carbon dioxide reductions." *To view the full article, please visit <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39875/story.htm>.*

## **Oregon: Bill Introduced to Increased to Expand Credits for Renewables**

The Oregon Assembly introduced a bill that increases the annual cap on the amount of business energy tax credits that may be claimed for facilities using renewable energy resources, a recent Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. Update reported. The bill also expands the tax credit to more facilities and modifies the period when the credit may be taken.

## **Texas: Land Office to Hold First Geothermal Lease Sale**

Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, will attempt to break new ground with the state's first-ever lease sale for geothermal energy, a recent press release reported. On Tuesday, January 16, Patterson made more than 11,000 acres of state-owned submerged land in seven counties available for geothermal energy production. The lease tracts range from 1,174 to 2,480 acres and are in Jefferson, Galveston, Chambers, Calhoun, Jackson, Nueces and Kleberg counties. The geothermal lease sale will take place as part of the regular winter oil and gas lease sale held by the School Land Board. The minimum bid for the geothermal tracts is \$2 an acre. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/news/webcast.html>.*

## **Utah: Poll Shows Majority Support Renewable Energy**

A new Desert Morning News/KSL-TV poll shows that 87 percent of surveyed Utah residents strongly or somewhat favor renewable-energy tax credits, and 92 percent favor more investment in energy. The poll of 418 people was conducted by Dan Jones & Associates Jan. 2-4, and has a margin of error of 5 percent. Those numbers could be reflected in the Legislature during its 2007 general session, a local news article reported. Two bills have already been filed by Republican legislators offering tax breaks to alternative forms of power generation, and others have filed requests for bills offering some form of renewable-energy tax incentive. Rep. Sheryl Allen, R-Bountiful, said that her HB30 will offer tax breaks for the installation of energy systems that utilize things like solar or wind power. The motivation is a rapidly increasing need to find ways to produce energy that is cleaner and more efficient. Sen. Howard Stephenson, R-Draper, said his SB13 will provide a tax break based on the amount of energy produced, without much focus on the initial cost of the system. The end result, however, would ideally be the same. *To view the article, please visit <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,650223027,00.html>.*

## **International News**

### **Canada: Policy Announcements on Renewables Planned in Coming Weeks**

The Conservative Canadian government will attempt to convince Canadians it is serious about fighting global warming by making a series of policy announcements on the environment in the next few weeks. Sources said the government will soon announce a short-term target of 2015, by which time companies will be required to reduce the amount of energy they use to produce every barrel of oil or megawatt of

electricity. Other expected announcements include a revival of mothballed Liberal plans to boost the use of renewable energy and the reintroduction of the EnerGuide retrofit program that offered financial incentives to households that improve energy efficiency. Renewable energy covers a wide range of non-wind, environmentally friendly power generation, such as geothermal, biomass and tidal. To view the article, please visit <http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/story.html?id=c5dc2be7-4dcc-4581-97e0-166f40a84798&k=15652>

### **Ethiopia: Geothermal a Priority for Power Company**

Negotiators of the state owned utility monopoly, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo), are required to have a power generation capacity of 4,000 MW. However, EEPCo currently only generates 790 MW from nine dams and diesels. Diversifying with sources such as geothermal, located around Lake Langano, is given priority by the Corporation, according to its managers. *To view the article, please visit <http://allafrica.com/stories/200701161445.html>.*

### **Hungary: Geothermal Power Potential Explored**

Hungary is a well-known hotbed of geothermal energy, a recent Hungarian article reported. The Hungarian earth is full of possibly thousands of holes drilled over the last half century to provide heat to spa waters, or in prospecting for hydrocarbon deposits. Two such wells in western Hungary will be key to the success or failure of Hungary's first geothermal electricity plant, as announced by Mol's partner in the project, Enx, an Iceland-based geothermal technology provider that has been testing the wells. Until now, electricity has never been produced from a geothermal source for commercial purposes in Hungary. The project has been underwritten by the World Bank-funded Geothermal Energy Development Fund, approving \$3.7 million in "geological risk insurance." Moreover, a third stakeholder in the project, GreenRock Energy of Australia, has gained a 32 percent share in the project by acquiring Vulcan Geothermal, one of the three original partners along with Enx and Mol. Hungary's demand for electricity has been growing by 1 million megawatts per year on average for the past decade. *For more information, please visit <http://www.cbw.cz/phprs/2007011521.html> and <http://www.portfolio.hu/en/cikkek.tdp?cCheck=1&k=2&i=10719>.*

### **India: Geothermal Initiative Planned**

Failing to achieve the target for power generation from the existing operational renewable sources in India, the government is in search of new sources like geothermal energy in order to meet the energy requirements. At present, renewable energy contributes only about 3% of total energy consumption and 6% of the total power generation capacity, a recent Indian article reported. Geothermal energy is a source where the government has planned a major initiative. The government has already assessed the existing geothermal energy potential at Tattapani in Chhattisgarh and Puga Valley in Ladakh. Initial studies reveal the presence of geothermal fields in the Himalayan range, North Eastern and North Western India. *To view the article, please visit [http://www.financialexpress.com/fe\\_full\\_story.php?content\\_id=151750](http://www.financialexpress.com/fe_full_story.php?content_id=151750).*

### **Philippines: President to Visit Geothermal Plant**

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines is expected to attend the commissioning of the Northern Negros Geothermal Plant in Mailum Bago City on Feb. 2, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said. The Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. geothermal plant in Bago, when fully operational, will have a 49 megawatt capacity. It was funded by a loan package with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, information posted on the PNOC-EDC website said. The plant cost about at US\$143.2 million. *To view the article, please visit <http://www.visayandailystar.com/2007/January/15/topstory2.htm>.*

## **Philippines: Island Representative Considers Geothermal**

Philippine Rep. Rodolfo G. Valencia recently said Oriental Mindoro (located in the Philippines) will become self-sufficient in its energy needs and will attract local and foreign businessmen to invest in the island of Oriental Mindoro. More power projects have been lined up in 2007. These include the tapping of the geothermal power source in Naujan, as well as other renewable and nonrenewable sources. The development of indigenous sources of power and energy in Oriental Mindoro is one of Valencia's four priority programs embodied in his "Vision 2020 - Mindoro." *To view the article, please visit <http://www.mb.com.ph/PROV2007011884926.html>.*

## **Turkey: Locals Want to Use the Geothermal Power Produced in Their Town**

News that the geothermal energy produced in a Turkish town will not be used by the town's residents has met substantial opposition. Currently the power is slated to be exported to other areas of the country. The town's Environmental Preservation Society President was adamant that it was his town's basic right to take advantage of the geothermal energy, adding that they have started a petition. The petition now has around 1,500 signatures. . *To view the article, please visit <http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=63771>.*

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

### **BPA Issues RFP (Due January 19)**

BPA has a Renewable Energy Request for Proposals (RFP) that is currently open for the management of intermittent renewable resources. The RFP documents are available at <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/innovation/>. Please look at the Statement of Objectives section for the five areas that BPA is looking for proposals on. As an example of what is requested in the RFP, if you look at section A.4, Types of R&D Activities in the Statement of Objectives, you will see a section on the mitigation of the intermittent impacts of renewable resources on low voltage systems, which would be open to any renewable projects that would help to manage intermittency. Proposals in this area might include those related to utilities on demand side management, ancillary service support and other potential applications of renewable resources. This RFP closes January 19th and will fund up to \$500k for projects that meet BPA strategic goals and requirement, as detailed in the RFP documents.

Of further interest will be BPA's 2008 Agency wide RFP, which will come out this March or early April. This will be open to all renewable energy technologies along with R&D in transmission, energy efficiency, hydro and several other areas.

## Conservation Innovation Grants (Due February 2)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Conservation Innovation Grants Program. The purpose of CIG is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies for environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. 3 categories of interest include: 1) National Natural Resource Concerns (atmosphere, water, soil grazing land and forest health), 2) National Technology (improved on-farm energy efficiency including but not limited to renewable energy resources, methane recovery, and water management), and 3) The Chesapeake Bay Watershed. \$2 million expected to be available, up to 60 awards anticipated. Responses due 2/2/07. For more info, contact Tessa Chadwick at [tessa.chadwick@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:tessa.chadwick@wdc.usda.gov) or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=11733>. Refer to Sol# USDA-NRCS-NHQ0701. (Grants.gov 12/1/06)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

## **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**

### **EUEC Conference/Expo on Clean Air, Mercury, Global Warming & RE, Jan 21-24, Tuscan Arizona**

At EUEC 2007, over 1000+ professionals network in a 150+ exhibit area with 300+ presentations in 5 tracks. The event will take place at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, Tucson, Arizona. The agenda includes topics covering geothermal energy, including the Utility Geothermal Working Group Status Report and Geothermal Energy. *For more information or to register, please visit* <http://www.euec.com/>.

### **Stanford U. 32nd Workshop on Geothermal Reservoir Engineering, January 22-24, Stanford, CA**

Stanford University 32nd Workshop on Geothermal Reservoir Engineering will take place in January. The event will bring together Engineers, Scientists and Managers involved in geothermal reservoir studies and developments. It will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the exploration, development and use of geothermal resources, and enable prompt and open reporting of progress.

*For more information please visit*  
<http://pangea.stanford.edu/PetEng/geoth/workshop2007.htm>.

### **Clean Energy Power 2007, Jan 24, Berlin, Germany**

The event, which will take place in January, at the International Congress Center (ICC) in Berlin during the 71st International Green Week, focuses upon innovative technologies and the latest developments in renewable research. This event particularly emphasizes conferences, with 1,300 of the 1,600 visitors serving as conference delegates. Topics include Solar Power Plants, Gasification of Biomass, Desalination with Renewables, Geothermal Energy, Pellets, Perspectives of Decentral Energy Systems and much more.

*For more information, please visit* <http://www.energiemessen.de>.

### **7th Annual Northwest "Harvesting Clean Energy" Conference, January 28-30, Boise, Idaho**

The 7th Annual Northwest "Harvesting Clean Energy" Conference is scheduled to be held in Boise, Idaho, on January 28-30, 2007. The theme of this conference is "Charting the way to rural economic development through clean energy production". The conference will feature sessions on ethanol, wind farming, geothermal, carbon sequestration, and many others. Three local field trips (geothermal, wind, and biofuels) are also offered at the conference. The sponsors are expecting at least 500 participants at the conference.

*For information about this event, including on-line registration, visit the website at*  
[www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference](http://www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference).

## **Colorado State Working Group Meeting, January 31, Lakewood, Colorado**

The Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) and the US Department of Energy (DOE) are pleased to invite you to attend the first Colorado State Working Group meeting in support of DOE's GeoPowering the West initiative. The OEMC, with support from DOE, is in the preliminary stages of forming a Working Group and Steering Committee. OEMC is seeking individuals representing a cross section of the geothermal power generation and direct use industry and other interested parties to attend this meeting and to assist Colorado in this endeavor. The first meeting will be held Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at the Western Area Power Administration Headquarters in Lakewood, Colorado at 12155 W. Alameda Parkway. *The meeting will be in conference room's 225B & 225C from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Seating is limited so please RSVP by January 26, 2007 by calling 970-240-1273 or e-mail [www.dcarron@dmea.com](mailto:www.dcarron@dmea.com).*

## **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](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](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 geexchange 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](mailto:jasonberry@utah.gov), (801) 538-5413, or Robert Blackett, Utah Geological Survey – [robertblackett@utah.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Daniela@geo-energy.org). *For information about the GRC Annual Meeting contact GRC at 530-758-2360 or email [grclub@geothermal.org](mailto:grclub@geothermal.org).*



#### ***GEA Update***

A newsletter for GEA Members written by Alyssa Kagel and Karl Gawell.  
For more information contact GEA at: 209 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Phone: 202-454-5261; Fax: 202-454-5265; E-mail: [research@geo-energy.org](mailto:research@geo-energy.org)