



# GEO THERMAL ENERGY ASSOCIATION

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## **National News**

### **Senate Passes Energy Legislation**

#### ***Release from Senate Democrats on Senate Energy Bill***

The following press release was offered by Senate Democrats after passage of HR 6 on June 21, 2007 (abridged version follows):

The Senate passed H.R. 6, the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, which will enhance energy efficiency, increase production of clean domestic biofuels, raise fuel economy standards, punish price gougers, and achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. This landmark legislation will reduce our dependence on oil, improve our energy security, and save consumers and taxpayers money on their energy bills. Unfortunately, Senate Republicans blocked two key provisions that would have made the bill even stronger: a national renewable electricity standard and tax incentives for clean, homegrown energy and energy efficiency.

[The Senate Bill will:]

- Reduce dependence on oil and prevent supply disruptions.
- Make the government a leader in cutting energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Make price gouging a punishable federal crime.
- Position the United States as a world leader on global energy security.

To view the press release, please visit [http://democrats.senate.gov/dpc/dpc-new.cfm?doc\\_name=fs-110-1-107](http://democrats.senate.gov/dpc/dpc-new.cfm?doc_name=fs-110-1-107).

### ***Senator Reid: PTC Will be Revived***

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., promised to revive a series of tax breaks, including a five year extension of the PTC, that were blocked from the final Senate Energy Bill. "The fight is not over," Reid said at a news conference reviewing the energy bill that passed 65-27. He said the Senate will reconsider the tax provisions later this year, possibly as part of a major farm bill. "We have 60 votes and we have to figure out how we're going to bring it back," Reid told reporters at a press conference. The White House is considering vetoing the Senate bill over provisions that seek to criminalize price gouging during national emergencies, and that allow the Justice Department to subpoena OPEC nations for violating antitrust laws. About the possibility of a presidential veto, Reid said, "I don't know what they have down there (at the White House). I guess it's a big rubber stamp that says 'veto,'" Reid said. "So they can take their rubber stamp and you know what they can do with it."

A spokesman for Pete Domenici of New Mexico, the senior Republican on the Senate Energy Committee, said, "[The tax break package] was a punitive measure that would increase gasoline prices at a time when they are at record highs. Any efforts to attach those provisions to other legislation would be met with strong opposition."

Speaking in London recently, Exxon Mobil Chief Executive Rex Tillerson said the bill would be "devastating" for U.S. consumers.

The current tax credit for renewables expires in December 2008. The credit is worth several thousand dollars to \$1 million or more to projects of varying sizes, according to industry experts. Reid favored the tax provisions, while Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., voted against the tax package. In an interview before the Senate vote, Ensign expressed concern the Senate bill would discourage domestic oil and gas production. "That is unfinished business," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M. "The truth is most of the tax provision that we were trying to extend there are going to expire in another year or two."

For more information, please visit

<http://uschambercongress.illumina.org/meetnewcongress?action=viewNewsArticle&documentId=2c9e4f691357cf50011359a907c900c7> and

### ***Senator Bingaman: Comments on Senate Energy Bill Passage***

Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), who managed the Senate Energy bill for the Democrats, said the following in a press release:

"The Senators who consistently supported the bill through its consideration in the Senate were reflecting where the American people are. The strong consensus of the American public, of business and labor leaders, and of elected officials at almost every level of government, is that our nation must move faster and go farther to secure its energy future. ...The bill responds to the deeply held view of most Americans that we can – and should – lead the world when it comes to developing the new technologies that will produce clean, alternative energy and help address the threat of global warming. ...Building a clean energy future is a grand challenge for our country, and not without opposition from various entrenched interests. We certainly saw that reflected in some of the votes on this bill." To view the press release, please visit [http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease\\_id=235326&Month=6&Year=2007&Party=0](http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=235326&Month=6&Year=2007&Party=0).

## ***Senator Boxer: Comments on Senate Energy Bill Passage***

Remarking on the passage of the Senate Energy Bill, Senator Boxer said, “The Energy Bill...is an important step toward breaking America’s oil addiction, making the country more energy independent, and tackling the challenge of global warming.” *To view the press release, which includes a list of provisions that Senator Boxer either authored or supported in the Environment and Public Works Committee, please visit*

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=55bbc583-802a-23ad-4e72-8c032c0f73ec&Designation=Majority](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=55bbc583-802a-23ad-4e72-8c032c0f73ec&Designation=Majority).

## ***Senator Inhofe: Comments on Senate Energy Bill Passage***

Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said the following about the Energy Bill:

“The three principles of a secure energy supply are ensuring energy is stable, diverse and affordable. Unfortunately, the Democrat bill that passed last night fails to meet these goals. ...Despite all the recent rhetoric on energy independence, and increasing supplies of fuels, this bill will continue to put already energy starved Americans on a diet for years to come. ...I was pleased that the Senate voted against including a massive \$32 billion tax increase in the energy bill proposed by the Democrat leadership that would have resulted in a decline in domestic production making the US much more reliant on foreign oil and result in a 104% increase in the price of gasoline over the next eight years. These tired policies will not work – history has taught us that much.” *For more information, please visit*

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord\\_id=544b2116-802a-23ad-43b6-8b5696f6df2f](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=544b2116-802a-23ad-43b6-8b5696f6df2f).

## **House Energy Legislation to be Considered in July**

### ***Focus Now on House for RPS Legislation***

After the U.S. Senate approved an energy policy bill without a renewable portfolio standard (RPS), RPS action now shifts to the House of Representatives, where a vote may occur in the Energy & Commerce Committee on whether to adopt a 20% renewable energy requirement for the nation. The amendment to the Clean Energy Act (H.R. 6) was introduced by Senator John Thune (R-S.D). The provision would expand the “federal backstop” siting role given to DOE and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

### ***House Energy Package Must Lead To A New Energy Future, Says US PIRG***

As the House Energy and Commerce Committee begins its markup of energy legislation, U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) urged the committee to pass a renewable electricity standard, increase fuel economy and support the conservation provisions already in the bill. The environmental community sent a letter to the committee urging that they include several priorities in their energy bill, including:

- \* Establish a strong national renewable electricity standard by adopting the Udall-Platts Renewable Electricity Standard (H.R. 969) that requires utilities to produce 20 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020.
- \* Reject mandates or incentives for liquid coal

*For more information, please visit <http://www.uspirg.org/news-releases/new-energy-future/new-energy-future/house-energy-package-must-lead-to-a-new-energy-future>.*

## ***Washington Post: House Democrats at Odds Over Energy Bill Provisions***

The Democratic energy strategy remained unclear, the Post Reports. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is trying to pull together the pieces of an energy bill from 10 committees and warring Democratic leaders. For example, the energy bill under consideration by the House Energy and Commerce Committee omitted any mention of vehicle fuel efficiency standards or mandates for massive biofuels production, major elements of the Senate bill adopted last week. That will make negotiating a final bill with the Senate tricky.

Furthermore, Democratic leaders said that they would push for a climate change bill later this year, raising further uncertainty about what items would be added to an energy bill now and which ones might be left for the climate change bill.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John D. Dingell (Mich.) urged lawmakers to leave tough issues -- such as motor vehicle fuel economy, coal-to-liquids incentives and a renewable portfolio standard -- out of the current bill. "These issues will be addressed in the fall in the context of comprehensive climate change legislation," he said. He pledged to set goals later for cutting U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 60 to 80 percent by 2050.

Meanwhile, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.), chairman of a subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the subcommittee's ranking Republican, Sen. John W. Warner (Va.), said they would draw up a bill to put a ceiling on greenhouse gas emissions and allow companies to trade allowances to comply with the limits. Their support improves the prospects for such legislation. *For more information, please visit [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/27/AR2007062702329.html?nav=rss\\_politics/congress](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/27/AR2007062702329.html?nav=rss_politics/congress).*

## ***Statement of Congressman John D. Dingell, Chairman Committee on Energy and Commerce***

"...I recognize that the bills we are working on...may have displeased some of our more ideologically inclined colleagues on the left and the right, who might want us to be more prescriptive on the regulatory side, or more permissive on the production side.

We are proceeding on legislation where there is a consensus. We have left issues such as motor vehicle fuel economy, coal-to-liquids, and a renewable portfolio standard out of the base text. Members may wish to offer amendments on those subjects, and that is their right. But I would caution the Committee that this may only complicate the task of moving legislation through the House and through a conference with the Senate, so that a bill can be presented to the President for signature. These issues will be addressed in the fall in the context of comprehensive climate change legislation.

...We will have to figure out ways to deploy wind, solar, wave, geothermal, and other forms of energy production on a scale never before attempted. ... We will need to sort out the various responsibilities of the local, State and Federal governments, this country's international obligations, and what we can do to enlist other countries in these efforts." *To view the complete statement, please visit [http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press\\_110/110st64.shtml](http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/110st64.shtml).*

## ***Congressman Gordon: Bold Efforts on Energy Contained in House Package Will Put U.S. on Path to a More Sustainable Future***

House Committee on Science and Technology Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) issued the following statement after joining the House Democratic Leadership and his fellow Committee Chairmen at a press conference to unveil House Democrats' energy package:

"...For too long we have depended on a handful of finite resources to power our economy. Our future lies in our ability to develop a wide range of energy technologies using the cleanest natural resources from the

sun, the oceans, and the earth. To do this we have to tap America's most abundant and renewable resource – the human spirit of innovation that has given us the quality of life we enjoy today. Today's energy package is an aggressive first step. A challenge this complex requires generations of effort and dedication, and Democrats are committed to laying the groundwork now. This Congress will continue to pursue solutions to the nation's energy challenges, and the package put forth today will certainly make a vital contribution to the national strategy to put the U.S., and the world, on track to a more sustainable future.”  
*To view the complete statement, please visit <http://science.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1910>.*

## **Update on Geothermal PEIS**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service (FS) are preparing a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to analyze and expedite the leasing of BLM- and FS-administered lands with high potential for geothermal resources in 11 western states and Alaska.

The objectives of the PEIS, according to the PEIS website, are as follows:

1. Programmatically assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of leasing, exploration and development of geothermal resources on high priority areas (critical locations) on BLM- and FS-administered lands in order to expedite leasing. Additional environmental documentation would be required prior to actual exploration drilling and development.
2. Amend BLM and FS Resource Management Plans/Land Use Plans for geothermal leasing, based on PEIS analysis.
3. Provide analysis so site-specific leasing decisions can be made for the pending backlog of geothermal lease applications received by the BLM and FS prior to January 1, 2005.

Project Schedule:

Tentative major milestone dates for the PEIS are:

- July 2007 - Public Scoping Meetings
- Draft PEIS for public review/comment - Winter 2007/2008
- Public hearings - Winter 2008
- Final PEIS for public review - Fall 2008

*For more information and for a schedule of scoping meetings, go to the BLM's Geothermal Resources Leasing Programmatic EIS website at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html), or look under "Upcoming Events" in this newsletter.*

## **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Clears Fiscal 2008 Funding Legislation, Release Mentions Funding for Geothermal Without Offering Specific Number Allocation**

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development approved Fiscal Year 2008 legislation that addresses the energy security and climate change challenges. The legislation allocates a total of \$32.273 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Energy (DOE). The Committee allocation is more than \$1.8 billion over President Bush's budget request and nearly \$2 billion over FY 2007. Within the area of Clean Energy and Climate Change, the spending bill supplies \$3.715 billion for the DOE's energy activities, \$536 million above the President's budget request. The Committee press release reads, "While the President has rhetorically stated that energy is an important issue, in reality many important programs have been largely under funded. This year, the

Committee provides real dollars to fund his empty promises. ...Strong support is provided for a range of renewable technologies including solar, wind, geothermal, and water power technologies.”

Subcommittee Chairman Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said, “The Energy and Water Appropriations bill is a strong investment in our nation’s infrastructure and energy-related research. We’ve worked hard to put together a fiscally responsible bill that will help build America for the future.”

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va. said, “This legislation brings us another step closer to energy independence and reducing the country’s reliance on Middle East oil by investing in the ingenuity and natural resources we have here at home. We are finally putting real dollars into the research and development that will help to cut through the chains of foreign oil. I am proud to support this bill that devotes real dollars to innovation and ingenuity to energy policy and will help blaze new trails in this sector. America has no greater domestic challenge than finding better, cleaner, and safer ways to provide energy to communities across the nation.” *To view the press release, please visit <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>.*

While the final bill and report are not yet publicly available, Senate sources have indicated that the Energy and Water Subcommittee allocates \$25 million for geothermal energy research in FY 2008.

### **CNN Money on Geothermal Investing, Potential**

A recent CNN article discusses geothermal’s increasing popularity: “thanks to advances in technology, a better political climate and rising electricity prices, geothermal is quickly losing its status as renewable energy’s most unloved sector. In fact, investment in the sector jumped nearly fourfold over the last two years, to about \$100 million last year.” The article goes on to discuss venture capital, which for geothermal totaled \$100 million in 2006, according to the research firm New Energy Finance, up from \$26 million in 2004 and zero in 2001. “Because it’s so small, there’s large growth potential here,” said Paul Ferreri, a renewable energy portfolio manager at McClurg Capital, a California-based investment company. *For more information, please visit <http://money.cnn.com/2007/06/27/news/economy/geothermal/?postversion=2007062710>.*

### **Western Utilities Plan Wyoming-Arizona Transmission Backbone**

A group of Western utilities is studying the feasibility of a transmission “backbone” that would run through the eastern plains of Wyoming and Colorado to central Arizona, linking various transmission projects and providing access to renewable energy projects. The High Plains Express transmission project would run south from eastern Wyoming, through eastern Colorado and New Mexico and would ultimately terminate in the Phoenix/Tucson load centers. According to project planners, the project would likely be either a 345-KV or a 500-KV line that would connect with Wyoming’s TOT 3 project, the TransWest Express project, the Eastern Plains Express proposed by Tri-State Generation, the SunZia Southwest project, and the Path 46 (Northern New Mexico Import) project being developed by PNM. Xcel Energy is the facilitator of the initial feasibility study, to be finished by August. Other participants include Platte River Power Authority, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Salt River Project, and Western Area Power Administration. *For more information, please visit [http://www.energyprospects.com/cgi-bin/package\\_display.pl?packageID=2288](http://www.energyprospects.com/cgi-bin/package_display.pl?packageID=2288).*

### **FERC Revises Market-Based Rates, Wants to Prompt Competition**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order June 21, reforming its market-based rate program, and proposing a rulemaking to facilitate long-term contracts and transparency in electricity markets. In press releases, FERC Chair Joseph Kelliher said that while “competition is national policy,” the commission “never relied solely on competition to assure just and reasonable wholesale power prices; we never stopped regulating.” He added that, “The market-based rate authorization is a privilege, not a right, and it is wholly appropriate to revoke the privilege when companies violate these conditions.”

The new MBR program, Order No. 697, divides market-based rate sellers into two categories: those that own 500 MW or less of generation in aggregate per region, and all other power sellers.

To determine whether a wholesale seller qualifies for market-based rates, FERC will use a two-part test, rather than the current four-part test. The new analysis will look at generation as well as transmission and other barriers to market entry. The rulemaking deals with four areas -- demand response, increasing opportunities for long-term contracts, strengthening market monitoring and responsiveness of RTOs and ISOs to customers, and stakeholders. *For more information, please visit <http://www.ferc.gov/press-room/press-releases.asp>.*

## **Company News**

### **Ormat: Signs Its Largest Power Purchase Agreement to Date**

RENO, Nev., July 2 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Ormat Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: ORA) today announced that it has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Southern California Edison (SCE) to purchase 50 megawatts (MW) of clean energy output from the Brawley I Project, which is currently under construction in Imperial County, California, by Ormat. The PPA includes an option to increase capacity to 100 MWs at Ormat's discretion, and is subject to the approval of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

The PPA results from a 2006 request for proposal from SCE. The power rate agreed upon will not exceed the 2006 Market Price Referent as approved by the CPUC.

Dita Bronicki, Chief Executive Officer of Ormat said, "It could not be more appropriate that this milestone agreement marking our largest PPA to-date is with Southern California Edison, our largest customer and a strong supporter of clean energy production."

When completed, the Brawley I Project will increase the total output supplied from Ormat to SCE to approximately 190 MWs.

"This is one of the largest contracts SCE is entering into as part of its 2006 solicitation. It is an important part of meeting our renewable energy goals," said Pedro Pizarro, senior vice president, Power Procurement, Southern California Edison. "We are very pleased that our counterparty is Ormat Technologies -- a good business partner and leader in the renewable energy industry. SCE had been procuring geothermal power from Ormat-developed projects for the last 20 years and we consider them an exceptional supplier of green base load energy."

"SCE's continued commitment to increasing production from clean energy sources is evident in this agreement, which provides enough clean power to serve approximately 50,000 homes for an entire year," Mrs. Bronicki continued. "We value SCE's recognition that Ormat produces geothermal energy efficiently, reliably and cost effectively. During our 20+ years of working together, SCE has proven itself a noteworthy partner and a true advocate for a cleaner environment. We share in SCE's dedication to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and will continue to grow our relationship to further our mutual goal." *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.ormat.com/relation.php?did=84>.*

### **Calpine: Plan of Reorganization Shows Expanded Value of Power Assets, According to Fitch Rating**

Fitch Ratings notes that the Calpine Corp. (Calpine) plan of reorganization (POR) and disclosure statements filed on June 20, 2007 indicate that Calpine has entered the final stages of its reorganization process. The Plan confirmation deadline is Aug. 20, 2007, marking the end of the debtor's 18-month exclusivity period. If claimants vote to approve the POR by the exclusivity deadline, then Calpine should

emerge from bankruptcy on or about Dec. 31, 2007. On the other hand, delays which cause loss of exclusivity could potentially complicate the process by inviting other plan proposals.

Fitch dramatically increased Calpine's estimated recovery values in the 18 months since the company filed for bankruptcy protection. According to a yahoo article, this significant change illustrates the volatile and cyclical character of asset valuations in the wholesale power market. Changes in capacity and load, regional fuel mix, natural gas prices, environmental regulation, asset replacement costs and the capital market's appetite for financing and ownership of power assets exert a profound influence on the values of wholesale generation companies. Also, during the course of the bankruptcy, management proactively rationalized assets, streamlined operations, and reduced and refinanced debt.

Fitch has published a commentary on the factors that resulted in changes in recovery value over the past 18 months, including swings in natural gas prices, tightening generation capacity reserve margins in U.S. power markets, expectations of more stringent environmental standards and carbon constraints in future, inflation in the replacement costs of Calpine's facilities, and extremely liquid capital market conditions affecting investor discount rates and valuation multiples. *The Fitch report 'Calpine Corp.: Comment on Plan of Reorganization and Recovery Valuation' dated June 25, 2007 is available on the Fitch Ratings' web site at [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com) (free login required).*

### **Polaris Geothermal Inc.: Announces \$25 Million Private Placement**

Polaris Geothermal Inc. ("Polaris Geothermal" or the "Company")(TSX:GEO) is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement ("Agreement") with Jacob & Company Securities Inc. ("Jacob & Co.") in which Jacob & Co. has agreed to purchase, subject to certain conditions, including due diligence, and with the right to substitute purchasers, a private placement of 20,833,333 equity units ("Units") at a price of \$1.20 per Unit resulting in gross proceeds of \$25,000,000 to Polaris Geothermal, prior to consideration of the Over-Allotment Option described below (the "Offering"). Each Unit will consist of one common share of Polaris Geothermal ("Common Share") and one common share purchase warrant ("Warrant"). Each Warrant will entitle the holder to subscribe for one Common Share at \$1.50 per share at any time until the date that is 36 months from closing.

Skyberry Holdings Ltd., a Bahamian business corporation, is expected to subscribe for approximately 16,666,666 Units.

The net proceeds of the Offering form part of the funds required to be used for drilling and plant construction to increase installed capacity to 37 MW and are also to be used for general corporate purposes.

The Agreement and the Offering are subject to the receipt of all necessary approvals, including regulatory and stock exchange approvals. Closing is expected to occur on or about July 12, 2007 ("Closing").

Under the rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Offering is subject to shareholder approval. The Company expects that it will rely on an exemption from obtaining shareholder approval at a meeting of shareholders by receiving written consent to the Offering from holders of more than 50% of the Common Shares.

Polaris Geothermal has agreed to pay Jacob & Co. a commission equal to 7% of the aggregate gross proceeds and to issue 1,458,333 broker warrants to acquire Units ("Broker Unit Warrants") representing 7% of the number of Units issued under the Offering. One Broker Unit Warrant will entitle the holder to acquire one Unit for \$1.20 at any time until the date that is 24 months from Closing.

Polaris Geothermal has also granted Jacob & Co. an over-allotment option ("Over-Allotment Option") to place an additional 5,833,333 Units at \$1.20 per Unit, which, if exercised in full, would result in additional gross proceeds to Polaris Geothermal of \$7,000,000, at any time until August 4, 2007. If the Over-Allotment Option is exercised in full, Jacob & Co. will be paid a commission equal to 7% of the gross

proceeds of the Over-Allotment Option and 490,000 additional Broker Unit Warrants, representing 7% of the number of Units issued under the Over-Allotment Option.

All of the securities issued in connection with the Offering will be subject to a four -month hold period from the date of issue. *For more information, please visit [http://www.marketwirecanada.com/2.0/rel\\_ca.jsp?id=747105](http://www.marketwirecanada.com/2.0/rel_ca.jsp?id=747105).*

## **Renewable News**

### **Green Power and Green Heat Need More Support, Says IEA Report**

Renewables are “well placed” to reduce the risk of energy supply disruptions and the current reliance by many countries on imported fuels, according to the International Energy Agency. “Security of energy supply should be a key objective of governments if they are to meet other objectives relating to economic growth,” it explains in ‘Contribution of Renewables to Energy Security.’

“Now that a number of threats to the future continuation of conventional energy supplies have been identified, there is growing concern that other energy sources need to be found,” it notes. “The environmental benefits of renewable energy are well known but the contribution that they can make to energy security is less widely recognized,” the report explains. “This report aims to redress the balance, showing how in electricity generation, heat supply, and transport, renewables can enhance energy security and suggesting policies that can optimize this contribution.”

“This makes it all the more important to pursue policies for research, development and deployment that can progressively reduce the costs of renewables so that, with appropriate credit for carbon saving, they can be established as technologies of choice,” it concludes. “The direct contribution that renewables can make to domestic or commercial space heating and industrial process heat deserves much more attention than it has so far received. Heat from solar and geothermal sources, as well as heat pumps, is increasingly cost effective but often falls through the gap between government programs that promote public awareness and provide incentives for renewable electricity and energy efficiency.” *To view the report, please visit [http://iea.org/textbase/papers/2007/so\\_contribution.pdf](http://iea.org/textbase/papers/2007/so_contribution.pdf).*

### **WREGIS Goes Live as West-Wide Renewable Energy Info System**

After several years in development, The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) was officially launched June 25. The renewable energy registry and tracking system is considered an important tool in facilitating renewables policies and resource development throughout the West, by providing independent and verifiable data on clean-energy production.

Administratively housed within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, WREGIS' intended functions include documenting compliance for renewables portfolio standards as well as for voluntary renewable energy credit markets, and preventing double-counting of RECs. These are likely to help "increase the confidence in the whole renewable energy market," said WREGIS committee chair John Pappas, from Pacific Gas & Electric. WREGIS comes into existence as the region pursues the Western Governors' Association goal of 30,000 MW of new clean energy by 2015. It is designed to keep tabs on renewables production in 14 U.S. states, two Canadian provinces and northern Baja California, which collectively comprise the Western Interconnection.

One of WREGIS' main attributes is a focus on confirmable information about renewables generation, Lusk said. It will include data on megawatt-hour production, type of renewable, location and qualifications for sundry renewables programs. Another prospective benefit is economies of scale from its broad geographic scope. WREGIS takes no stand on renewable-resource qualification, advertising itself as "policy-neutral." WREGIS is governed by a seven-member committee, with representatives from load-serving entities, generators, industry and government, along with the CEC, WECC and WGA. *For more information, please visit [www.wregis.org](http://www.wregis.org).*

## **Global Annual Investment in Renewable Energy Hits \$100 Billion**

The investment capital flowing into renewable energy technologies reached \$100 billion in 2006, according to an analysis by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Of that, a record \$71 billion was invested in companies and new sector opportunities, up 43% from 2005, while roughly \$30 billion was due to mergers, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, and asset refinancing. According to the report, renewable energy investment is nearly evenly split between the United States and Europe.

While some may be tempted to compare the renewable energy investment boom to the earlier dotcom boom, the UNEP report notes that the renewable energy boom is underpinned by real demand, growing regulatory support, the considerable backing of tangible assets, and increasing revenues. *To view the report, please visit [http://www.unep.org/pdf/SEFI\\_report-GlobalTrendsInSustainableEnergyInvestment07.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/SEFI_report-GlobalTrendsInSustainableEnergyInvestment07.pdf).*

## **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership Funds New Projects**

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) announced it will fund thirty-five new projects. The funding round, REEEP's sixth, represented the largest in its four year history. The increased funding was driven by new donor contributions in March when the Norwegian government announced a three-year pledge of EUR 3.7 million. Norway joined the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy and New Zealand as a project donor government. Norwegian funding is focused on supporting several projects in Brazil, China and India. *For more information, please visit <http://www.reeep.org>.*

## **REFE: Investment Trends & the Global Renewables Market**

Welcoming everyone to the "great renewable technology intersection" of markets, projects and people, American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) President Michael Eckhart addressed an audience of financiers, corporate executives, project developers, and financial professionals during his opening remarks on the state of the renewable energy industry at New York City's Waldorf-Astoria on Park Avenue. The two-day event, hosted by ACORE in conjunction with Euromoney, featured sessions on financing techniques, transactions, project lending, project investing, corporate finance, venture capital and institutional investment—as well as featured industry and government speakers analyzing current and future renewable investment trends. *For more information, please visit <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=49085>.*

## **Climate Change News**

### **House Approves Plan to Buy Offsets, 'Green Capitol' Plan**

The House approved a legislative branch spending bill recently that would fully fund Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) plans to make House buildings and operations carbon-neutral by the end of 2008. Lawmakers approved the \$3.1 billion spending measure, 216-176, setting aside \$3.9 million for the "Green the Capitol" initiative.

The largest bundle of cash, \$2.7 million, would be used to shift the Capitol Power Plant from burning coal to natural gas to produce the steam and chilled water that heats and cools Capitol complex buildings.

Another \$520,000 would be available to purchase wind-generated electricity to cover 100 percent of the House's power demand, and \$500,000 would be set aside to establish an ethanol gas station for House automobiles. The bill would provide \$100,000 to purchase energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs. The spending measure also includes language that directs the House to offset its greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits, a provision originally offered in an amendment by Rep. Mark Kirk (R-III.). The House bill also includes \$2 million to fund the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. *For more information, please visit*

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=1:630711801&start=26&dateId=20070622>.

## **House Passes Bill Affirming Global Warming Exists**

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation recognizing the "reality" of climate change and providing money to work on the problem. By a vote of 272-155, the House approved an environmental funding bill for the fiscal year starting October 1 that would increase federal investments in basic research on climate change and establish a new commission to review scientific questions that need to be addressed.

The White House has threatened a veto of the \$27.6 billion bill because its overall spending would exceed President George W. Bush's request by about \$2 billion. The Senate has not yet debated the bill. The bill also would require oil companies to renegotiate faulty drilling contracts issued by the government in 1998 and 1999 that have allowed them to avoid paying billions in royalties, or be barred from receiving any new leases to drill for oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

The White House "strongly opposes" the provision, saying it could produce legal challenges that might delay future lease sales and would set a bad precedent coming nearly a decade after the government signed the contracts. The climate change commission envisioned by the House bill would make its first recommendations by July 1, 2008 and the panel's work would end in 2009. A White House statement said the Bush administration was committed to addressing "the important issue of climate change," but that the commission would duplicate government efforts already under way. The House-passed bill also would beef up funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by giving the agency over \$8 billion next year, \$887 million more than Bush sought, mainly for water cleanup and clean air programs. *For more information, please visit [http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-climate-usa-funding.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-climate-usa-funding.html?_r=1&oref=slogin).*

## **Warner-Lieberman Climate Change Legislation**

### ***Key U.S. Senators Reach Deal on CO2 Emissions***

A U.S. Senate panel recently began drawing up a sweeping law that would put mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions after a key Republican endorsed the idea. Sen. Barbara Boxer, California Democrat and chairwoman of the Senate Environment Committee, wants Congress to pass legislation that would for the first time place caps on emissions of heat-trapping gases from power plants, cars and factories.

A "cap-and-trade" approach -- backed by Warner and Sen. Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut independent, would set industry-specific reduction targets and require those that exceed them to buy permits to pollute. Coal-burning power plants emit the most U.S. carbon dioxide, about 40 percent of the total, and cars emit about a third of the total. Boxer said her committee could vote on the plan -- which was still under negotiation -- after Congress returns from its August recess, and the full Senate could vote on it this year. Boxer's efforts are in line with those of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who wants to halve U.S. emissions by 2050 through a cap-and-trade system. Rep. John Dingell, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and a key climate-change negotiator, said the issue would be addressed in "comprehensive climate change legislation" the House will weigh in the fall.

Stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions at a safe level will require a reduction of between 60 percent and 80 percent by 2050, Dingell said. Dingell's views are key, the New York Times reported, because he is a long-time ally of Detroit automobile makers, who have resisted attempts in California and other states to regulate vehicle emissions of carbon dioxide. President George W. Bush opposes mandatory limits on emissions, saying they would harm the economy. Instead, Bush has set a goal of reducing the intensity of emissions -- as measured against economic growth -- by 18 percent by 2012. *For more information, please visit [http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-usa-warming-senate.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/washington/politics-usa-warming-senate.html?_r=1&oref=slogin).*

## ***Lieberman: "Breakthrough" Efforts on Climate Change Legislation***

Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works' Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming, expressed appreciation to his ranking member, Senator John Warner (R-VA), for his willingness to draft a strong, comprehensive bill to address the problem of global climate change. Lieberman's comments follow a recent announcement that he and Senator Warner have embarked on a process within their subcommittee of drawing upon existing bills and new ideas to construct a new, bipartisan, economy-wide, cap-and-trade climate bill over the weeks ahead. That announcement read, in part:

“Senators Joe Lieberman, I-D, Conn., and John Warner, R-Va., the Chairman and Ranking Member of a key subcommittee on the Committee on Environment and Public Works, announced that they have begun drawing upon existing proposals and new ideas, including those from the private sector, to draft a comprehensive bill to address global climate change.

The new bill will aim to structure an economy-wide cap and trade program that provides maximum flexibility to the marketplace to meet a level of attainable emission reductions that are environmentally credible. It will provide federal investment in new technologies, include cost-containment provisions, and ensure international participation by developing nations.

The two senior members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, who are the chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection, are working to bring a bipartisan accord to their subcommittee in the near future.”

To view the press release, please visit <http://lieberman.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=278004&&>.

## ***Senator Boxer Statement on Warner-Lieberman Global Warming Announcement***

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Remarks as prepared for delivery:

“When I took the gavel of the Senate Environment Committee in January, I laid out two primary goals:

1. To fight global warming; and
2. To restore bipartisanship to the EPW committee.

The announcement by Senators Warner and Lieberman makes this a landmark day in our fight against global warming and in bringing bipartisanship to the committee. Senators Lieberman and Warner have announced their plan to develop an economy-wide global warming bill that includes a cap-and-trade program. This is a critical milestone, because Senator Warner becomes the first Republican on the EPW committee to support an economy-wide approach to global warming.

I also want to thank Senator Alexander, who has addressed the power plant sector's contribution to global warming both in his legislation... I look forward to working closely with Senators Warner and Lieberman in considering their legislation, along with the other global warming bills that have been referred to our Committee.” To view the complete statement, please visit

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=6ecb543f-802a-23ad-46c2-6e8a8d9852f6&Designation=Majority](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=6ecb543f-802a-23ad-46c2-6e8a8d9852f6&Designation=Majority).

## **US Climate Law May Linger Until Next President, Planet Ark Reports**

Global warming is the focus of at least seven bills on Capitol Hill, but whether any of them will become law before President George W. Bush leaves office in 2009 is a matter of keen debate. At this point, there are no front runners -- just bills with some chance of prevailing in some form and those that are dead on

arrival, industry and environmental analysts said. A comprehensive US law to address the challenges of global climate change is at least two years away, the analysts said. Wall Street, however, has begun to prepare for possible changes, including a US market on greenhouse gases.

One expert who advises investors about the energy sector said a limited bill to cap and trade carbon emissions from stationary sources like power plants has a slight possibility of getting through Congress this year. Regardless of where the bills stand, many Wall Street banks are developing US teams to work with their European carbon desks, where CO2 emissions are already traded. *For more information, please visit <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42774/story.htm>.*

## **2007 Seen as Second Warmest Year as Climate Shifts**

This year is on track to be the second warmest since records began in the 1860s. Floods in Pakistan or a heatwave in Greece may herald worse disruptions in store from global warming, experts said recently. "2007 is looking as though it will be the second warmest behind 1998," said Phil Jones, head of the Climatic Research Unit at Britain's University of East Anglia, which provides data to the U.N.'s International Meteorological Organization.

"Severe events are going to be more frequent," said Salvano Briceno, director of the Geneva-based secretariat of the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Among extreme events, more than 500 people have died in storms and floods in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India in the past week. Temperatures in Greece reached 46 C this week as part of a heatwave across parts of southern Europe. Parts of China have also had a heat wave in recent days. And torrential rains have battered northern England and parts of Texas, where Austin has had its wettest year on record so far.

The U.N. climate panel, drawing on the work of 2,500 scientists, said this year that it was "very likely" that human activities led by use of fossil fuels were the main cause of a warming in the past half-century. It gave a "best estimate" that temperatures will rise 1.8-4.0 Celsius this century. Briceno told Reuters that the world had to work out better policies to prepare for disasters, saying that climate change was adding to already increasing risks faced by a rising human population of about 6.6 billion people. *For more information, please visit [http://in.today.reuters.com/News/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007-06-29T155203Z\\_01\\_NOOTR\\_RTRMDNC\\_0\\_India-282406-1.xml](http://in.today.reuters.com/News/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007-06-29T155203Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_India-282406-1.xml).*

## **World Perceives Climate Problem as Greatest Threat**

Environmental problems such as global warming increasingly are seen as the leading threat the world faces, according to a massive survey of global public opinion released recently. The United States is given much of the blame for those problems and the responsibility to respond to them. The Pew Research Center poll, taken in 46 countries and the Palestinian territories, found that people in countries as diverse as Canada, Peru, Ukraine, China and India identified environmental degradation as the greatest world danger, outranking concerns about nuclear weapons, ethnic hatred and AIDS. More than 45,000 people were interviewed by phone or face-to-face for the survey, which used nearly 60 languages or dialects.

The poll found sharply rising concern about environmental problems as the world's biggest threat. Majorities or pluralities in 34 of 37 countries where the question was asked identified the U.S. as the chief culprit. In the United States, pollution was ranked lower as a concern than in any other industrialized nation. Thirty-seven percent in the U.S. identified environmental issues as the top global threat, compared with 70 percent in China, 55 percent in Peru and 52 percent in France. Americans were more likely to call nuclear proliferation or religious and ethnic hatred as leading dangers to the planet.

*For more information, please visit*

*<http://tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070628/NEWS08/706280396/1025/NEWS05>.*

## **New Survey Shows Four out of Five Cities Now Use Renewable Energy or Expect to By Next Year**

According to a new survey released by the Mayors Climate Protection Center during The U.S. Conference of Mayors' 75th anniversary meeting, mayors are acting on many fronts to enhance climate protection, without significant support from their state and federal partners, a Mayors Climate Protection Center press release reports.

The survey indicates that cities throughout the country, regardless of size, have initiated a multitude of actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Surveying the 400 mayors who at that time had signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, 134 of them provided data for this first-ever assessment of city climate protection efforts. The survey finds that more than four out of five of the survey cities now use renewable energy, or are considering beginning by next year. The survey also finds that more than nine out of ten cities consider efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to be part of their broader efforts to address public health concerns, such as improving air quality or encouraging active living. Further, in nearly three in four of the cities, mayors have reached out to other mayors, elected county officials, or other leaders in the region to encourage them to sign on to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and/or take action on climate protection.

As of June 21, 540 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing to reduce carbon emissions in cities below 1990 levels, in line with the Kyoto protocol and due to an absence of federal leadership. For the past few months, mayors have been working closely with Congressional leaders to enact new legislation to support local government efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. Called the Energy and Environment Block Grant program, similar to the popular HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, this initiative would supply formula-based grants to cities, counties, and states to reduce energy dependence and promote greater energy efficiency. *To view the full survey results released by the Mayors Climate Protection Center, please visit [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*

## **Reps. Waxman and Davis Set Deadline for CEQ Documents**

In a letter to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chairman James Connaughton, Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Tom Davis (R-VA) of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform set a firm deadline for the White House to provide climate change documents that were requested eleven months ago. Despite numerous discussions and requests, CEQ has withheld over 500 responsive documents from the Committee. "This request was prompted by reports in the press that CEQ had edited climate change documents and managed the press statements of government climate scientists in order to further a political agenda .... The Committee will provide CEQ with one additional week, until June 27, 2007, to produce the documents, provide the documents for staff review, or claim executive privilege. If CEQ has not produced the documents, provided the documents for review, or asserted executive privilege by that time, the Committee will have no option but to issue a subpoena for the documents, which is a step we would like to avoid," the letter said. *Reported by EESI.*

## **State News**

### **Alaska: Climate Change Threatens State's Infrastructure**

A study released on June 27 by the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Alaska Anchorage concludes that many of Alaska's roads, runways, railroads and water and sewer systems will wear out more quickly and cost more to repair or replace because of climate change. Higher temperatures, melting permafrost, a reduction in polar ice and increased flooding are expected to raise the repair and replacement cost of thousands of infrastructure projects as much as \$6.1 billion for a total of nearly \$40 billion – about a 20 percent increase – from now to 2030, according to the study. "We assume warming temperatures mean infrastructure has to be replaced more often," the report said. "It's also possible

the changing climate could actually increase the life of some structures, but we haven't so far identified any such exceptions."

ISER researchers created a list of public infrastructure throughout Alaska, when it was built, how long it typically lasts and how much it would cost to replace it – plus the difference due to faster deterioration because of warming. The database contains nearly 16,000 elements in 19 categories, including more than 9,000 miles of roads. Peter Larsen, a natural resource economist at the ISER and the lead researcher for the report, said the most vulnerable places in the state were probably those built heavily on permafrost – the permanently frozen subsoil – whose average temperature is projected to rise above freezing in the future, potentially making the ground unstable. *Reported by EESI. For more information please visit <http://www.adn.com/news/environment/story/9084442p-9000528c.html>.*

### **Arizona: Green Rules Finally Get the Go-Ahead**

Arizona's new renewable energy standards and tariff were certified earlier this month by the state's attorney general, making it official that utilities must generate 15 percent of their energy from renewables by 2025. The rules were approved last October by the Arizona Corporation Commission in a 4-1 vote, but the long legal review has kept renewables development in the state on the back burner. That is about to change, according to Energy Prospects.

According to Commissioner Gary Pierce, "as the skies across Arizona slowly turn a darker shade of brown, we've got to do something to level the playing field between traditional power sources that produce harmful emissions and renewable power sources that do not." The RES rules require utilities to obtain renewable energy credits from eligible resources in these amounts: 1.5 percent in 2007, 2.5 percent by 2010, and 5 percent by 2015. He said the new rules are "a significant and substantial obligation" that puts Arizona in "the upper echelon" of states with renewables portfolio standards. Arizona Corporation Commission *For more information, please visit [http://www.energyprospects.com/cgi-bin/package\\_display.pl?packageID=2282](http://www.energyprospects.com/cgi-bin/package_display.pl?packageID=2282).*

### **California: Air Board Adopts Greenhouse Gas Rules**

The California Air Resources Board approved three new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the state's effort to fight global warming. The measures are the first "early actions" to implement California's landmark law -- Global Warming Solutions Act -- passed last year and calling for a 25 percent reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases by 2020. The regulations order cleaner-burning gasoline that would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 10 percent by 2020. A second measure will bar the sale of NSP21633 refrigerant cans for vehicle air conditioners, and a third will require systems to reduce emissions of methane gas from landfills. The three measures could produce a reduction up to 26 million tons of greenhouse gases, according to the Air Board.

The regulations are to be enforced before 2010, along with more than 30 other climate measures that the Air Resources Board is developing between now and 2011. Some environmental groups, however, said the board is not moving fast enough to pass and implement more regulations to meet the clean-air goals in the state's emissions reduction law. *For more information, please visit <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42771/story.htm>.*

### **California: Cal-ISO Chief Voices Support for Federal Transmission-Siting Authority**

California's top grid operator earlier this month called on federal authorities to take over all transmission-siting responsibilities for renewable energy sources should a national renewables portfolio standard become law. The U.S. Department of Energy's national transmission corridors initiative was born out of Congress' need to ensure reliability, noted California Independent System Operator chief executive officer Yakout Mansour, during the California Clean Energy Fund forum held this month in San Francisco.

Even if every state adopts an RPS, Mansour believes that state regulators should ensure that procurement is diversified. Even if a state is able to build enough renewable generation to cover its goals, regulators should still require procurement from out-of-state generators, he said. California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Peevey was less enthusiastic about the DOE's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors plan. "The DOE transmission corridor initiative as put into the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has some real serious problems in terms of the roles of the states vis-a-vis DOE," he said. Many Californians opposed the DOE plan during a hearing on the matter recently.

The need for new interstate transmission is an old one, but the driver now for building is renewable energy, which is a "very strong and very powerful" motive, Mansour noted in his speech to the CalCEF forum, held at Pacific Gas & Electric headquarters. Mansour, Peevey and California Energy Commissioner Arthur Rosenfeld all seemed open to the idea of increasing the amount of nuclear power in the state's portfolio, but with reservations.

"There's going to be a need for baseload facilities," Peevey said, "if for no other reason than to replace the fleet of existing gas-fired units of about 20,000 MW that was built in this state in the '60s ... We can't do everything with renewables." But that baseload is not going to come from coal, Peevey explained, unless carbon-sequestration issues are resolved. Baseload will have to come from natural gas and geothermal, he said. *For more information, please visit [http://www.energyprospects.com/cgi-bin/package\\_display.pl?packageID=2286](http://www.energyprospects.com/cgi-bin/package_display.pl?packageID=2286).*

### **Colorado: Significant Geothermal Potential**

The BLM manages millions of acres of public land in the West, including 8.3 million acres in Colorado. Most of the nation's geothermal resources are contained under those lands. "The BLM is sitting on the largest supply of geothermal energy in this country, and it is time to launch an aggressive program to develop those resources," said BLM acting Director Jim Hughes. "This proceeding will help us determine which areas to concentrate our geothermal leasing efforts on." Colorado ranks fourth among states in the number of potential sites for geothermal power, according to a 2006 Western Governors Association report.

With newer geothermal technologies, Colorado may be able to produce electricity, which previously was not considered. The Governor's Energy Office and the Colorado Geological Survey have partnered to map the state's geothermal potential. "Our hope is to have geothermal energy take a seat at Colorado's renewable-energy table alongside solar and wind power," said Tom Plant, director of the energy office.

Geothermal energy is used in a few Colorado locations for direct applications, such as heating swimming pools or buildings, but it's not used to generate electricity. *For more information, please visit [http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/energy/article/0,2777,DRMN\\_23914\\_5605733,00.html](http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/energy/article/0,2777,DRMN_23914_5605733,00.html).*

### **Montana: Senator Tester Endorses Energy Bill, Geothermal Energy**

Senator Jon Tester (D-Montana) wrote the following guest opinion in a Montana newspaper (exerts below):

"After two weeks of debating, tinkering and compromise, the Senate has just given a thumbs up to a sweeping measure that changes our nation's energy policy. As a member of the Senate Energy Committee, I had a role making sure the 2007 Energy Bill is good for Montana. The bill will move our state forward by providing more jobs and opportunity, more savings and cleaner air and water. The whole bill will make the U.S. safer by boosting our energy independence. It will also move Montana to the front of the pack when it comes to the future of energy development."

About geothermal power, Tester wrote, "Right now, I'm working with Democrats and Republicans to make sure our geothermal resources, like hot springs, play a bigger role in Montana's energy future. With a little research and innovation, we can make geothermal energy commonplace. In fact, we'd like to see the U.S.

draw 15 percent of its energy from geothermal resources by 2030.” *For more information, please visit <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/06/30/opinion/guest/51-jobs.txt>.*

## **Notices and Requests for Proposals (RFP)**

### **DOE Loan Guarantee Program - Comments Due July 2**

DOE has released its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the loan Guarantee Program. It is available at <http://www.lgprogram.energy.gov/LGP-NOPR.pdf>. Comments are due by July 2, 2007.

### **Applications for CREBs Sought by July 13, 2007**

IRS Notice 2007-26 solicits applications for the allocation of the available clean renewable energy bond national limitation under Section 54 of the Internal Revenue Code and provides other guidance with respect to the issuance and post-issuance compliance of clean renewable energy bonds. This notice was published in Internal Revenue Bulletin 2007-14, dated April 2, 2007 and the due date is July 13, 2007. *For more information, please visit: [http://www.irs.gov/irb/2007-14\\_IRB/ar17.html#d0e2321](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2007-14_IRB/ar17.html#d0e2321).*

### **RFP – EPA Climate Workshops (Due July 23)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Climate Economic Workshops. Through this initiative, EPA seeks to provide a neutral forum for climate economics dialogue; the workshops will bring together climate economists, modelers, and other climate change professionals to discuss and debate relevant climate economics topics. \$500K expected to be available, up to 3 awards anticipated. Responses due 7/23/07. For more info, contact Christa Clapp at [clapp.christa@epa.gov](mailto:clapp.christa@epa.gov) or go to: [http://www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html#0706](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#0706).

### **DOE Funding Opportunity: Electric Power Generation Using Geothermal Energy Co-Produced with Oil and/or Gas Wells (Due July 31)**

The Department of Energy's (DOE's) Geothermal Technologies Program released a new funding opportunity announcement entitled "Electric Power Generation Using Geothermal Fluid Coproduced from Oil and/or Gas Wells" on June 13, 2007.

In summary, DOE's objective in offering this funding opportunity is to demonstrate the technical feasibility and economics of generating electricity from the naturally occurring geothermal fluids that are coproduced from oil and/or gas wells. To accomplish this, DOE would like to collaborate with leaseholders, developers, owners, operators, and/or other partners on projects to install, operate, and report on the performance of geothermal power generation projects operating on the hot water cut that is coproduced at oil and/or gas fields. Specifically, DOE is interested in providing financial assistance to several projects comprised of the following phases:

Phase I - Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) The objectives of Phase I are to engineer, procure equipment for, and construct the geothermal power plant and associated above-ground geothermal fluid supply/disposal system at an operating oil and/or gas field.

Phase II - Operation & Maintenance (O&M) The objectives of Phase II are to operate the power plant and fluid supply/disposal system for a period of two years and to report on their economic, performance, and operating characteristics. *To view the solicitation, please visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=14434&mode=VIEW>.*

## **RFP for State Energy Activities Related to Clean Energy & Air (Due August 7)**

The U.S. Department of Energy requests applications for State Energy Activities in Clean Energy and Air Quality Integration -For state and multi-state initiatives that demonstrate and quantify air quality benefits achieved through energy efficiency and renewables. \$500K expected to be available, up to 7 awards anticipated. State and Territorial Energy Offices must be the lead on these awards though partnership opportunities may exist. Responses for both program areas due 8/7/07. *For more info, go to: <https://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/0ba000b968a07c9885256c3f0067b90d/328173c5634f77c1852572f8007e8040?OpenDocument>.*

## **RFP Renewables – Arizona (Due September 4)**

Tucson Electric Power Company and UNS Electric Inc. seek renewable energy and associated credits through power purchase agreements and/or the ownership of generation assets. Responses due 9/4/07. *For more info, contact Michael Bowling at (520)745-7124 or go to: <http://www.uesaz.com/Wholesale/>.*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 9, Denver CO**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service (FS) are preparing a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to analyze and expedite the leasing of BLM-and FS-administered lands with high potential for renewable geothermal resources in 11 western states and Alaska. This public scoping meeting will take place at the PPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street, Denver, CO 80211. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html)*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 10, Boise ID**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Boise Public Library (Auditorium), 715 S. Capitol Boulevard, Boise, ID 83702. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html)*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 11, Phoenix, AZ**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Burton Barr Central Library (Lecture Room), 1221 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html)*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 12, Santa Fe, NM**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Main Building (Jemez Room 1), Santa Fe Community College, 6401 Richards Avenue Santa Fe, NM 87508. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html).*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 16, Salt Lake City, UT**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Main Library, 210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html).*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 17, Reno, NV**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Jot Travis Student Union (Manzanita Room), University of Nevada, Reno, N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89511. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html)*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 18, Sacramento, CA**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the California Energy Commission (Hearing Room A), 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html)*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 23, Portland, OR**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Lipman Wolfe B Room, Hotel Monaco, 506 S.W. Washington Street Portland, OR 97204. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html).*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 25, Anchorage AK**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Alaska Energy Authority (Lobby), 813 W Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99503. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html)*

### **Scoping Meeting, Geothermal PEIS, July 30, Missoula, MT**

A public scoping meeting for the BLM/USDA FS Geothermal PEIS will take place at the Russell/Lewis Room, Doubletree Hotel, 100 Madison, Missoula, MT 59802. *For more information, please visit the BLM listing at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal\\_nationwide.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html).*

### **BLM California Geothermal Lease Sale, August 14, Reno Nevada**

The California State Office recently announced that they will offer for competitive sale, 6 parcels containing 2710.72 acres of Federal lands in the State of California for geothermal leasing. This sale will be held in accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the final rules issued May 2, 2007 (43 CFR Parts 3000, 3200, and 3280, Fed. Reg. Vol. 72, No. 84). The parcels being offered are in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties.

When: The competitive oral sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2007. The sale room will open at 8:00 am for registration and assignment of bidder numbers.

Where: Bureau of Land Management's Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd, Reno, Nevada. Onsite parking is available.

If you wish to register as a bidder, you must complete a bidder registration form to obtain a bidding number before the sale starts. The forms will be available at the registration desk.

Starting at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the sale:

- the auctioneer offers the parcels in the order they are shown on the attached list;
- registered bidders make oral bids on a per-acre basis for all acres in a parcel;
- the winning bid is the highest oral bid equal to or exceeding the minimum \$2.00 bid;
- the decision of the auctioneer is final; and
- names of high bidders (lessees) remain confidential until the results list is available.

The minimum bid BLM can accept is \$2 per acre. *For more information, please contact Laurie Moore, BLM California State Office, at (916) 978-4377.*

### **Increasing Renewable Energy in the Western Grid Summit, September 27 – 28, Fort Collins, CO**

WGA, National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, and GEA will co-host a summit titled "Increasing Renewable Energy in the Western Grid." The event will take place at the Hilton Fort Collins, 425 West Prospect Avenue, Ft. Collins, CO 80526. Topics discussed will include:

- National Developments Influencing Renewable Integration
- Business Strategies & Public Policies for Energy & Climate Security
- Renewable Energy Integration
- Transmission Expansion to Accommodate Renewables: Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together
- Achieving More Renewable Energy in the Western Grid: How Can It Be Accomplished and Who Will Be Involved

Jonathan Weisgall and Dan Schochet will speak on behalf of the geothermal industry. *For more information, please email Katie Kalinowski at [kkalinowski@resolv.org](mailto:kkalinowski@resolv.org).*

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

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

For more information about the GEA Trade Show contact Daniela Stratulat at 202-454-5263 or email [Daniela@geo-energy.org](mailto:Daniela@geo-energy.org).

The Trade Show is held concurrently with the Geothermal Resources Council's (GRC) Annual Meeting. For information about the GRC Annual Meeting contact GRC at 530-758-2360 or email [grclub@geothermal.org](mailto:grclub@geothermal.org).

### **University of Wisconsin-Madison National Energy Conference, October 18th – 20th, Madison Wisconsin**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison chapter of the Roosevelt Institution will host Roosevelt Energy, a national conference on energy and energy policy for the 21st century. The Roosevelt Institution is a colligate think-tank with chapters at over 70 universities and colleges in the United States and Europe dedicated to engaging students in the policymaking process. Roosevelt Energy will take place at the Wisconsin State Capitol and the Monona Terrace in Madison from October 18th - 20th, bringing together students, professors, industry leaders, and economic and social welfare experts to discuss the future of

America's energy policy. The conference will feature an exhibition of energy industry leaders, offering an exceptional opportunity for networking, recruitment, and visibility. *For more information on acquiring a table at the Roosevelt Energy exhibition or about the conference in general please call (202) 903-0874 or contact [exhibition@rooseveltenergy.org](mailto:exhibition@rooseveltenergy.org).*

### **First European Geothermal Review Meeting, Oct 29 – 31, Mainz, Germany**

A review meeting called "First European Geothermal Review Meeting" will be a conference/workshop on the development/demonstration of engineered geothermal systems (EGS). The drive comes from the fact that engineering in the underground is necessary to develop the hydrothermal resources. This will be a conference with a slight difference, in that the participants will be able to see a demonstration of an engineered geothermal plant producing power and providing heat to the town of Landau. *The information on the meeting and the registration can be obtained on <http://www.bestec-for-nature.com/feqr2007/>.*

### **4th Annual Clean-Tech Investor Summit, February 6-7, 2008, Palm Springs, California**

The 4th Annual Clean-Tech Investor Summit will be held in Palm Springs, February 6-7, 2008. Co-developed by Clean Edge and IBF, the Summit will unite venture capital firms, investment bankers, limited partners, entrepreneurs, and Fortune 1000 corporations who are seeking to capitalize on emerging clean-tech opportunities. This event is unique in that it brings together the clean-tech community once a year to share strategies and trends shaping this booming sector. *For more information, please visit <http://www.ibfconferences.com/ibf/index.asp>.*



#### ***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)