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National News

US Senate Takes Steps to Restore DOE Geothermal Research Program -- 2007 Geothermal Funds Restored in Senate Appropriations Bill, \$50 Million Program Included in 2008 Budget

Today, the Senate began consideration of its version of the FY 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill, S.965 (S. Rept 110-37). This legislation provides the funding requested by the White House to continue the Iraq War and a variety of other government programs. The Senate Appropriations Committee also included \$22.7 million to fund the DOE Geothermal Program this year in the bill. (S. 965, Title III, section 3201.) Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, led the effort to restore FY 2007 funding.

Also, on Friday March 23, the Senate approved its FY 2008 budget resolution, and included in the final bill an amendment, proposed by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), that makes room in the FY 2008 energy budget for geothermal, ocean energy and small scale hydro-electric research at the Department of Energy. The amendment provides \$50 million for geothermal research and development.

On Thursday evening, Senator Lisa Murkowski told the Senate she was offering this amendment because “..the budget shortchanges three areas of great energy potential: geothermal, ocean energy and small hydro electric development.” Senator Murkowski continued, “..by this amendment I am making a clear statement that this senator wants to see money not just restored, but increased for geothermal energy research and development, and provided for research and development of all forms of ocean energy – current, tidal and wave projects -- and also for small hydroelectric developments, those that do not involving the damming of major river systems, but instead use water from lake taps, creeks or from run-of-river projects to generate power.”

The amendment was supported by Senator Reid and others, and was adopted on voice vote as part of a package of amendments to the final bill. The amendment would reverse Administration initiatives to achieve “major savings” in the federal budget by closing these two renewable research programs. The

Administration proposed termination of all hydropower research in its FY 2006 budget, and termination of all geothermal research in its FY 2007 and FY 2008 budgets.

Senate Hearing on “Energy Innovations” Highlights Geothermal Energy

At a recent Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Innovation (within Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee) hearing on “Energy Innovations,” Senator Kerry presided as representatives from major companies and organizations discussed the potential for renewable energy and technology. Among the speakers was Frank Preli, Vice President of Engineering for UTC Power, who spoke about UTC’s innovative developments in geothermal technology, and American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) president Michael Eckhart, who spoke about renewable energy innovations in general.

Senator Ensign (NV) participated in part of the hearing, citing the potential for renewables, particularly geothermal, in his state: “Nevada is second in the country for use of geothermal energy.” Senator Stevens (AK), talked about Chena Hot Springs, and invited participants to “come up and see the developments at Chena.”

Preli discussed the low temperature geothermal applications inported at Chena Hot springs, concluding that the technology used, Pure Cycle, “enables much broader use of geothermal energy, and requires broader geothermal research.” Preli said that with effective federal and state support, as much as 20 percent of U.S. power needs could be met by geothermal energy sources by 2030.

Eckhart spoke about all the major forms of renewable energy, calling for a five year extension of the PTC. About geothermal, he said, “it is my opinion that geothermal is a huge missed opportunity. ... We can replace all coal plants with geothermal. ... 100 billion dollars is needed for geothermal alone in order to tap its potential.”

Presenters agreed during questioning that not only should strong R&D programs be robustly funded—but markets should be incentivized as well, following the example of market-driven successes in renewable technologies overseas. Eckhart called for monetizing all attributes, including environmental damage caused by fossil fuel technology, to level the playing field. He also advocated for a federal mandate that all states establish their own RPSs, rather than establishing an overall federal RPS.

Kerry concluded that “we have a moral responsibility to act now. ... We need to embrace solar, wind, and geothermal technology.”

Renewable Energy Trades, Including GEA, Call For Increased R&D Funding – Senator Menendez Seeks Support from Other Senators for Full Funding of Renewable Energy Research

In a March 21 letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations, GEA, the American Wind Energy Association, Solar Energy Industries Association, and National Hydropower Association called for increased funding for renewable energy programs in the federal FY2008 budget. Noting that each of these renewable energy technologies has the vast potential to help solve our energy and climate problems, the groups explained that robust funding for R&D is needed to accelerate adoption of these technologies and strengthen energy independence, create jobs, and provide more clean, reliable, domestic electricity generation. The groups’ request for geothermal energy is \$113 million in FY 21008. The funding levels recommended for the other technologies are \$250 million for solar, \$22 million for hydropower, and \$110 million for wind. *For more information, please visit <http://www.awea.org/windenergyweekly/WEW1233.html#Article4>.*

In the Senate, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) has circulated a draft letter to Senators Dorgan and Domenici, Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee, respectively. The draft letter supports full funding for these renewable programs. “These

programs represent critical investments for our nation's energy future," the letter argues, "and we respectfully urge you to fund them at robust levels." Senator Menendez is looking for support from other Senate offices. As of last week when the letter first began circulation, Senators Wyden and Lieberman had agreed to co-sign the letter.

Global Boom in Coal Power – and Emissions

A Christian Monitor analysis shows the potential for an extra 1.2 billion tons of carbon released into the atmosphere per year. Despite Kyoto limits on greenhouse gases, the analysis shows that nations will add enough coal-fired capacity in the next five years to create an extra 1.2 billion tons of CO₂ per year.

Among countries with accelerated coal developments in the works, the United States is one of the most striking examples. In the past five years, the U.S. built 2.7 gigawatts of new coal-fired generating capacity. But in the next five years, it is slated to add 37.7 gigawatts of capacity, enough to produce 247.8 million tons of CO₂ per year, according to Platts. That would vault the US to second place – just ahead of India – in adding new capacity. Those gigawatts comprise more than 150 coal-fired power plants in the works that don't sequester their emissions, according to the US Department of Energy. If that happens, the US alone would add 250 million tons a year of CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere - on top of the billions its power plants already emit.

Even nations that have pledged to reduce global warming under the Kyoto treat are slated to accelerate their buildup of coal-fired plants. For example, eight EU nations – Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic – plan to add nearly 13 gigawatts of new coal-fired capacity by 2012. That's up from about 2.5 gigawatts over the past five years. In all, at least 37 nations plan to add coal-fired capacity in the next five years – up from the 26 nations that added capacity during the past five years.

Although China accounted for two-thirds of the more than 560 coal-fired power units built in 26 nations between 2002 and 2006, and the Chinese plants boosted annual world CO₂ emissions by 740 million tons, in the next five years, China is slated to slow its buildup by half, according to industry estimates, adding 333 million tons of new CO₂ emissions every year. That's still the largest increase of any nation. But other nations appear intent on catching up.

If the US began building plants that stuff the CO₂ underground, the picture could change dramatically, experts say. At least five bills now pending in Congress would effectively put a price on CO₂, but just two of those push sequestration. *To view the monitor report, please visit <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0322/p01s04-wogi.html?page=1>.*

BLM's Geothermal PEIS/Backlog Elimination Initiative On Track

According to Jack Peterson, national project manager for the geothermal BLM initiatives, the geothermal PEIS/Backlog Elimination Initiative is "on target and "on time." Pre-Scoping, which began with GEA and GRC, is now underway, and continues with states (Geological Surveys, Energy Offices, and Water Resources Depts), interest groups, development entities, utilities (i.e. both SCE and PG&E have major RFQs out for renewables.), Federal Partners - USFS and USGS, and Federal Cooperators - BOR, USFWS, etc. A contractor was selected and awarded in early March, with a kick-off with the contractor team planned to handle a work plan, priority-setting, critical path, communications plan, scoping session schedule, and other critical activities. *For more information about these activities, please contact Jack Peterson at Jack_G_Peterson@blm.gov.*

Company News

Nevada Power: Finishes Final Leg of Centennial Transmission Project

Nevada Power, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sierra Pacific Resources announced that the third and final phase of its Centennial Project is now energized and supplying power to southern Nevada.

Highlights of the entire Centennial Project include:

- * Construction of 176 miles of new 500kV and 230kV transmission lines
- * Construction of three new 500kV and 230kV switching stations
- * Provides Nevada Power customers access to approximately 3750 MW of new energy supplies
- * Upgrades to Harry Allen, Crystal, Northwest and Mead substations

The Centennial Project was first approved by the Nevada Public Utilities of Commission (PUCN) under the company's amended 2000 Resource Plan. Costs to complete the project filed with the PUCN are estimated at \$309 million. *To view the press release, please visit*

http://www.nevadapower.com/news/releases/ShowPR.cfm?pr_id=4826.

SDG&E: Earns 'Climate Action Leader' Distinction from California Environmental Registry

SAN DIEGO, March 22, 2007 – San Diego Gas & Electric Co. (SDG&E) has successfully certified its 2005 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory with the California Climate Action Registry, earning the status of “Climate Action Leader.” In doing so, SDG&E has joined a distinguished group of organizations demonstrating leadership by publicly and voluntarily reporting its GHG emissions from the generation and distribution of natural gas and electricity under this rigorous registry program.

“Certification of our greenhouse gas inventory will help California implement its greenhouse gas reduction goals,” said Bret Lane, vice president of environmental, safety and facilities for SDG&E. “This accomplishment reflects our commitment to responsible implementation of California’s greenhouse gas regulation and our ongoing efforts to operate our company in the most environmentally responsible manner possible.”

In 2003, SDG&E voluntarily joined the non-profit California Climate Action Registry. The goal of the Registry is to establish a statewide inventory of emissions of the six greenhouse gases considered to impact global warming. The inventory and certification process is complex. Data must be gathered from, among other things, every company operation, most vehicles, every engine and every building. All the data must be verifiable.

Over the years, SDG&E has earned a number of honors for environmental stewardship. The utility garnered U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards for its outstanding contribution to energy efficiency and environmental education. Over the last 15 years, SDG&E has invested \$485 million in energy efficiency – more than \$34 million last year – to help customers save more than 2.9 million megawatt hours of electricity – enough to power some 482,000 homes for a year.

SDG&E is expanding its procurement of environmentally friendly power generated from renewable energy sources – solar, wind, hydro, biomass and biogas. This is in alignment with California’s goal for the state’s major utilities to tap renewable energy to meet 20 percent of electric demand by 2010.

“Renewable energy helps us meet the state’s goal while providing environmental and economic benefits to our customers,” said Lane.

SDG&E's 2005 certified GHG emissions report is available through the Climate Action Registry's Web site at www.climateregistry.org/CARROT/Public/Reports.ASPX. To view the press release, please visit <http://www.energycentral.com/centers/news/daily/article.cfm?aid=8005186>.

Sierra Geothermal Power: Completes Drilling at Reese River, Nevada

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(CCNMatthews - March 23, 2007) - Sierra Geothermal Power Corp reported today that drilling has been completed at the company's Reese River Project, Lander County, Nevada. Well 56-4 was successfully drilled to a total depth of 1200 m (3930 ft). Testing for geothermal reservoir characteristics has now begun with results pending. The drilling program was operated by Sierra Geothermal's US subsidiary. Partial funding of US\$580,000 was provided by the US Department of Energy's GRED III program.

The Reese River project is rated by Richards and Blackwell as one of the top 15 undeveloped geothermal prospects in Nevada (Source: Geothermal Resource Council, Bulletin March/April 2002, "The Forgotten Ones"). Phillips Petroleum and Amax Exploration drilled 52 temperature-gradient holes during the 1970's and 1980's. Contoured data of the temperature-gradient wells outline a 150 degrees C/km heat-flow anomaly that is approximately 4.8 km (3 miles) long in the northeast direction by approximately 1.6 km (1 mile) wide. The center of the anomaly reaches a temperature gradient of over 500 degrees C/km with an overall average of 225 degrees C/km. The maximum calculated heat flow at Reese River is 1117 mW/m² (Amax 1998). Using a Monte Carlo simulation, the potential geothermal resource at Reese River was estimated to have a 90% probability of generating 13 MW and a 50% probability of exceeding 30 MW (Source: New Geothermal Site Identification and Qualification, PIER study prepared by GeothermEx, 2004). A 30 MW power plant is able to produce enough electricity to power 24,000 homes. To view the press release, please visit <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=642006>.

US Geothermal: To Fulfill Idaho Power Geothermal Request For Proposals

BOISE—Idaho Power has named Boise-based US Geothermal as the successful bidder in response to a request for proposals for geothermal energy issued by the utility in June of last year.

The proposal from US Geothermal consists of a 25-year power purchase agreement to provide a total of 45.5 megawatts (MW) from geothermal plants located near Raft River, Idaho and Vale, Ore. Electricity is expected to be produced from one plant at Raft River by October of this year, with a second plant going online by June, 2009. Two additional plants near Vale are scheduled to be online by November, 2010 and January, 2011.

“We are pleased to announce US Geothermal as the successful bidder in this process,” said Idaho Power Senior Vice President of Power Supply, Jim Miller. “Renewable resources are an important part of our energy portfolio. The addition of geothermal energy is a step towards reaching a greater balance between our existing hydroelectric resources and other forms of renewable energy.”

The addition of geothermal energy into Idaho Power's existing resource portfolio was identified in the company's 2004 and 2006 energy plans for the future, also known as integrated resource plans. The company's biennial energy planning process looks ahead 20 years and examines the methods Idaho Power will use to meet future needs for electricity.

Following completion of contract negotiations between Idaho Power and US Geothermal, Idaho Power will submit the contract to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission requesting authority to include costs incurred under the contract in its annual Power Cost Adjustment rates. To view the press release, please visit <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-21-2007/0004550921&EDATE=>.

Renewable and Climate Change News

Gore Presses Congress to Act Now on Global Warming

During a recent Capitol Hill hearing, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore urged congressional members to take action on climate change through aggressive steps, including enacting programs to ensure a 90 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050; using the tax code to reduce taxes on employment and production and make up the difference with pollution taxes; enacting a moratorium on the construction of any new coal-fired plants not compatible with carbon capture and sequestration; providing incentives to homeowners for distributed renewable energy, and beginning plans to negotiate and ratify a new, stronger treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Also testifying on the economics of climate change policy was Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, adjunct professor at Copenhagen Consensus Center of the Copenhagen Business School and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world.

Some committee Members argued against regulating heavy carbon emitters. Science and Technology Committee Ranking Member Ralph Hall (R-TX) began by saying, "We're experiencing an all out assault on fossil fuels and nuclear energy." Some members worried that regulating American industry would result in the loss of U.S. jobs and industries to areas overseas without strict carbon regulations, and would result in substantial increases in the cost of power for the American consumer. Some members discussed the necessity that developing countries such as China implement carbon regulations in order for U.S. policies to have any meaningful impact on worldwide climate change. Finally, members pressed Gore to articulate his view about nuclear power.

About nuclear energy, Gore said he is not "categorically opposed," but he thinks other options, such as renewables and efficiency, and particularly distributed energy solutions, offer the best options for combating climate change. Focusing only on the short-term market is one of the greatest problems in the fight against global warming, said Gore. Further, Gore said, if we go about climate change policy the right way, we can "save money and make the economy stronger." *The testimony is available at:* http://energycommerce.house.gov/cmtc_mtg/110-eaq-sci-hrg.032107.gore.shtml.

Utility Execs Cautious on Global Warming Laws

The House Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee heard from utility executives about their views on climate change and energy security March 20th. While expressing mild support for carbon regulation, they expressed concern over potential hikes in electricity costs to consumers. Many of the executives also endorsed nuclear energy as a means for combating climate change. The executives said any legislation that would require a cap on carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels, especially coal, should have provisions aimed at limiting the economic impact of carbon-capture technologies that will be needed. The utility industry has acknowledged that it expects Congress to take action on climate change. Utility executives want to make sure their views will be taken into consideration as details of a bill are worked out. Most of the other executives said that while they did not oppose the concept of a cap and trade climate bill, their support would depend on the details. "We would review it as an option," added David Sokol, chairman and CEO of MidAmerican Corp. Sokol notably emphasized the need for a commitment to technology development and renewable energy. In his suggested climate strategy: "In the electricity sector, for example, we propose six priorities:

1. Adoption of flexible renewable and clean technology portfolio goals.
2. More stringent energy efficiency mandates.
3. Policies to encourage efficiency improvements at existing facilities.
4. A ten-year, multi-billion dollar research and development program for emission reduction, funded equally by the private sector and the government
5. Removing the legal and regulatory barriers to the development of low-emissions technologies such as carbon sequestration and new nuclear development.

6. Tax policies to support these programs, such as a long-term extension of the renewable energy tax credit and clean coal initiatives.”

All of the testimony submitted for the hearing can be accessed at:

http://energycommerce.house.gov/cmte_mtgs/110-eaq-hrg.032007.utility_ceos.shtml. Additional information available at http://www.elpasotimes.com/election/ci_5479993

CEOs Unveil "Green Tech" Policy Agenda

TechNet, the bipartisan political network of chief executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy, recently unveiled comprehensive policy recommendations to spur the development and adoption of new technologies to improve energy efficiency, encourage use of renewable energy and protect the environment. The report, "Green Technologies: An Innovation Agenda for America," recommends more funding for energy research and innovation, with more visibility and more strategic thought at the federal agency level. It also proposes federal tax policy reform to provide consistency and certainty to consumers and the marketplace. In addition, TechNet supports a technology-neutral Renewable Portfolio Standards and a market-based greenhouse gas emissions system. *To view the press release, please visit <http://www.technet.org/news/release/?postId=7536&pageTitle=TechNet+CEOs+Unveil+%22Green+Tech%22+Policy+Agenda>.*

Waxman Introduces Safe Climate Act of 2007

On March 20, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) and 127 cosponsors introduced new climate legislation known as the "Safe Climate Act of 2007." The bill would effectively freeze greenhouse gas emissions in 2010; cut emissions by roughly 2 percent a year until reaching 1990 levels by 2020; cut emissions by another 5 percent a year after 2020, thus reaching an overall 80 percent reduction of GHGs from 1990 levels by 2050. These reductions would be realized under an economy-wide national cap-and-trade system. Proceeds from auctioning of allowances would be dedicated to maximizing public benefit and promoting economic growth. This includes supporting new energy technology research and development, compensating consumers for increases in energy costs, providing transition assistance for affected workers, and protecting regions against harm from climate change consequences. The bill also calls on the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Energy to play large roles in establishing national standards to address emissions from both the transportation sector and electricity generating sector which collectively account for approximately 70 percent of US GHG emissions. *For more information please visit <http://www.henrywaxman.house.gov/safeclimate/index.htm>.*

Sen. Bingaman and Sen. Domenici Introduce Carbon Capture and Storage Bill

On March 22, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Ranking Member Pete Domenici (R-NM) introduced the "DOE Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development and Demonstration Act of 2007" (S. 962) which would amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize and improve the carbon capture and storage research, development and demonstration program of the U.S. Department of Energy. In a Senate Energy hearing the same day, Sen. Bingaman said, "The topic of carbon capture and storage is central to the future of coal in the United States and our future energy policy. Several of us on this Committee have been taking the lead here in the Senate to outline the practical steps that we must take to answer the questions that surround carbon capture and storage technologies and to develop a consensus on how they should be implemented." With regard to S. 962 Bingaman said, "Specifically, it will build on DOE's regional carbon sequestration partnerships to ensure that we have the answers we need for this key element of our energy future." *Reported by EESI.*

Climate Change Seen as Big a Threat as Terrorism

A new Yale research survey reveals a significant shift in public attitudes toward the environment and global warming. Fully 83 percent of Americans now say global warming is a "serious" problem, up from

70 percent in 2004. Most dramatically, the survey of 1,000 adults nationwide shows that 63 percent of Americans agree that the United States “is in as much danger from environmental hazards, such as air pollution and global warming, as it is from terrorists.” The public overwhelmingly supports increasing the use of alternative energy, as well as investing more in energy efficiency. The survey indicates that while 70 percent of Americans believe that President Bush doesn’t do enough for the environment and should do more, many citizens are ready to act on their own. The survey also suggests that the public’s reasons for wanting investments in alternative energy and action on climate change vary widely. For some, concern stems from the rising cost of gasoline (Forty-nine percent of the public sees this as a very serious issue.). Others want the nation to be free of imported oil (93 percent). Forty-three percent believe that preventing global warming is a religious duty. *The survey questions and full results can be found at the website of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy: www.yale.edu/envirocenter.*

Cap-and-Trade Not on Pelosi’s Short Term Radar

Despite pleas from industry and environmental groups, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) short-term legislative strategy on climate change will unlikely include any measures for a cap-and-trade program to cut carbon dioxide emissions. Earlier this year, Pelosi called on committee chairmen to produce comprehensive energy and climate bills to be included into a larger legislative vehicle by July 4. However, according to EE News, several sources anticipate Pelosi will endorse provisions to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency in cars and buildings, and tougher standards for home appliances as opposed to carbon mandates. “We have two years in this Congress; we do not expect to achieve complete solutions to these challenges by June 1, but the committees will meet that deadline to report significant legislation,” Pelosi said. “The American people expect action on these critical issues and these initiatives will mark a major step forward.” *Reported by EESI.*

Cap-and-Trade Program to Reduce U.S. Emissions Needs Attention to Design, Says New Report

According to a new report, *A Cap-and-Trade Program Design for Greenhouse Gases: Achieving Flexibility and Cost-Effectiveness in Tackling Climate Change* by the Milken Institute, Stark Investments and Baker & McKenzie LLP, a cap-and-trade approach encouraging emissions sources to buy and sell a fixed pool of emissions allowances in free markets offers the best prospect for meeting emissions targets at the lowest cost and with the least government intrusion. The report offers key insight into the design elements that will create a successful cap-and-trade program. The optimal design has the following elements:

- The cap-and-trade program should be free of artificial price caps, sometimes erroneously called "safety valves." These price caps on emissions allowances reduce short-term costs to emitters, but seriously undermine market price signals, slow technological innovation and are a prolonged detour to achieving the needed reductions.
- It should cover as many sources (and greenhouse gases) as is practical, and regulate emissions at the point in the production chain where it is cheapest.
- The program should give credit to sources that have already begun to reduce emissions and, once the program is in force, allow emitters to "bank" allowances for future use.
- It should make trading across national borders easier and allow sources to offset their own emissions by reducing emissions from unregulated sources.
- At least a portion of the fixed number of emissions allowances should be auctioned by the government, creating a clear market price and generating revenues that could be rebated or used for research and development.
- While program specifics and emissions targets should be reviewed at regular intervals, the basic structure should remain in place for decades in order to encourage long-term planning.

To view the press release, please visit

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=1:588234708&start=7&dateId=20070322>.

Institutions Agree to Form National Greenhouse Gas Registry in United States

Institutions including the Eastern Climate Registry, the Western Regional Air Partnership and the California Climate Action Registry have agreed to form an organization that seeks to unify protocols for reporting greenhouse gas emissions by US companies. On March 16, the new organization – known as The Climate Registry – sent a letter to governors of all 50 states requesting participation in the initiative. Currently, 33 states have informally agreed to participate, though no state has formally joined the organization. Members of The Climate Registry’s steering committee, which will have its first board meeting in May in Chicago, believe the mere existence of such an entity will help push the federal government towards adopting mandatory greenhouse gas caps. *For more information please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/21/AR2007032101190.html>.*

US Rejects Global Emissions Trading at Preliminary G8 Meeting

On March 17, during a meeting of Environment Ministers of the Group of Eight (G8) and officials from five leading developing nations, the United States remained the only member-country opposed to a global carbon-trading scheme. German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel, who chaired on behalf on Germany’s G8 presidency during the two-day meeting, said, “I would have been disappointed if I’d expected something different.” The meeting serves as a series of preliminary meetings before the “G8 plus five” summit in June, which will include Germany, the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, Russia, China, India, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has put climate change at the top of the agenda for this year’s summit. *Reported by EESI.*

Energy Trade Groups Show Support for Climate Policy

In a series of recent press releases, US energy trade groups have declared commitments to support climate friendly practices into the future. Edison Electric Institute President Tom Kuhn, who represents the nation’s investor-owned utilities, said his group would continue advocating stronger global warming policies out of the necessity for new energy technologies to maintain global international competitiveness for US industry. Electric Power Supply Association President John Shelk, who represents merchant power plant owners, announced in February that it would support efforts to make emissions reductions mandatory. American Gas Association Vice President Paul Wilkerson, who represents energy utilities that deliver natural gas to 170 million Americans, urged Congress last month to increase access to natural gas supplies as a means of responding to global warming. On March 13, the American Public Power Association’s legislative and resolutions committee adopted a 10-point climate policy which includes an economy-wide program applying to all types of industry. *Reported by EESI.*

Investors Managing \$4 Trillion Call on Congress to Tackle Global Climate

For the first time, dozens of institutional investors managing \$4 trillion in assets called on U.S. lawmakers to enact strong federal legislation to curb the pollution causing global climate change. Joined by a dozen leading U.S. companies, the investor group outlined the business and economic rationale for climate action as they called for a national policy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions consistent with targets scientists say are needed to avoid the dangerous impacts of global warming. The group, organized by Ceres and the Investor Network on Climate Risk, issued a Climate Call to Action at a press conference in Washington DC. Citing these trends -- as well as recent scientific reports concluding that climate change is taking place and that human activities are the primary contributor -- investors and companies called for the following three actions:

1. Leadership by the U.S. government to achieve sizable, sensible long-term reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with the 60-90% reductions below 1990 levels by 2050 that scientists and climate models suggest is urgently needed to avoid worst case scenarios. Wherever possible, the national policy should include mandatory market-based solutions, such as a cap-and-trade system, that establish an economy-wide carbon price, allow for flexibility and encourage innovation.

2. A realignment of national energy and transportation policies to stimulate research, development and deployment of new and existing clean technologies at the scale necessary to achieve GHG reduction goals.
3. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to clarify what companies should disclose to investors on climate change in their regular financial reporting. *For their entire statement, later signers, and additional information, please see http://www.ceres.org/Call_to_Action/index.php.*

State News

California: Cal-ISO Says Summer Power Supply OK, SoCal Issues Remain

California should have enough power supply this summer to meet its growing demand even though supply may be tight down south, according to the California Independent System Operator's annual operations load-and-resource assessment. "Highlights of our results indicate that, consistent with summer 2006, while we will have sufficient supplies to meet demand under a range of operating conditions, we will continue to be challenged to meet California's load growth," said Cal-ISO Chief Executive Officer Yakout Mansour, discussing the document at a meeting of the grid operator's board of governors. In the assessment, the Cal-ISO anticipates 700 MW of new generation online this summer, as well as 230 MW in new demand-response programs, which, together, are expected to cover the demand growth from last summer. Overall, the assessment expects peak demand to reach 47,847 MW in July and August under normal conditions, and to reach 42,224 MW and 42,457 MW in June and September, respectively. *For more information, please visit <http://www.energyprospects.com/>.*

Colorado: Legislature Passes Landmark Transmission Bill

Colorado Senate Bill 100, referred to by Gov. Bill Ritter as legislation "that will solve one of the biggest challenges when it comes to clean energy," made its way out of the Colorado General Assembly March 5, now awaits the governor's signature. Senate Bill 100, a key component of Gov. Ritter's renewable energy agenda, would require the state's utilities every two years to designate areas with transmission constraints that hinder resource development and to submit development proposals for additional transmission in those areas. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission would review and rule on the transmission development plans within 180 days of filing. For those projects approved by the PUC, utilities would be allowed to recover costs during construction of new or expanded transmission facilities through rate increases.

A companion bill supported by Gov. Ritter, SB 91, currently awaits House approval. SB 91, passed by the Senate in mid-February, would create a task force to identify and map potential renewable resource development areas within the state. Proponents of both bills say they will help Colorado to fulfill the requirements of HB 1281, the bill passed by both houses in mid-March that would double requirements of the state's current RPS Gov. The governor has announced plans to sign HB 1281 on March 27. *For more information, please visit <http://www.colorado.gov/governor/press/march07/renewable-energy.html>.*

Nevada: State Lawmakers Hear Good News from Geothermal Power Companies

Nevada is making steady progress toward becoming a national leader in solar and geothermal energy, state lawmakers were told last Thursday. Representatives of several leading alternative energy companies, as well as University of Nevada, Reno researchers, told the Senate Commerce and Labor committee that those renewable energy sources are becoming more popular and economical. Paul Thomsen, a lobbyist for geothermal company Ormat, told lawmakers the best thing they can do to encourage green energy in the state is to protect the Renewable Portfolio Standard. That law, which requires Nevada power companies to get 20 percent of their energy from renewables and efficiency improvements by 2015, opened a space in the market for companies like Ormat, said Thomsen. *For more information please visit <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2007/mar/22/032210103.html>.*

New Mexico: RETA Aims to Fill Western Transmission Gaps While Exporting Renewables

Governor Bill Richardson's three-year quest to create a state entity to build new transmission for clean energy paid off in March when the New Mexico Legislature approved the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority. Richardson also persuaded the lawmakers to boost the state's renewables portfolio standard requirements to 15 percent by 2015, beyond the current requirement of 10 percent by 2011. The new laws go into effect July 1. The new transmission authority, called RETA, will be governed by a seven-member board and able to issue tax-free bonds to finance projects that carry at least 30-percent renewable energy. One of RETA's first assignments will be to look at transmission congestion issues in New Mexico "to determine where we need to add more capacity right now and how we can enhance the grid so it can absorb more renewables..." The new RPS law provides for the establishment of a system of renewable energy certificates (RECs) and a means to track them. Utilities are directed to set a goal of 5-percent energy demand reduction by 2020 through energy-efficiency programs. *For more information, please visit <http://www.energyprospects.com/>.*

Oregon: Draft Fleshes Out OR's '25-by-25' Renewables Mandate

Provisionally known as the Oregon Renewable Energy Act, a draft renewables portfolio standard issued March 1 by the Oregon Senate's Environment and Natural Resources Committee would set a minimum renewables threshold of 5 percent of a utility's retail electric sales by 2011, 15 percent by 2015, 20 percent by 2020, and 25 percent by 2025. It would apply to investor-owned and public-power utilities with 1 percent or more of statewide retail electric sales. This criterion would encompass IOUs Pacific Power, Portland General Electric and Idaho Power, and nine public utilities, based on 2005 data compiled by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. Public hearings on the proposed RPS were held March 6, 8, 13, 15, and 20 before the committee. Placeholder RPS bills are Senate Bill 373 and SB 838. Qualifying renewables would need to have started operations since 1995. Among other provisions, this draft also would require utilities to offer green-power rates. It would set a goal of 8 percent of Oregon's retail electric load to be served by renewables with capacities below 20 MW by 2025. *For more information, please visit <http://www.energyprospects.com/>.*

Utah: Logan Rejects New Coal-Energy Contract, Favors Geothermal and Wind

According to a recent AP article, the city of Logan said no to buying electricity from a new coal-fired plant, drawing applause and criticism on an issue that pits future energy needs against the environment. "We won't be heard on the world front, but we'll make a statement and somebody somewhere will hear it," said Municipal Council Chairman Steven Taylor, who was in the majority on a 3-2 vote against investing in the plant in central Utah. Logan already buys 44 megawatts of power from Intermountain Power Plant Units 1 and 2. Those contracts are in place for another 16 years. City utility chief Jay Larsen and Mayor Randy Watts had recommended selling \$42 million in bonds to buy up to 20 megawatts from IPP's new Unit 3 in Delta, which should be ready in 2011. Larsen predicts the city's power needs by 2012 will jump to 120 megawatts from 90. The mayor agreed, saying, "I think it's irresponsible to fully move into the realm of the unknown." Logan will look at renewable energy, especially wind and geothermal.

International News

East Africa: U.N. to Insure Geothermal Explorers

The United Nations and World Bank have launched a fund to help insure energy explorers hunting geothermal power sources under Africa's volcanic Great Rift Valley, officials said recently. The Rift has the potential to produce more than 400 megawatts of geothermal electricity, U.N. experts say, or more than half east Africa's total power generation capacity, including all its power stations and hydropower dams.

But exploration is very costly, so the African Rift Geothermal (ARGeo) fund aims to encourage investors by paying for part of the bill at sites where test drilling -- which can cost several millions dollars at a time -- comes up "dry". The World Bank has committed \$13 million so far to the ARGeo fund, which will operate in six countries along the Rift: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. UNEP has contributed \$4.7 million, and bilateral donors are expected to add at least another \$10 million to the pot. Kenya was the first African country to tap geothermal power, and already hosts the continent's biggest geothermal plant near Naivasha, about 140 km (85 miles) west of the capital. The ARGeo project will seek to build on that by boosting local skills and sharing experience and exploration equipment. *For more information, please visit <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22135111.htm>.*

Hungary: Geothermal Potential

Because of its regional geological underground structures, Hungary has enormous potentials, a recent press release reports. Already in depths of 400m one can find thermal and mineral waters and temperatures of 50°C and more - ideal conditions for power generation from hydrothermal energy. Not surprisingly the use of geothermal water in Hungary is already widespread: mostly swimming pools and therapeutic baths profit from the curing powers of the hot water. The geothermal forces are hardly ever used to generate energy. Both the energy production and its use as heating source are still in the fledgling stages. In the past years, a number of projects dedicated to the development of this potential have been activated. For example the European Union's concept for the evaluation and development of the south-eastern geothermal energy plants or the geothermal energy project in Kecskemét 80km from Budapest: in the end every third inhabitant of the city will be supplied with heat from the earth. A large scale use of geothermal energy is also planned by a consortium lead by the Hungarian oil-company „MOL“. The first geothermal power station of Central Eastern Europe is located in Iklóbdöce. With a budget of 1 billion Forinth (4 Million Euro) the power station will produce a total output of 5 MW starting in 2008. During a period of 10 years the consortium plans to build another 5 main power stations. The chances and potentials of geothermal energy in Hungary are presented on the 20. April 2007 at the 1st International Conference: Geothermal Energy in Eastern Europe" in the context of the trade fair RENEXPO® Central & South-East-Europe 2007, from April 19 - 21 in Budapest. *See Upcoming Events for more information.*

Notices and RFPs

California Energy Commission Request for Proposals (Due March 28)

The purpose of this RFP is to support the Commission's PIER Program Energy Systems Integration area by developing Advanced Power Electronic Interface technologies to facilitate the expanded use and reduced cost of distributed energy resources. Through this RFP, the Commission is implementing a collaborative initiative with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to develop standardized, highly integrated, and modularized power electronics-based interconnection technologies that will allow DER systems to "plug and play" with the electric power system. Request for Proposals # 500-06-504 solicitation files are now online. Deadline to submit proposals are March 28, 2007, no later than 5 p.m. *For more information on funding solicitations go to: <http://www.repartners.org/grants.htm>.*

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)*

APS Requests for Proposal (Due April 9)

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

LADWP Calls for Renewable Energy Developers to Bid (Proposals Due April 10)

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is seeking proposals for 2,200 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of energy per year from renewable energy resources. The RFP is aimed at boosting the City of Los Angeles' renewable energy sales to 20% of the energy supplied to customers by 2010. The additional 2,200 GWh of renewable energy would increase L.A.'s total renewables to 15% from its current 6%. Proposals are due April 10 at 2 p.m. A pre-proposal conference for prospective bidders is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 9 a.m. at LADWP's John Ferraro Building headquarters, A-Level Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles. *For further information: <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp001370.jsp>.*

Conservation Innovation Grants – Utah and Colorado (Due April 13)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Conservation Innovation Grant Program in UT and CO. CIG seeks to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production.

Utah: \$450K expected to be available, up to 6 awards anticipated. For more info, contact Lisa Coverdale at lisa.coverdale@ut.usda.gov or go to: <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG/cig-component.html>. Refer to Sol# UTAH-NRCS-UT-07-01. (Grants.gov 3/13/07)

(3) Colorado - \$800K expected to be available, up to 15 awards anticipated. Responses due 4/13/07. For more info, contact Tim Carney at tim.carney@co.usda.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12999&mode=VIEW>. Refer to Sol# USDA-NRCS-CO-07-05. (Grants.gov 3/13/07)

RFP Water Conservation – Wyoming (Due April 16)

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Area Office requests proposals for the Water Conservation Field Services Program, for the demonstration of new and innovative approaches to improving irrigation efficiency through implementation of water conservation measures. \$160K expected to be available, up to 8 awards anticipated. Responses due 4/16/07. For more info, contact Kimball Banks at kbanks@gp.usbr.gov or go to:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12803&mode=VIEW>. Refer to Sol# 07SF600013. (Grants.gov 3/5/07).

Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area DEIS Available for Comment (Comment Period Ends April 17)

The Bureau of Land Management-El Centro Field Office recently released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) covering the Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area in Imperial County, California. The document will be available on the BLM website for general review. The document is available for a 60 day public comment period, ending on April 17, 2007. *To view the DEIS, please visit http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/fed_reg_archives/2007/february/Truckhaven_DEIS_available.print.html.*

National Science Foundation RFP for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs (Due May 13)

The National Science Foundation requests proposals for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The SBIR/STTR Programs stimulate technological innovation in the private sector by strengthening the role of small business concerns in meeting Federal R&D needs, increasing the commercial application of federally supported research results, and fostering and encouraging participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses. Areas of interest include: Emerging Opportunities, Advanced Materials, Chemical Technology, and Manufacturing Innovation, Biotechnology, Electronics and Information technology. \$16.25 million expected to be available, up to 150 awards anticipated. Responses due 6/13/07. For more info, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07551. Refer to Sol# 07-551. (Grants.gov 3/21/07)

Update on PG&E Renewable RFO (Submission of Bids Due May 18)

The CPUC is expected to vote on the proposed decision on February 15, 2007. PG&E will file an updated Solicitation Protocol on March 2, 2007. Pending this decision, the tentative schedule for the RFO is as follows:

2007 Renewables RFO Schedule (tentative)

Event	Date
PG&E Issues RFO	March 12
Notice of Intent to Bid Due	March 19
Bidders Conference	Week of March 19th
Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 18
PG&E selects Shortlist	June 29
Execution of final Agreements	Q3-Q4 2007

The key differences between the 2007 RPS Solicitation and the 2006 Solicitation are as follows:

- Updated time of delivery (TOD) factors will be applied.
- The power purchase agreements (PPAs) will include an expanded Dispatch Down Period to ensure inclusion of all situations where curtailment is necessary due to, including but not limited to: California Independent System Operator (CAISO) orders, CAISO System Emergencies, anticipated System Emergencies, CAISO-defined over-generation, forecasts of over-generation, and orders by Participating Transmission Owners.
- Collateral requirements will be reduced during project development.
- Participants whose projects have delivery points that are outside of the CAISO-controlled grid are requested to provide two separate prices: one for delivery onto the CAISO-controlled grid and one for delivery outside the CAISO-controlled grid.
- Terms will be conformed to changes in the RPS statute pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 107, which became effective on January 1, 2007.
- The two forms of As-Available PPA (one with EIRP and one without) will be combined into one.
- Redundancy in evaluation protocols will be eliminated.

For continued updated information regarding PG&E's 2007 Renewables RFO please save the following link:

http://www.pge.com/suppliers_purchasing/wholesale_electric_supplier_solicitation/renewables2007.html.

Nominations Sought for Individual “Shaping the Future of the Utility Landscape” (Due May 31)

The Knowledge2007 Utility CIO of the Year award program will recognize a CIO who has demonstrated exceptionally innovative leadership through effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her organization. Nominate a deserving leader who is shaping the future of the utility landscape. Submit your abstract TODAY and help shape the program. Award nominations must be submitted no later than May 31, 2007. Winners will be announced November 14, 2007 at Knowledge2007 in Austin, Texas.

Nominations are being accepted in two award categories

- Large Utilities (those with more than one million customers)
- Small Utilities (those with less than one million customers)

The individual or organization making the nomination may be a peer, superior or subordinate of the nominee and does not have to be a member of the information technology department.

For more information, please visit www.knowledge2007.com.

Applications for CREBs Sought

IRS Notice 2007-26 solicits applications for the allocation of the available clean renewable energy bond national limitation under Section 54 of the Internal Revenue Code and provides other guidance with respect to the issuance and post-issuance compliance of clean renewable energy bonds. This notice will be published in Internal Revenue Bulletin 2007-14, dated April 2, 2007. *For more information, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=167605,00.html?portlet=2>.*

REEEP Offers 3 Million Euro for Clean Energy Projects in Developing Countries

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) has launched a call for project proposals to support the development of markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The project call is REEEP's largest in its four year history with more than 3 million Euro available for projects in least developed countries and emerging market economies. The project received funding from a consortium comprised of Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom. Norway, the new major donor of REEEP, and the United Kingdom will be pooling funds allowing for larger investments into projects. Ireland and Italy will continue their focus on Africa and New Zealand will bring small island states in the Pacific into focus. The REEEP call is an open tender seeking projects from priority countries -- China, India and Brazil and from across the developing world. Based on the experience gained over the last two years with a bottom-up approach to selecting projects, REEEP will be piloting a combination of bottom-up and top-down commissioned strategic projects. *For more information, please visit http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=34695.*

DOE Offices Release Best Practices for Distributed Energy Interconnection Procedures For State Consideration

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) have jointly developed voluntary “best practices” for use by States in implementing interconnection requirements that allow for simple connection of distributed energy technologies to the electric grid. Recognizing that Section 1254 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires each State to consider interconnection procedures and complete its determination by August 8, 2007, EERE and OE offer these “best practices” to assist States in those determinations. *For more information, please visit http://www1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts/progress_alert.asp?aid=221.*

SMUD to Release 2007 Renewable Energy RFO in May

In May 2007, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will release a Request for Offers (RFO) of renewable energy for both power purchase agreements (PPA) and offers for SMUD's project ownership options. This RFO will help SMUD identify potential renewable energy contracts to help the utility meet its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals. SMUD is soliciting PPA and ownership offers of California RPS eligible conventional and emerging renewables. Renewable electric energy providers and project developers can download the RFO documents from SMUD's Electronic Bid Solicitation System (EBSS) website when it becomes available. Registration to the EBSS site is required to access the documents. Interested parties should list their company name in the Category of "Renewable Power" and in one or more of the following Renewable Power subcategories: Generation Energy, Geothermal Power, Landfill Gas Power, Renewable Power-Other, Small Hydro Power, and Wind Power. Registered individuals will also receive updated information regarding this solicitation and will also receive notification of future solicitations for purchase of renewable power. *For more information, please visit <http://www.bids.smud.org/>.*

Upcoming Events

Climate Hearings, March 27, and 29, Washington DC

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

Clean Energy Hearing, March 29, Washington DC

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

Wall Street Green Trading Summit VI, Apr 16 - 17, New York City

Speakers from investment banking, hedge funds, venture capital, insurance, and the brokerage community will present on the trading opportunities in alternative energy, project finance, carbon market developments, REC trading and demand response programs at this annual event in New York. Attend either in person or via webcast. *For more information, please visit <http://www.hedgeconnection.com/wsgts>.*

Accelerating Development/Deployment of Asia Pacific Clean Technologies, Apr 17-18, Melbourne, Australia

The AustralAsian Cleantech Forum in Melbourne is the premier international platform for knowledge exchange and commercial interaction for the full range of investors, companies and government involved in the Cleantech market in the Asia Pacific. The 3rd AustralAsian Cleantech Forum will provide unparalleled networking with key decision makers that are leading the growth of the Cleantech industry. *For more information, please visit <http://www.cleantechforum.com/index.php?page=Home>.*

RENEXPO Central & South East Europe, Apr 19 - 21, Budapest, Hungary

The event will highlight present renewable energy technologies and products as well as the latest developments in energy efficient construction and renovation. The exhibition serves to provide a platform at which major players from the renewable energy and energy efficient construction and renovation sectors can convene, network, and exchange knowledge. Target countries include Hungary, Bulgaria, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Croatia, and Slovenia to name a few. *For more information, please visit <http://www.renexpo-budapest.com>.*

RENEXPO India 2007, Apr 25 - 26, New Delhi

Over 500 business leaders and CEOs, representing non-conventional energy sources will once again convene to explore possibilities for the transfer of technologies. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), together with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Government of India, have invited delegates from India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The event, presented by REECO India, will be held at the Hotel Le Méridien. *For more information, please visit <http://www.renexpo-india.com/>.*

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

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

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

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

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

PRESENTERS TO INCLUDE

(confirmed presenters only)

Dan Schochet, Vice President, **ORMAT**

Mr. Magnus Bjarnason, Executive Vice President, **Glitnir Bank**

Asgeir Margeirsson, CEO, **Geysir Green Energy**

Paul Brophy, President, **EGS Inc**

Halley Dickey, **UTC Power**

Subir Sanyal, President, **GeothermEx**

Karl Gawell, Executive Director, **GEA**

Fausto Batini, Director, Geothermal Development, **Enel North America, Inc.**

Rick Thomas, VP Development, **Calpine Corporation**

John Pierce and Gary Barnum, **Stoel Rives LLP**

Margret Rueger, **Babcock & Brown**

Tom Fair, Executive, Renewable Energy, **Sierra Pacific Resources**

Melanie Nutter, Deputy District Director, **Rep. Nancy Pelosi**

Daniel Kunz, CEO, **U.S. Geothermal**

Keving McSpadden, **Milbank and Tweed**
Jonathan Weisgall, Vice President, **MidAmerican Energy Holdings Corp (CalEnergy)**
Joe Nation, Former **California Assemblyman, Principal Co-Author of AB 32**

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

To register or for more information visit GEA's website at: www.geo-energy.org

SMU Geothermal Conference: "Geothermal Energy Utilization Associated with Oil & Gas Development," June 12-13, 2007, Dallas Texas

In the 1970's and 1980's Oil and Gas companies diversified into geothermal exploration because of the similarities in the industries. Most of these companies left geothermal when the price of oil dropped in the late 1980's or because of failed exploration projects. Today, the Oil and Gas Industry can use a known producing field and not have high exploration costs to expand their portfolio into geothermal. Plus they benefit from the additional years of experience by the Geothermal Industry. To facilitate this happening, the first ever conference titled Geothermal Energy Generation in Oil and Gas Settings was held on March 13-14, 2006 at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. *For more information about this event, please contact Maria Richards, SMU Geothermal Lab, mrichard@smu.edu, or 214-768-1975. You can also visit the website at <http://www.smu.edu/geothermal>.*

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

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

For more information about the GEA Trade Show contact Daniela Stratulat at 202-454-5263 or email Daniela@geo-energy.org.

For information about the GRC Annual Meeting contact GRC at 530-758-2360 or email grclub@geothermal.org.



GEA Update

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