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National News

DOE: Only \$5 Million Allocated for Geothermal Program in FY 2007

On March 16, FY07 final funding levels for the Department of Energy were made public. Geothermal received \$5 Million, an amount which reportedly is to be used to close down all existing programs. The DOE budget for renewable energy programs, in millions, is shown in the following chart.

	FY 2006 Current Approp.	FY 2007 Operating Plan	FY 2008 Congressional Request
Energy Supply And Conservation			
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy			
Hydrogen technology			
Hydrogen technology.....	79,185	193,551	213,000
Fuel cell technologies.....	74,266	----	----
Total, Hydrogen technology.....	153,451	193,551	213,000
Biomass and biorefinery systems R&D			
Research and development.....	89,776	199,687	179,263
Solar energy.....	81,791	159,372	148,304
Wind energy.....	38,333	49,319	40,069
Geothermal technology.....	22,762	5,000	----
Hydropower.....	495	----	----
Vehicle technologies.....	178,351	188,024	176,138
Building technologies.....	68,190	104,329	86,456
Industrial technologies.....	55,856	56,563	45,998

According to a recent DOE press release, the \$23.598 billion spending plan to Congress for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 represents a \$45 million (0.2%) increase over the FY'07 request, as a result of the FY'07 Continuing Resolution. The FY'07 spending plan emphasizes investment in "alternative fuel technologies, as put forth in President Bush's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI), announced in his 2006 State of the Union Address," the press release reports. Among the biggest winners in this plan are:

- \$2 billion commitment to clean coal technologies.
- \$3.8 billion will be used to fund the President's initiative on fusion energy, most user facilities at near optimum levels, and making awards for three bioenergy research centers
- The Office of Environmental Management will receive a \$358 million increase to further DOE's commitment to safe cleanup of our Cold War-era nuclear facilities

"The Administration's FY 07 budget decision represents a new surge in their assault on renewable energy," charged Karl Gawell, GEA's Executive Director. "They have shut down the hydropower program, and now want to terminate geothermal research, both of which can provide tens of thousands of megawatts of clean energy to meet our energy and climate needs now."

Congress failed to pass most of the FY07 Appropriations bills before adjourning last year, and to keep government agencies operating after February 15th, the new Democratic leadership was forced into passing an omnibus appropriations bill quickly after organizing the new Congress. Because of the immense difficulties posed by organizing a new Congress and passing nearly all of the prior year's funding bills in a few weeks, Congress gave the Administration broad flexibility in deciding how to allocate funds at the Department of Energy, and other agencies.

"The result of trusting the agency's judgment has been a totally irrational, partisan decision," Gawell added. "Given our critical energy and climate problems how can they justify spending billions on fusion energy, which won't produce a kilowatt of energy for many decades, while gutting programs for renewable technologies, like geothermal energy, which can make a substantial contribution now, over the next decade, and beyond?" *For more information on the Administration's funding decision visit <http://www.energy.gov/media/FY2007OperatingPlanForDOE.pdf>.*

Domenici Satisfied with FY'07 Spending Plan

In a press release responding to the budget, U.S. Senator Domenici reported that he is largely satisfied with the 07 spending plan. He is quoted saying, "The boost in funding" for "DOE's spending plan, [which] includes \$1.5 billion for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ... expands key programs that focus on developing new energy choices, notably biomass and solar; vehicle technologies and; building codes and appliance standards *To view the Senator's remarks, please visit <http://www.energy.gov/news/4884.htm>.*

GEA Announces West Coast Geothermal Finance and Development Workshop

San Francisco -- Leading finance, development, and energy experts will share their knowledge at the first annual West Coast Geothermal Energy Development and Finance Workshop. The event, sponsored by the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), Ormat Technologies and Glitnir Bank will take place May 10, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center. The daylong workshop will bring together representatives from across the country and around the world.

"The investment opportunities in the fast-growing, renewable energy sector are enormous," Gawell said. "Today, geothermal power supplies 5% of California's electricity, in the future it could supply 20% or more."

"We've seen an outpouring of interest in geothermal investment and development this past year," notes Karl Gawell, GEA Executive Director, "and this workshop is intended to bring together experts and entrepreneurs to help new geothermal power projects move forward."

At the workshop, the Geothermal Energy Association will present an updated survey of geothermal projects under development. The association released its first such survey in the November 2006, which showed 61 projects underway that could double US geothermal power production. The Western Governors Association's Geothermal Task Force released in January 2006 reported that the western states could triple geothermal power production by 2015.

"The investment opportunities in the fast-growing, renewable energy sector are enormous," Gawell said. "Today, geothermal power supplies 5% of California's electricity, in the future it could supply 20% or more."

The Workshop will consider geothermal projects from a variety of viewpoints, including the financing, investing, marketing, resource and policy perspectives. Confirmed presenters include representatives from geothermal companies such as Ormat, Calpine Corporation, United Technologies Power, Geysir Green Energy and ENEL North America; financial experts from Glitnir International Banking and Babcock and Brown; and, several leading energy law firms and consultants: Stoel Rives, EGS Incorporated, and GeothermEx.

Representatives from state governments, utilities, and environmental groups have also been invited to provide insights into how laws and policies are unfolding to support new renewable power development in California and the West. *For more information or to register, visit the GEA website at www.geo-energy.org, call 202 454 5261, or email research@geo-energy.org.*

White House Seeks to Cut Geothermal Research Funds

A recent Reuters article discusses the Bush administration's desire to "eliminate federal support for geothermal power just as many U.S. states are looking to cut greenhouse gas emissions and raise renewable power output." According to the article, the move has angered scientists who say there is enough hot water underground to meet all U.S. electricity needs without greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Department of Energy has not requested funds for geothermal research in our fiscal-year 2008 budget," said Christina Kielich, a spokeswoman for the Department of Energy. "Geothermal is a mature technology. Our focus is on breakthrough energy research and development."

Among renewables, the administration of George W. Bush has made prioritized biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel for vehicles and nuclear research for electricity. "In spite of its enormous potential, the geothermal option for the United States has been largely ignored," a recent study led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said. New geothermal power projects by 2050 could provide 100,000 megawatts of electricity -- enough to power about 80 million U.S. homes, or as much as U.S. nuclear power plants make today, the MIT study said. But U.S. geothermal development will need \$300 million to \$400 million over 15 years to make this type of power competitive versus other forms of power generation, the study said.

Leland "Roy" Mink, who until last October was geothermal program director at the DOE, said he thinks the White House's waning interest in geothermal is a mistake. He said he left the DOE when he saw the Department was cutting funding. "It's far from a mature technology," said Mink, who is now working on a geothermal project in Idaho. "There's a lot to do. For starters, we need to develop drill bits that last longer. It's a hostile environment down there." *For more information, please visit http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyid=2007-03-13T181100Z_01_N13459469_RTRUKOC_0_US-USA-GEOTHERMAL-FUNDING.xml.*

Rep Gordon Receives Award for Sponsoring Geothermal Heat Pump Bill

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-New Mexico) and Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Tennessee) have received the 2007 Ground Water Protector Award from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). Rep. Gordon was recognized, in part, for his sponsorship a bill to provide a business tax credit for the installation of energy

efficient geothermal heat pump systems that would advance the nation's energy independence and promote environmental stewardship. Representative Gordon represents chairs the Committee on Science and Technology, and serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. *For more information, please visit <http://www.wateronline.com/content/news/article.asp?DocID=%7BF316252B-C7DE-466F-85A9-3ECE18E441FB%7D&Bucket=Current+Headlines&VNETCOOKIE=NO>.*

DOE Loan Guarantee Applications Led by Renewable, Efficiency Projects – Geothermal Still Not Included

DOE has begun its preliminary review of pre-applications received last year for loan guarantees, of which nearly half are for biomass energy projects. Other leading categories are solar projects, which make up 12 percent of applications, and industrial energy efficiency projects, which make up 6 percent of applications. In terms of the requested loan guarantee amounts, however, advanced fossil energy projects make up 61 percent of the requested funds, followed by biomass projects at 14 percent, industrial energy efficiency projects at 10 percent, and solar energy projects at 7 percent. The 143 pre-applications requested loan guarantees totaling more than \$27 billion, while DOE currently has the authority to issue guarantees for only \$4 billion in loans. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established the loan guarantee program for advanced energy technologies that reduce the emission of air pollutants or greenhouse gases. DOE issued a solicitation for pre-applications in August 2006, but funding to implement the program was not forthcoming until Congress passed a full-year continuing resolution in mid-February. That funding bill provided DOE with \$7 million to fund its Loan Guarantee Office and gave DOE its current loan authority. DOE has requested \$8.4 million to run the office in fiscal year 2008, along with the authority to guarantee up to \$9 billion in loans. *For more information, please visit <http://www.lgprogram.energy.gov/>.*

In January, DOE Secretary Bodman replied to a letter from a group of Senators led by Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), objecting to the failure to include geothermal projects as eligible for the program. The letter indicated that DOE “limited” the technologies listed in the solicitation announcement to “...those renewable resources that were specifically targeted in the President Bush’s Advanced Energy initiative. As a result several types of projects that meet the Title XVII statutory criteria noted above, such as geothermal were not made eligible to participate in the first solicitation.” The Secretary’s letter went on to explain that if Congress provides more funding, the Department will offer additional solicitations in the future that might include geothermal energy.

U.S. Senator Bingaman Outlines Energy Committee Agenda at Platts Energy Podium

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, told a standing-room only Platts Energy Podium event in Washington that his committee would focus on six key legislative issues, beginning with resolution of offshore leasing disputes, climate change legislation, and energy technology policy. He said the Committee was off to a good start already, having held some 16 hearings and several all-day conferences barely two months into the new Congressional session.

While climate change legislation is a Congressional priority, Bingaman said prospects of enactment within the next two years depends on the support of the Bush Administration. If the administration chooses to “oppose any and all mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions, then it's going to be very difficult to get anything done,” the New Mexico Democrat warned. He urged the Bush White House to spur Senate Republicans who have been on the fence about climate change to favor a bill and overcome the 60-vote hurdle needed for passage. “I believe strongly as I have for sometime that we need to have a long-term policy to curb green house gases without dampening our economic growth in the process,” Bingaman said. About renewable energy, he said “I think all the Democrats on the Committee have indicated their support for a 15% renewable energy requirement or portfolio standard.” *A recording of the Bingaman session is available via podcast at <http://platts.com/energypodium/index.xml/>.*

New Research on Silica Scaling in Geothermal Wells

Ohio University hydrogeochemist Dina Lopez recently completed a study in El Salvador that earned her co-authors a best paper award from the Geothermal Resources Council. The researchers integrated findings from several studies examining the process of silica scaling. Silica, which is released from dissolving rock, is sometimes found in water. Removing the silica buildup is costly and difficult due to the high volumes of water involved. Lopez, an associate professor of geological sciences at Ohio University, and her co-authors created a model to better understand the impact of silica scaling and the rate at which it occurs. Their research shows that a combination of experimental field work and geochemical modeling programs can provide accurate indicators of the impact of silica scaling in geothermal wells. “We used simple experiments to show the big picture,” said Lopez, who believes the group’s findings will help guide efforts to control silica scaling at geothermal power plants. Better control of silica scaling will help reduce the cost of maintaining geothermal plants. That’s good news for Lopez, who hopes her research will encourage the use of geothermal energy, which she says has been overshadowed by the debate over nuclear energy and the public’s reliance on fossil fuels. “Geothermal energy has enormous potential,” she said. “There are hundreds of geothermal fields in the world, but they haven’t been exploited because of our ability to easily get energy from oil and other sources.” *For more information, please visit <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/03/070313110634.htm>.*

Sempra's SDG&E gets State OK for Renewable Projects, Including Geothermal

San Diego Gas & Electric received approval for contracts for four renewable energy projects from the California Public Utilities Commission. The four projects have a capacity of about 140 megawatts. The geothermal project, Esmeralda-San Felipe, will be a 15 MW geothermal project in the Imperial Valley that will come on line by Dec. 31, 2010. The contract is for 15 years. The three others, two solar and one biomass, will come on line next year. SDG&E, which has about 1.3 million electricity customers in Orange and San Diego counties, is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy. SDG&E, along with other California utilities, is under state mandate to generate at least 20 percent of the power they deliver to customers by 2010 from renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and small hydroelectric projects. In 2008, SDG&E will have about 6.4 percent of its power deliveries from renewable sources. SDG&E has contracts that, once enacted, will bring to almost 13 percent its renewable portfolio standard, the company says. *For more information, please visit http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2007-03-15T205240Z_01_N1541972_RTRIDST_0_SEMPRA-RENEWABLES.XML.*

Article Discusses DOE Geothermal Program

A recent article discusses the administration’s choice to zero out DOE funding of the geothermal program. The article quotes a DOE spokeswoman, who says the program was zeroed out because it is a mature technology. She continues, “We’re focused on breakthrough energy like cellulosic ethanol, which needs much more research and development to bring it to market,” said Christina Kielich of the Department of Energy. “The future that we’re looking at right now includes hydrogen-fuel cars plus wind and solar energy — those kinds of programs need a lot of technology to be brought to fruition. That’s where the government is involved.” The article quotes CalEnergy’s Jonathan Weisgal, who says, “Geothermal energy is no less mature than wind, nuclear or coal. These are industries that are always changing, always looking for innovation, and they can always benefit from technology.” CalEnergy has 10 geothermal energy plants in Imperial County that have a total output of 340 megawatts of power. None receives federal or state dollars. *The article was published in the Imperial Valley Press newspaper.*

ENEL Enters the U.S. Geothermal Market

- *Enel acquires AMP Resources, a company which owns operating and development geothermal generation projects in California, Utah, and Nevada aggregating up to 150 MW.*
- *This acquisition reinforces the company's global leadership in geothermal energy and confirms Enel's commitment to develop renewable energy worldwide.*

Rome; March 20, 2007 - Enel, through its subsidiary Enel North America, Inc., announced today the acquisition of AMP Resources, LLC (AMP) from AMP Capital Partners and a minority investor. This acquisition includes one operating and four advanced stage geothermal development projects expected to add approximately 150 MW of capacity over the next four years to Enel's North American operations, as well as access to a number of future opportunities.

Located in Nevada, California, and Utah, the projects, once fully developed, are expected to generate enough renewable power for over 100,000 average U.S. households annually.

"I am pleased to announce Enel's entry into the U.S. geothermal market. These development projects will benefit from Enel's expertise in geothermal power and will consolidate and extend Enel's leadership in using the earth's natural heat to produce zero-emissions electricity. This acquisition further confirms our commitment toward environmentally-friendly technologies worldwide. By 2011 Enel plans to invest globally over 4 billion euros in combating climate change. A plan having few rivals in quality and presence" commented Fulvio Conti, Enel's CEO.

The agreement calls for an initial payment of approximately \$90 million and milestone-based contingent payments. Several former AMP employees located in the Reno, Nevada office will join Enel's geothermal development team.

Enel pioneered geothermal electricity generation with projects developed over 100 years ago in Tuscany, Italy in Larderello (Pisa) and the surrounding provinces of Siena and Grosseto. Enel has used innovative operational and drilling techniques to optimize the projects' output and over 700 MW remains in full operation today. In early 2002, Enel expanded its geothermal focus to Latin America, partnering with LaGeo S.A. in El Salvador. LaGeo currently operates 178 MW of geothermal generation. In addition, Enel has geothermal development activity underway in Chile, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

The U.S. projects will strengthen Enel's experience in generating power from lower temperature geothermal resources.

About Enel: Enel is Italy's largest power company and Europe's third-largest listed utility by market capitalization. Listed on the Milan and New York stock exchanges since 1999, Enel has the largest number of shareholders of any European company, at some 2.3 million. It has a market capitalisation of about EUR50 billion at current prices.

With over 19,000 MW of installed renewable capacity in Italy, United States, Canada, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, Brazil, Panama, Spain and Slovakia, Enel is a worldwide leader in the generation of electricity from renewable sources.

Enel North America, Inc. (ENA), is a leading owner and operator of renewable energy projects in North America, with project activity in 21 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces. Based in Andover, Massachusetts, Enel North America has a uniquely diversified renewable energy portfolio that includes hydropower, wind, biomass, and now geothermal. ENA currently operates 70 projects with a total installed capacity of around 410 MW. In addition to the recently announced geothermal activity, ENA has 190 MW of wind power under construction with over 1000 MW of wind in the development pipeline.

For more information, contact: **Enel North America, Inc.**, Julie Smith Galvin, Tel: +1 978-681-1900, Email: ca@northamerica.enel.it.

Renewable and Climate Change News

100+ Organizations, Activists Tell Congress - It Is Time To Enact A Carbon Fee

WASHINGTON DC -- In a letter delivered to key Members and committees of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, more than 100 businesses, organizations, and individual activists called upon Congress to support a fee on the carbon content of fuels as part of the broader mix of strategies for addressing climate change.

Stressing the need "to employ a broad range of strategies to significantly reduce total energy use and to encourage the rapidly expanded use of non-fossil and non-nuclear renewable sources of energy," the letter argued that "some form of user fee based on the carbon content of fuels is [also] essential."

Furthermore, "a carbon fee is arguably the most transparent, universal, equitable, understandable, and immediate way to internalize the true environmental cost of consuming the fossil fuels that contribute to climate change." Therefore, "we believe that some form of carbon fee must be made a key element of a wider strategy for addressing climate change and it should be among the measures considered and enacted by the U.S. Congress in the very near term."

To address potentially adverse impacts on lower-income citizens, the signers on the letter added that a carbon fee "should be accompanied by tax-shifting – and possibly revenue-neutral - offsets such as reductions in payroll or other taxes, larger tax credits for lower-income citizens, or increases in programs such as weatherization and mass transit that directly assist citizens to reduce their total energy use." *A copy of the letter and list of signers may be requested by sending an e-mail to sustainable-energy-network@hotmail.com.*

LBNL: Cost Impact of State RPSs will be Modest

Increased deployment of renewable energy – driven by state renewables portfolio standards (RPS) – is not expected to increase electricity rates dramatically, according to a report released recently by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The report synthesizes the results of a large number of state-level RPS cost-impact analyses. The report finds that 70% of state RPS cost studies predict that the required renewable energy deployment will raise retail electricity rates at the state level by less than 1% where those standards are in place, though some studies predict more unfavorable outcomes, and six of the studies predict cost decreases. On average, the studies predict state RPS impacts that would cost an average household roughly 40 cents per month, though studies predict a wide range of possible outcomes around this average value. In addition, many of the studies evaluate the potential benefits of state RPS obligations, including economic development benefits, risk mitigation, and environmental gains.

The report also documents the methods used by the studies and highlights recommendations for improvement. "Projecting the impacts of increased renewable energy deployment is inherently uncertain, but we find that these studies are becoming increasingly sophisticated," says Mark Bolinger. "Despite that, there remain a number of areas where improvement is possible." *The report "Weighing the Costs and Benefits of State Renewables Portfolio Standards: A Comparative Analysis of State-Level Policy Impact Projections," can be downloaded from <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/re-pubs.html>. A PowerPoint presentation summarizing key findings from the study can be found at <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/emp-ppt.html>.*

European Union Leaders Reach Deal to Fight Climate Change

On March 9, EU leaders agreed to adopt a binding target of a 20 percent share of renewable energies in overall EU energy consumption by 2020. The 27 EU states will each decide how they contribute to meeting the overall goal. The EU plan includes a 10 percent minimum target on the use of biofuels in transport by 2020. As expected, and in an effort to limit the rise in average global temperatures to 2°C above pre-industrial era levels, EU leaders also agreed to cut the bloc's carbon dioxide emissions 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. This target could go up to 30 percent, depending on the outcome of talks with international partners. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said, "We can say to the rest of the world, Europe is taking the lead, you should join us in fighting climate change." German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who chaired the two-day summit, also welcomed the package of binding measures. Merkel said, "I personally am very satisfied and happy....We can avoid what could well be a human calamity."

This information was reported by EESI.

Winter Has Been World's Warmest On Record

This has been the world's warmest winter since record-keeping began more than a century ago. On March 15, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said the combined global land and ocean surface temperature from December through February was at its highest since records began in 1880 (1.30°F/0.72°C above the 20th century mean). "Contributing factors were the long-term trend toward warmer temperatures, as well as a moderate El Nino in the Pacific," Jay Lawrimore of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center said in a telephone interview from Asheville, North Carolina. The next-warmest winter on record was in 2004, and the third warmest winter was in 1998, Lawrimore said. The 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 1995. *For more information, please visit <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2007/s2819.htm>.*

House Creates Global Warming Committee

House Democrats created a special panel recently to study and offer recommendations on how to deal with global warming. The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, advanced by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was approved on a vote of 269-150. A majority of Republicans voted against it, arguing the committee was unnecessary or that its budget could better be used by the ethics committee. "Global warming may be the greatest challenge of our time, setting at risk our economy, environment and national security," Pelosi, D-Calif., said in a statement. With the new committee, "the House is giving these issues the high visibility they deserve." The committee, consisting of nine Democrats and six Republicans, will be chaired by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass. It will hold hearings and recommend legislation, but, in a concession to existing committees, will not write legislation and will exist for only two years. The climate committee was formally recognized as part of a vote on budgets for House committees in 2007 and 2008, up about 2.4 percent over the last session of Congress to \$280 million. The global warming committee will have a two-year budget of \$3.7 million. *For more information, please visit <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/08/national/w144506S45.DTL&type=politics>.*

Senate Committee for Small Business Holds First Climate Change Hearing

Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.) called on the government and private sector to take action to curb global warming in a hearing before the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. With small businesses responsible for 50 percent of all energy consumption, as well as half of the entire economy, Kerry stressed the importance of providing resources and tools to small businesses to help them develop cutting-edge technologies to address climate change and become more energy efficient. Kerry pressed witnesses from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Small Business Administration to work together to create incentives for small firms to adopt energy-friendly policies and to provide the resources to help small business owners with the up front costs of implementing energy saving programs. *To view the press release, please visit <http://sbc.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=270340>.*

House Clears New Select Committee on Climate Change

The House approved the creation of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming March 8 on a vote of 269 to 150, with 44 Republicans voting in favor. The Committee will hold hearings and recommend legislation, but will not write legislation. The Committee's official duties will end with the conclusion of the 110th Congress. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said, "Global warming may be the greatest challenge of our time, setting at risk our economy, environment, and national security. With the creation of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming on a strong bipartisan vote, the House is giving these issues the high visibility they deserve." The members of the Select Committee are: Ed Markey (D-MA), Chairman; Earl Blumenauer (D-OR); Jay Inslee (D-WA); John Larson (D-CT); Hilda Solis (D-CA); Stephanie Herseth (D-SD); Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO); John Hall (D-NY); Jerry McNerney (D-CA); James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Ranking Member; John Shadegg (R-AZ); Greg Walden (R-OR); John Sullivan (R-OK); Marsha Blackburn (R-TN); and Candice Miller (R-MI). *To view the press release, please visit <http://speaker.gov/newsroom/pressreleases?id=0091>.*

A Bounty of Opportunities Detailed in Climate-Change Reports

A graph charting the number of pages discussing climate change in reports by investment analysts from traditional brokerages would be essentially flat at zero until about three years ago, when the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative request for analyst research on environmental, social, and governance issues sparked a sudden spike in coverage. The line has continued its upward trajectory this year, with over 350 pages published over the past month in reports from Citigroup, UBS, and Lehman Brothers. All three reports cover similar ground discussing the scientific, social, regulatory, business, and investing implications of climate change. *For more information, please visit http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=34687.*

Warming Climate Affecting Permafrost

Permafrost, or soil that remains at temperatures below 0°C year-round, lies beneath approximately 25 percent of the land area in the Northern Hemisphere and serves as a stable foundation for much of the Arctic's infrastructure including pipelines, roads, buildings, and bridges. Permafrost also contains vast amounts of frozen organic material, which, if thawed, could decompose and release a significant amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Among many other scientific studies that have shown a steady warming in permafrost around the globe, a team of scientists recently discovered an active snowmelt flow that is believed to create a network of subterranean fissures that form large underground ice wedges. Small hikes in temperature can make these underground wedges more susceptible to melting and threaten near-surface permafrost that has been in place since about 25,000 years ago. Despite scientific studies showing a collective increase in permafrost temperatures, scientists are still debating whether the permafrost will melt as quickly as it has been warming. This presents an immediate concern because most permafrost melting will occur at shallow depths where it will have the greatest effect on ecosystems and people. *For more information, please visit <http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20070310/bob10.asp>.*

New IPCC Draft Report Rife with Warnings

A draft of the Second Working Group report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report suggests the world will face dire consequences as a result of global warming. The report is the second in a series of four to be released this year and has been quoted as the "emotional heart" of climate change research. The 79-page technical summary was written and reviewed by more than 1,000 scientists from dozens of countries but still must be edited by government officials until it will be released April 6 in Brussels. The draft report, obtained by the Associated Press, outlines various detrimental results of global warming including: severe water shortages in African and Latin American regions; increasing death rates among the world's poor due to warming-related illnesses; animals, such as polar bears, will be pushed to extinction; nearly 100 million people could be flooded by rising seas by 2080; 100-600 million people could experience starvation by 2080; Europe's small glaciers could disappear

and the continent's large glaciers could shrink dramatically by 2050. The draft report also says scientists are confident that current problems including change in species' habits and habitats, more acidified oceans, loss of wetlands, and bleaching of coral reefs can be blamed on global warming. Patricia Romero Lankao, one of the many co-authors of the new report, said global warming soon will "affect everyone's life.... [and] it's the poor sectors that will be most affected." *This information was reported by EESI.*

EU Agrees to Cut Greenhouse Emissions and Boost Clean Energy by 2020

The European Union (EU) agreed recently to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. The agreement is the first major commitment for GHG reductions beyond the time frame of the Kyoto Protocol, which requires the EU to reduce its GHG emissions to 8 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. While committing unilaterally to cut its emissions, the EU intends to enter international negotiations with a target of cutting the GHG emissions of industrialized countries to 30 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and to further cut global GHG emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. See the press release from the European Commission, and see the Web site for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for information on the Kyoto Protocol. The EU heads of state also agreed to aggressive clean energy targets as part of their commitment to cut GHG emissions. The EU agreed to cut its global primary energy use by 20 percent by 2020. "Global primary" energy use counts all the energy consumed worldwide caused by any action in the EU, including, for instance, the energy used to produce any fuels, electricity, or products that are imported into the EU. The European Commission estimates that this will include a 13 percent cut in energy consumption within the EU. And although the EU already expects to fall short of its goal of using renewable energy for 12 percent of its energy by 2010, the EU heads of state have agreed to set a binding target of using renewable energy to meet 20 percent of the EU's total energy needs by 2020. As part of that target, the EU agreed to replace at least 10 percent of its vehicle fuel with biofuels by 2020. See the European Commission document, "An Energy Policy for Europe," on which the new agreement is based. *For more information, please visit <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52007DC0001:EN:NOT>.*

State News

Alaska: ANWR Drilling, Geothermal

Senator Lisa Murkowski is working on legislation that would authorize the U.S. Department of Energy to contract with oil companies to conduct seismic and other preliminary work to prepare the 1.5-million acre coastal plain for oil development in case of an energy crisis, a recent article reported. Stevens said he plans to co-sponsor Murkowski's bill. Alaska would receive about 50 percent of the royalties from any oil production in federally owned ANWR. However, the state receives nothing as long as drilling is prohibited.

Democrats, however, have already come up with a new approach on ANWR. Massachusetts Democratic Representative Edward Markey is pushing a bill that would designate the coastal plain as permanently protected wilderness. The measure would put an end to repeated attempts to open the area to drilling. Stevens has threatened to filibuster if it makes it to the Senate floor.

Meanwhile, Representative Don Young says he plans to deal with ANWR in his own way. The maverick Alaska Republican is working with Representative Devin Nunes, a Republican from California, to revive the narrowly defeated Conservation And Reinvestment Act, which would use revenue from the development of the coastal plain to fund conservation efforts across the country.

President Bush included projected oil and gas royalties from ANWR in his \$2.9 trillion budget proposal for the fiscal year that begins in October, but Democrats say the move is little more than wishful thinking on the President's part. Meanwhile, Bernie Karl, owner of Alaska's Chena Hot Springs, was in Washington at the end of February to talk about government funding for geothermal research. Karl's study of geothermal as an alternative energy source at his popular Chena resort has won him the support of Senator Lisa Murkowski. Geothermal isn't in vogue at the moment and therefore hasn't gotten the attention and funding that other alternative fuels, such as ethanol, have had lately, Murkowski said. Alaska's junior senator is

trying to change that. She talked up geothermal in a recent meeting of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and even tried to arrange a meeting for Karl with President Bush. Alas, Bush was unavailable. A longtime proponent of geothermal, Karl uses water from the hot springs to generate electricity for his resort year-round. *For more information, please visit <http://www.anchoragepress.com/archives-2007/lettersvol16ed10.html>.*

Colorado: “‘Saudi Arabia’ of Geothermal Energy,” Says Government Official

Colorado is the “Saudi Arabia” of geothermal energy, and Mesa State College is leading the way in exploiting it, Tom Plant, director of Gov. Bill Ritter’s Office of Energy Management and Conservation, said Friday. Plant spent Friday morning touring Mesa State and talking about the virtues of Ritter’s “New Energy Economy,” which Plant said follows a “renaissance” in the development of renewable energy and concern for the environment. He congratulated Mesa State for planning a new classroom building that will be heated with geothermal energy, which college President Tim Foster said will save the school about \$40,000 annually in heating costs. The system boasts a price tag of about \$250,000, with the potential to reduce the building’s energy consumption by up to 40 percent. The proposed geothermal system will pay for itself in about seven years. Plant toured the campus, where college officials showed him the school’s new 10-kilowatt, solar-panel system. He congratulated students for their involvement in the two projects. *For more information, please visit http://www.gisentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2007/03/10/3_10_7a_energy_leader.html.*

Colorado: Geothermal Energy Market is Heating Up

At least 30 resorts, small businesses and communities across Colorado use geothermal heat. That's according to a July 2006 report for the Department of Energy on geothermal use in Colorado by Bob Lawrence & Associates Inc., an Alexandria, Va.-based consulting firm. A developer is designing a community in the Cortez area in southwest Colorado that will use geothermal heat for houses, with the first phase calling for 900 homes. Proposed legislation on renewable energy use in Colorado creates credits for using geothermal energy in addition to wind and solar power. "It's a large, untapped, renewable resource," said Angela Crooks, a program manager with the Colorado Office of Energy Management and Conservation. One study concluded that Colorado had enough geothermal energy to generate up to 20 megawatts of electricity -- enough to power about 2,000 homes -- by converting the heat into steam to spin a turbine. And money is starting to flow into the industry, said Joe Bourg, president of Golden consulting firm Millennium Energy LLC. He's working with a developer he declined to name on the Cortez community. "We're in the spotlight, and now that we're in the spotlight, dollars are starting to flow our way," Bourg said. "We're starting to see a lot of money flow into the geothermal industry." Besides applications that produce electricity, the article discusses the significant potential for geothermal heat pumps within the state. *For more information, please visit <http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2007/03/12/story4.html?page=2&b=1173672000^1428992>.*

Idaho: The Past, Present and Future of ID’s Geothermal Power

A recent article discusses geothermal in Idaho, calling the renewable resource potentially the state’s “most lucrative green energy source that has been under our feet the whole time... It's relatively inexpensive, plentiful, environmentally friendly to the extreme, and it may just be the key to staving off a potential energy crisis.” By 1892, Boise was using geothermal heat to warm its buildings. Many homes and public buildings in the City of Trees are still heated by geothermal waters. Now the first geothermal energy plant is under construction at Raft River. It's expected to begin supplying electricity to Idaho Power Co. this fall. The Raft River project was a U.S. Department of Energy test facility for about two years in the early 1980s, when the federal government became interested in alternative energy production on the heels of the 1970s energy crisis. The experiment was a success: The site was able to produce electricity from geothermal water using, by today's standards, archaic technology. But the project was junked during the Reagan administration after big energy companies found it more lucrative to invest in traditional fossil fuel energy projects. There simply wasn't enough interest in geothermal power to keep the site running. The land at

Raft River exchanged hands several times before U.S. Geothermal Inc., a Boise-based alternative energy company, bought the land and its water rights in 2001. The first phase of the project could produce about 10 megawatts of power - enough to light about 7,500 homes. U.S. Geothermal hopes to build at least two more phases, each able to produce about 13.5 megawatts of electricity. *For more information, please visit http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2007/03/11/news/top_story/107946.txt.*

Idaho: Geothermal Waters Used for Successful Greenhouse Operations

A recent article discusses the Liskeys, a family who launched its first geothermal greenhouse operation in the late 1970s. Initially, the idea was to raise tree seedlings in test tubes for forestry purposes, but the process was prohibitively complicated. Several partners who offered to help never made good on their promises, and after five years the operation was shut down. They restarted the greenhouse business in 1990 with a focus on spring bedding plants. Liskey Farms is now one of the few major nursery retailers in the region; developing the niche helped the company survive when irrigation water was cut off to Klamath growers in 2001, Liskey said. Looking to the future, Liskey also hopes to expand his geothermal operation to include about 40 to 50 acres of marginal farm ground. The heated water already serves multiple purposes. A biodiesel plant, launched on the farm earlier this year by farmer Rick Walsh, will use it for processing canola seeds. Spent water from the greenhouse operation also warms about 28 small ponds to 85 degrees F, where aquaculture expert Ron Barnes raises freshwater tropical fish. In addition to leasing more ground to entrepreneurs like Walsh and Barnes, Liskey plans to turn the geothermal resource into an energy supply. The water can heat a refrigerant such as Freon, causing it to expand into a gas. This will force turbines to rotate and generate electricity. *For more information, please visit <http://www.wateronline.com/content/news/article.asp?DocID=%7BF316252B-C7DE-466F-85A9-3ECE18E441FB%7D&Bucket=Current+Headlines&VNETCOOKIE=NO>.*

Oregon: Plans for Geothermal Development Constrained by County Commission

Deschutes County commissioners have decided to grant a Measure 37 waiver requested by James Miller's LPP Resources, but limited the approval in such a way as to preclude much development. The developer wants to put a pumice mine, a geothermal power plant and about 100 homes in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument in Central Oregon. The commissioners turned down Miller's first Measure 37 request in November. *For more information, please visit <http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-18/1173888011110160.xml&storylist=orlocal>.*

Texas: Potential for Geothermal Energy

Energy America, Inc. aims "to seek out and get behind concepts that will promote conservation and technology growth to reduce dependence on foreign oil and retain funds we (currently) send overseas," explained President and Chief Executive Officer Ed McDonald. Local oil industry "know how," he said, is beneficial in tapping geothermal energy sources. "Midland understands how to drill deep, horizontal and multilateral wells." McDonald wants Energy America, Inc. to participate in the development of geothermal bore holes, geothermal power production and, perhaps, eventually, manufacturing. McDonald said they anticipate joining forces with local mechanical contractors as they focus on geothermal heat pump technology. They have brought on board Dr. Richard Erdlac, who was formerly at the Center for Energy and Economic Development, to keep the company abreast of academic concerns as well as research and development. McDonald explained, "We want to stay ahead of the curve by being aware of cutting edge technology." *For more information, please visit http://www.mywesttexas.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18094907&BRD=2288&PAG=461&dept_id=474107&rft=6.*

Washington State: Senate Passes Climate Legislation

On March 10, Washington state senators voted 35-15 on a measure that would set state goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, set standards for electric utilities, create tax credits for consumer-owned utilities that invest in energy efficiency, and create an office of state climatologist. The bill would also promote the reduction of petroleum purchases, support the use of plug-in electric hybrid cars, and address how the state will join other western states in a cap-and-trade system. This measure comes on the heels of an announcement made by the governors of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington that the states would create a western regional carbon trading market to reduce greenhouse gases. Specific to her state, Governor Chris Gregoire wants Washington to reduce greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035, and 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. *For more information, please visit http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_wa_xgr_climate_change.html.*

International News

Australia: Geothermal Misses Out on Energy Handouts

Renewable energy advocates are concerned that geothermal power research has missed out on most of a \$500 million fund to investigate alternative energies. Of the \$410 million committed out of the federal Government's \$500 million Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund, only one project, worth \$75 million, had gone to renewable energy ideas, Renewable Energy Generators of Australia said. Chief executive Susan Jeanes said a technology that offered promise and had not received funding under the scheme was geothermal. "Geothermal is what's really missing," she said. "If you want Australian technology development, the large gap in the market is geothermal. There's a range of geothermal approaches that haven't been funded. There's so much focus on cleaning up coal." The federal Government yesterday announced a \$100 million grant to a new clean-coal power plant in Victoria's Latrobe Valley in the hope that carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced by 30 per cent. *For more information, please visit <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,21371100-30417,00.html>.*

China: Geothermal Resource Study to be Approved

The project of geological survey on shallow geothermal resources in Beijing plain area and the project of regional engineering geological survey for the early periods of planned new towns and great engineering in Beijing have been launched, and the two projects have respectively got investment of 9.9531 million yuan and 5.0943 million yuan from the municipal government, which was recently learnt from 2007 work meeting of Beijing Geology and Mineral Resources Prospecting and Developing Bureau. Director of the bureau Wei Lianwei expressed that the fact meant that geological work in Beijing had got the right for approving projects independently in the municipal finance departments. *For more information, please visit <http://www.cigem.gov.cn/ReadNews.asp?NewsID=10262>.*

England: London Mayor Says U.K.'s Climate Change Bill Should Go Further

Enshrining a national commitment to reduce carbon emissions in law is a good start but does not go far enough, according to London's Mayor, Ken Livingstone. Speaking as the Government's draft Climate Change Bill went before Parliament, Livingstone argued that yearly targets were necessary to keep a sharp focus on the issue and should move towards personal carbon allowances to encourage individuals to make the necessary changes to reduce their own contribution to climate change. Livingstone said that the U.K.'s climate bill, coupled with the European Union's recent decision to set binding targets for reducing emissions, means that serious action to avert climate change has begun. Livingstone wants to see the government take two further steps to make the bill more effective. "First, the Bill should set annual targets for emission reductions. Second, it should move towards personal carbon allowances, whereby the majority of people who are willing to live in a way that minimizes carbon emissions receive financial rewards for doing so, paid for by charging those people who wish to continue to make large carbon emissions." The

mayor also believes annual targets are needed, because they would allow any problems to be nipped in the bud and keep carbon emissions at the forefront of political minds. Otherwise, he warned, they could just be forgotten for five year stretches then crisis-managed as the next deadline approached. *For more information, please visit http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=34726.*

Japan: Benefits of Geothermal Power Eyed

Geothermal energy is again attracting attention as a technology with the potential to help curb global warming in Japan, a recent article reports. An advisory panel to the economy, trade and industry minister that has been studying energy resources compiled a report calling for an expansion in the use of geothermal power, considered less damaging to the environment than other energy sources, thus pushing the issue into the spotlight for the first time in a decade. The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology believes that Japan has significant domestic geothermal generation potential--perhaps as much as 20 million kilowatts, which would make up nearly 10 percent of the nation's overall power generation capacity of 235 million kilowatts. However, more than half of the thermal sources are located in and around national parks and near the country's 27,000 thermal springs. This imposes certain restrictions on geothermal drilling and has raised development costs. The cost of geothermal power generation--about 16 yen for a kilowatt per hour--is three times higher than that of thermal or nuclear power. Given these complications, attention is now turning to binary power generation. Takao Kashiwagi, a professor of energy engineering at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology said, "Geothermal power has the advantage of having a variety of energy sources, and plays an important role in providing electricity to neighboring regions...It's time to start making use of this energy source." An official at the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry's electric power infrastructure improvement section, said, "We'd like to start discussions with people in academic and relevant industry circles on improving the situation of geothermal power." The Environment Ministry also has started discussions on how to incorporate policies on the use of geothermal power as a means to help prevent global warming into the administration of national parks. *For more information, please visit <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/features/science/20070313TDY04002.htm>.*

New Zealand: Mighty River Power Co. Abandons Coal Plant in Favor of Geothermal

One of New Zealand's major power companies has abandoned plans to commission a coal-fired power station and will instead look to renewable energy options like geothermal and wind power, a recent article reported. And as a result the country has taken another significant step towards becoming carbon neutral. According to Doug Heffernan, Mighty River Power Chief Executive, said "at the end of the day it's more costly to run an old piece of kit than it would be to get a new geothermal project up and running. ... We're building the largest geothermal plant that's being built in more than 20 years at Kawerau right now. And I think it's a really good result for New Zealand. There's so much investment occurring in electricity generation, it's going to provide the security and supply we need for the next decade or so. And those options are going to be cheaper than Marsden B on coal would have been." Greenpeace campaigner Vanessa Atkinson said, "this is a huge victory, not only for Greenpeace and the community groups that have fought this project from the beginning, and all of the New Zealanders who've opposed it, but it's also a great victory for the climate. We're just really, really pleased that they've put an end to [coal development plans] and they can now put their energy and their money into renewable energy, which is going to be the future for New Zealand." *For more information, please visit <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2007/s1868281.htm>.*

Notices and RFPs

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/>.*

Update on PG&E Renewable RFO (Notice of Intent to Bid Due March 19)

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.

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)

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>.

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.

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.

Upcoming Events

House Joint Committee Hearing on Climate Change w. Al Gore, March 21, Washington DC

There will be a Joint Hearing of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality and the Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment entitled "Perspectives on Climate Change." Witnesses: Former Vice President Al Gore and Dr. Bjørn Lomborg, Adjunct Professor, Copenhagen Consensus Center, Copenhagen Business School. The event will take place at 9:30 am in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. *For more information, please visit* <http://energycommerce.house.gov/membios/schedule.shtml>.

Teleconference - The Convergence of Energy Efficiency and Renewables; Policy & Financing Strategies, March 21

On March 21, 2007, from 12:00 - 1:30 pm Eastern, speakers will address The Convergence of Energy Efficiency and Renewables: Policy & Financing Strategies. Policy makers and investors recognize that energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies have certain similar attributes when it comes to solving the nation's energy and environmental problems. Investors are awakening to the profit potential in the promotion of their complementary use. Policies being considered to encourage renewables are now being evaluated for their contribution to encouraging efficiency, and vice versa. This

"convergence" in setting policies for energy efficiency and renewables has been expressed in several ways. The panel will discuss what is and can be done, from public and private perspectives, to encourage both efficiency and renewables with similar policy vehicles.

Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing on DOE FY'08 Budget, March 21, Washington DC

The Senate Appropriations Committee's Energy and Water Development Subcommittee will hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy. The event will take place at 2 p.m. in SD-138

Senate Environment Committee Hearing on Global Warming - Featuring VP Al Gore, March 21, Washington DC

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, announced that former Vice President Al Gore, one of the world's leading voices on global warming, has agreed to appear before the Committee to offer his perspective on global warming. The event will take place at 2:30 PM at SD-106 Dirksen Senate Office Building. *For more information, please visit http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=51628af6-802a-23ad-4588-bc4a4a94607a.*

EESI Briefing - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the FY08 Budget, March 22, Washington DC

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute and the House and Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses invite you to a briefing addressing the impacts of the President's FY 2008 budget on energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE/RE) programs, including impacts upon states and low-income consumers. Energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies are critical cornerstones of a national energy policy that will meet the nation's goals of reducing energy imports, moderating energy prices, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the economy, national security, the environment and public health. The panel will cover the implications of the FY 2008 budget on federal energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, focusing primarily on DOE's energy efficiency and renewable energy R&D technology programs. It also will cover the impact of the budget on important energy programs operated by states, including weatherization. With dramatically rising energy prices for homes, businesses and vehicles, the states will share their concerns about shortfalls in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding and the proposed cut to the Weatherization Assistance Program. The event will take place from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM in 2325 Rayburn House Office Building.

Colorado New Energy Summit, March 24, Denver CO

Join top business, scientific and government leaders and members of Colorado's energy community for an update on developments in renewable energy, emerging technologies, evolving state and national energy policies and opportunities for tax incentives and financing options for residences and businesses. The event will take place March 24 in the Wells Fargo Theatre, Colorado Convention Center *For more information and the online registration, visit <http://salazar.senate.gov/contact/newenergy.cfm>.*

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>.*

GeoPowering the West State Summit Postponed Indefinitely, (was April 18-19, Denver, CO)

“Due to the continued uncertainty surrounding the Department of Energy fiscal year 2007 Geothermal Technologies/GeoPowering the West (GPW) budget, we have decided to postpone the 2007 GPW State Summit, planned for April 18-19th here in the Denver area, until further notice. “

For more information contact Curtis Framel or Sandy Glatt at 303-275-4872 or 303-275-4857 respectively.

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/>.*

GEOHERMAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE WORKSHOP, Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center, May 10, 2007

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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:

Dan Schochet, Vice President, ORMAT
 Mr. Magnus Bjarnason, Executive Vice President, Glitnir Bank,
 Asgeir Margeirsson, CEO, Geyir 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

Invited:

California Assemblyman Jared Huffman, Chairman Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety
 Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco
 Jack Cargas, Lockwood Capital
 Ryan Bennett, Green Rock Capital
 Bob Bannack, Dundee Securities
 V. John White, Executive Director, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies
 The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California

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

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