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State News

Alaska: Renewable Energy Bill Would Award Grants and Loans

Rep. Bill Thomas, a Republican from Haines, Alaska, pitched a renewable energy bill that had gone without a hearing since last year, according to newsminer.com.

Thomas, cosponsor of HB 152, supports it as a way to develop renewable energy in Alaska and lower the overall cost of electricity in Alaska.

It would set up a state fund for renewable energy projects and a system for evaluating proposals and awarding grants and loans. The grants and loans would go to projects that need help with up-front costs but have long-term economic benefits.

Thomas told the press that Alaska is an excellent source of renewable energy. “We have wind — lots of wind—geothermal, solar and hydro.”

For more information, visit <http://newsminer.com/news/2008/mar/28/renewable-energy-bill-gets-unstuck/>.

Colorado: New Bill Will Credit Renewable Energy Use

Last week, Gov. Bill Ritter signed the Homegrown Renewable Power Act, according to the *Boulder County Business Report*.

House Bill 1160 will require rural cooperative electric associations to credit homes and businesses for their unused electricity generated by solar, wind or geothermal systems, which is then cycled back to their utility power grids.

Some municipally owned utilities are also affected by the law if they have more than 5,000 customers, including Longmont, Loveland, Estes Park, and Fort Collins.

The law will take effect in August.

See <http://www.bcb.com/article.asp?id=92257>.

Colorado: New Mayor Ready to Support Energy Innovations

Mayor Bob Risch of Ouray, Colorado addressed the Ouray Business Roundtable last week with ideas on how the city can improve its energy consumption, according to *The Hub*.

Risch focused on two ideas, ecotourism and energy innovation. He discussed geothermal energy as an alternative source that is ready to be explored as an option.

Risch noted that Ouray is blessed with the natural resources to not only drastically reduce our collective carbon footprint, but to possibly produce more energy than we consume, and that the alternative sources—geothermal and hydro—are right under our noses.

For more information, visit http://www.ouraynews.com/Articles-i-2008-03-28-176292.112113_Exciting_visionsfor_citys_future.html.

Nevada: New Investments Help Nevada’s Energy Goal

As reported above in our headlines under Company News, Ormat and Nevada Power are partnering to build a geothermal plant near Fallon, Nevada.

The Las Vegas Sun reports that this is welcome news for Nevada. State law requires that Nevada utilities obtain 20% of their energy from renewable sources by 2015, and this new development will help make that happen.

Currently, Nevada utilities overwhelmingly burn coal and natural gas in generating about half of the state's demand for electricity. They buy the rest from out-of-state energy producers. During Nevada's peak hours of demand, from June to September, as many as 6,700 MW are required.

Nevada is the country's leading producer of geothermal energy.

For more information, visit <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/mar/28/one-small-step/>.

Oregon: Raser Wins Approval for Plant in Southern Oregon

Raser Technologies has won land-use approval for a 10-MW power plant using geothermal heat on a farm in Southern Oregon, according to *The Examiner*.

The \$35 million plant is proposed for an area south of Klamath Falls where the owners already use geothermal heat for greenhouses and a biofuels facility.

The plant would provide enough power for about 10,000 homes.

The Klamath County Planning Commission unanimously approved the proposal this week. It is uncertain when construction will begin.

See http://www.examiner.com/a-1304950-Geothermal_plant_wins_land_use_approval_in_Southern_Oregon.html.

Vermont: Clean Energy Bill Establishes Efficiency Program

[PRESS RELEASE] Governor Signs Energy Efficiency and Affordability Act -- Praises Legislature for 'putting progress first'

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Jim Douglas signed into law today the Energy Efficiency and Affordability Act of 2008 establishing an efficiency program to help homeowners and businesses reduce fuel consumption and save money.

“In previous sessions, we’ve seen permit reform, e-State telecommunications legislation, workers compensation reform, Next Generation college scholarship and workforce training programs, and landmark health care reform all pass when the focus is on areas where we agree and can make progress,” the Governor said. “This year’s energy efficiency and affordability bill demonstrates how, by working together, we can make Vermont more affordable and take meaningful steps to address global climate change.”

Over the past few years, the rising cost of heating fuel has put significant financial pressure on homes and businesses. Since 2004, the average Vermonter is paying about \$500 more each year, the Governor said.

“As world demand for fossil fuels continues to increase, and as prices continue to rise, Vermonters are looking for innovative ways to save money and limit exposure to these volatile markets,” the Governor said. “That is why I am so pleased we are taking this step. Now we are prepared to help Vermonters better manage their heating resources, protect our environment and save money.”

The new all fuels efficiency program will coordinate expertise, technical assistance, and resources to help Vermonters make their homes and businesses more energy efficient.

“Our goal is to provide a range of financial support for physical enhancements to homes and businesses,” the Governor said. “We envision the use of grants and loan programs to help reduce the initial expense of these investments, and help spark growth in the private home efficiency market.”

The legislation also continues to support the use of renewable energy in Vermont through an increased use of net metering, changes to farm energy programs and the use of biodiesel in state buildings and vehicle fleet.

Governor Douglas said it was critically important that the bill not increase the tax burden on Vermonters. That is why \$1.6 million of funding for the all fuels program will come from either existing revenues. Another \$2.4 million in funding will come from Vermont’s participation in the Region Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), he said.

“I am very proud of the fact that Vermont is the nation’s greenest state. Because we have made responsible decisions in recent years regarding our energy development and the preservation of our green space, Vermont absorbs more carbon than we produce,” Douglas said. “This puts us in a strong position to capitalize on our RGGI relationship to obtain new revenues to make sustainable invests in this energy efficiency and affordability.”

Governor Douglas said this investment could result in an almost 3 to 1 return for homes and businesses that make changes.

“By dealing aggressively with the rising fuel costs, this investment will make Vermont a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family,” he said.

See <http://governor.vermont.gov/tools/index.php?topic=GovPressReleases&id=2863&v=Article>.

National News

MMS Issues Production and Royalty Rules

[PRESS RELEASE] Amended Regulations Guide Production and Royalty Reporting—MMS Publishes Final Rule in Federal Register

DENVER – Amended regulations regarding the reporting of production and royalties on oil, gas, coal and geothermal resources produced on Federal and American Indian lands were published today in the Federal Register.

The amended regulations, published by the Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service (MMS), are designed to align the rules with current MMS business practices. These amendments reflect changes that were originally implemented as a result of a major re-engineering of MMS’s financial systems in 2001. That re-engineering, as well as other changes required by law, resulted in changes to, or elimination of, some forms and requirements. The amended regulations published today align the regulations with current reporting requirements.

Among other provisions, the amendments align the regulations with updated reporting forms; eliminate references to certain report forms and codes that are no longer applicable; move up the due date for production reports submitted electronically; update certain references; clarify the requirement for reporting production inventory; eliminate references to some electronic reporting options that no longer exist; and clarify the reporting requirement for taxpayer identification numbers.

The amended regulations will become effective in 30 days.

The Federal Register Notice can be accessed via the web at: www.mrm.mms.gov.

Company News

Ormat Announces Joint Geothermal Project With Nevada Power

[PRESS RELEASE] Ormat Announces First Geothermal Joint Ownership with Investor Owned Utility

Reno, Nevada, March 26, 2008 - Ormat Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: ORA), a leading geothermal developer in the United States, and Sierra Pacific Resources (NYSE: SRP) announce a collaboration that opens a new frontier in bringing geothermal to the forefront of utility energy development. Ormat Nevada, Inc. and Nevada Power Company, respective subsidiaries of the two companies, have entered into a Joint Ownership Agreement (JOA) for a geothermal power project that is currently under development by ORMAT Nevada, Inc.

The project, known as the Carson Lake geothermal project, is located in Churchill County, Nevada, on federal lands, a portion of which includes the Naval Air Station Fallon. Ormat Nevada Inc. will develop the project until the resource is sufficiently defined at a level that is capable of supporting at least 30 MW and Nevada Power Company has regulatory approval to acquire its 50% ownership. Following such acquisition, Ormat Nevada will continue to develop the project on behalf of the owners. If the development results in a resource that cannot support at least 30 MW, the parties are not obligated to close the acquisition and Ormat may continue development of the project by itself.

Under the JOA each party will own a 50% undivided interest in the project as tenants-in-common. To acquire its project interest, Nevada Power Company will pay 50% of the costs expended to the closing date of the acquisition plus a fee. Drilling, Construction, and O&M costs moving forward will be governed by the JOA and separate Drilling Services, EPC Agreements, and an O&M Agreement. To enable the JOA closing, the parties will amend an existing Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to reflect the joint ownership of the Project. Each party will be entitled to 50% of the production tax credit (PTC) or 50% of the Investment tax credit (ITC) as applicable. The agreement is subject to PUCN approval.

"Ormat is proud to be recognized and pursued as a credit worthy, experienced partner," said Dita Bronicki, Chief Executive Officer of Ormat. "This new development path with Sierra Pacific Resources indicates that utilities are committed to renewable energy and demonstrates that geothermal is no longer a high priced alternative but a utility-grade, baseload resource."

See <http://www.ormat.com/>.

Dutton Associates Upgrades Raser Technologies Rating

Dutton Associate has updated its opinion of Raser Technologies, upgrading to a Strong Speculative Buy rating, according to businesswire.com.

The report named the two most major positive developments at the Company:

- 1) The receipt of a commitment letter from Merrill Lynch to provide non-recourse financing for the Company's first 10.5 MW geothermal plant in Truckee, NV; the letter contemplates the financing of up to 155 MW by Merrill and;
- 2) The signing of a power purchase agreement (PPA) by the City of Anaheim. We consider them very important because they represent endorsements of the economics and technology by both a sophisticated financial institution (in a period of general risk reduction on the part of financial institutions) and a large municipality.

For more information, visit

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20080327005796&newsLang=en

DENR-EMB Signs With Philippine National Oil for Geothermal Resources

[Press Release] DENR-EMB inks MOA with PNOC-EDC for Mindanao geothermal project PIA

General Santos City (27 March) -- In a bid to safeguard the quality of the environment within the operational activities of the Mindanao Geothermal Project in Kidapawan City, Cotabato Province, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) recently inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine National Oil Company Energy Development Corporation (PNOCr- EDC).

The parties involved in signing and executing the MOA were DENR-EMB represented by Assistant Director Jonas R. Leones while that of PNOC-EDC was represented by Engr. Alejandro V. Catacutan, the Resident Manager.

In conformity with the MOA were: DENR XII Regional Executive Director Jim O Sampulna and EMB Regional Director Datu Tungko M. Saikol; representatives from the Department of Energy -Mindanao Field Office, Provincial Government of Cotabato and City Government of Kidapawan, among others also graced the said occasion.

In his privilege speech, Engr. Alejandro Catacutan, the PNOC-EDC representative, disclosed that the MOA signing deserved due recognition for it concerns the protection and preservation of our geothermal resources. He also bared that the MOA stipulates among others, the formation of a Multi-Partite Monitoring Team (MMT) to be composed of representatives from the DENR, EMB, PNOC-EDC, the Local Government Units of Cotabato Province, Kidapawan City and Barangay Ilomavis, DOE-Mindanao Field Office; DOH-Region XII; Protected Area Management Board - Mt. Apo Natural Park (PAMB - MANP) Lifestreams Institute, Inc. and MADADMA both are non - government organizations.

As a spokesperson for the PNOC-EDC, Engr. Catacutan affirmed to support all the provisions stipulated in the MOA. "We will comply with the agreement", Catacutan assured.

Ever supportive to the sustainable development of the project, DENR Regional Executive Director Jim O. Sampulna commended the efforts and initiatives of the EMB in Region XII led by Datu Tungko M. Saikol for having established a good rapport and harmonious working relationships with all the concerned agencies.

The MOA likewise covers the putting up of an Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF) by the proponent (PNOC) as a fund source for the indemnification of damages/accidents that maybe caused by the project and immediate rehabilitation, or restoration of the affected ecosystems and the Environmental Monitoring Fund (EMF), to cover the expenses and related activities of the MMT.

Done on March 26, 2008 at the EMB Regional Office XII, Koronadal City, the MOA signing was conducted immediately after the inauguration ceremony of the EMB XII Laboratory, the first laboratory given by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through the Capacity Development Project on Water Quality Management Capacity Building.

See <http://www.denr.gov.ph/>.

Renewable and Climate Change News

Renewables Influencing Election Through Green PACs

The Center for Responsive Politics reports that renewable energy Political Action Committees (PACs) have contributed a combined \$300,000 to candidates this year.

While PACS have been used to support candidates and influence politics for some time, this year has shown the emergence of green business PACs.

"Climate change is the biggest issue of our time and the most important thing we can do to fight it is to elect the right leaders," Marcia Bystryn told the press. Bystryn is the executive director of the [Climate Action PAC](#), which is targeting New York state legislative seats in 2008. "By mobilizing dollars and voters, the Climate Action PAC will demonstrate that New York's elected officials can no longer afford to give lip service to global warming. If politicians pursue an aggressive climate change agenda, we will give them our support. If not, we will help recycle them into another line of work."

RenewPAC is another PAC that will be launched later this year. It will represent the entire cleantech industry, the first PAC to do so.

The renewable energy sector is showing that its influence is growing.

For more information, visit <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.feature/id/1543>.

Senator Pushes Nevada Coal Plant for CO₂ Demonstration Project

U.S. Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) supports the Ely Energy Center project as a demonstration project on ways to capture carbon dioxide produced by such plants and store it underground, according to the *Jackson Hole Star Tribune*. The Senator is trying to get support from the federal Energy Department for the coal plant proposed by Sierra Pacific Resources for eastern Nevada.

While a coal project, this project has many links to renewables in Nevada, and it may be a way to work on resolving concerns about carbon dioxide, the leading so-called "greenhouse gas" that is linked to global warming.

Ensign told the press that the odds of a demonstration project at the Ely Energy Center remain good following the election because "it makes perfect sense from an environmental standpoint" no matter who becomes president.

Ensign says that the proposed coal plant, along with two other plants proposed for Nevada, would make possible construction of power transmission lines that also could carry power generated by geothermal, wind and other renewable energy.

For more information, visit

<http://www.jacksonholestartrib.com/articles/2008/03/28/news/regional/c3a9c1ce078a92b38725741a00066f1b.txt>.

International News

Australia: Geodynamics Completes Exploration at Innamincka

Geodynamics has been conducting geothermal exploration at Cooper Basin, according to abc.net.au.

The tiny town of Innamincka is looking forward to the benefits of the power station, which is to be built by the end of the year.

"A benefit both cost wise and also environmentally. The creek up here is very clean so we really want to stay as green as possible and with such clean power we hopefully can achieve that," Michelle Hoffmann from the Innamincka Hotel told the press.

See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/03/26/2199745.htm?site=northandwest>.

New Zealand: Minister of Energy Supports Renewables

Scoop.co.nz published comments from New Zealand Energy Minister David Parker about the country's electricity industry. According to the article, the oil and gas industry claim that renewable electricity will be more expensive than gas, but Minister Parker disagrees.

"In fact the steep rise in electricity prices that consumers have faced in the last decade has been caused mainly by the rise in gas and coal prices that have forced up the cost of fossil fuelled thermal electricity."

"To suggest that NZ gas prices will buck that recent history, and the overseas trend of increasing oil and gas prices, is optimistic and wishful thinking from a lobby group whose interest lies in selling more gas."

"It is also undeniable that current and announced new investments by electricity generators prove that they think our renewables are cheaper. They are currently building geothermal and wind power – putting their money on the line."

"New Zealand has an abundance of renewables. We used to have 90% renewable generation in New Zealand. We can get back there by 2025, by building about 175 MW of renewable energy each year. This year alone we're building around 300 MW. This shows the target is well within grasp."

"Of course with renewables, once built, their fuel is free. Wind and geothermal steam don't go up in price. The same can't be said of gas."

"The latest push by the gas lobby to increase gas usage and decrease renewables would also increase NZ's greenhouse gas emissions."

See <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0803/S00463.htm>.

New Zealand: Planned Taupo geothermal plant moves forward

A new \$450 million geothermal power station north east of Taupo has signed a major engineering procurement contract with Japanese company Sumitomo Corporation, according to the *National Business Review* of New Zealand.

The Nga Awa Purua Joint Venture is a partnership between Tauhara North No.2 Trust and generator Mighty River Power, the participants in the contract.

The project would ultimately "provide real benefits for our people, the region and New Zealand as a whole," trust chief executive Aroha Campbell told the press.

"The signing of this contract is a fantastic step forward in the involvement of Maori in the development of the country's geothermal resource," joint venture director and Mighty River Power chief executive Doug Heffernan said.

For more information, visit http://www.nbr.co.nz/home/column_article.asp?id=21033&cid=4&cname=Business+Today.

Pakistan: Environment Protection Department Comments on Power Sources

The *Daily Times* of Pakistan published an article about electricity generation, categorized energy sources from the Environment Protection Department (EPD), and their respective impact on the environment.

The article discussed the findings of the EPD. Hydropower energy, low sulfur furnace oil energy, wind energy, solar energy, gas energy, heat energy, geothermal energy, biogas energy, sugarcane molasses and tidal energy are environment-friendly power resources, according to the EPD. On the other hand, high-sulfur furnace oil energy, nuclear energy, coal energy, and fossil fuels energy may create an imbalance in the ecology.

The article listed geothermal as an “environmentally friendly” source:

“The heat present in the earth’s core is also used to produce electricity. This is one of the most harmless ways of producing electricity. Geothermal plants are working in the U.S., Iceland, Mexico, Italy, Japan, Philippines, and New Zealand, but none in Pakistan,” says the article.

For more information, visit

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2008%5C03%5C26%5Cstory_26-3-2008_pg7_45.

Philippines: Tiwi-Makban Plant Bidding to Include Supply Contract

Last week, we included news that nine companies will be bidding for the 747-MW Tiwi-Makban geothermal power complex in the Philippines.

This week, the Philippine Daily Inquirer added that the winner of the bid will already have a ready market for the electricity that the facilities will produce. State-owned National Power Corp. is considering attaching a supply contract for at least 50% of the plants' capacity.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar told the press that the transition supply contract (TSC) to be assigned to the plant package would most likely cover about 370 MW.

For more information, visit <http://business.inquirer.net/money/breakingnews/view/20080325-126202/Supply-deal-eyed-for-Tiwi-Makban-plants>.

Notices and Employment Opportunities

Employment Opportunities—Contact Energy, New Zealand

Contact Energy is a leading energy generator and retailer, and one of New Zealand’s largest publicly listed companies.

Our company is also New Zealand's leading provider of renewable geothermal energy, and is planning spend up to \$1 billion in new geothermal development over the next five years. This exciting program has created two new opportunities to join our team based at our geothermal sites in the Taupo region. These roles will see the successful candidates working on nationally significant renewable generation projects, to the benefit of the country, consumers and your own career.

Project Manager: Geothermal

Lead the construction of our newest steamfield developments as well as shaping future developments in this all important area. You can look forward to great diversity—undertaking feasibility analysis and development for consenting, drilling, steamfield works, and generation plant procurement. You’ll be developing technical specifications, negotiating works and service agreements, and supervising a team of

engineers and specialists attached to the project. You're an excellent communicator, negotiator and problem solver who is commercially savvy and can qualify any initiative with robust economic evaluation and financial modeling.

Drilling Engineer

We are expanding our drilling team to support an extended drilling program over the next three years in the Central North Island. You will have a tertiary qualification in engineering; practical experience in well design, materials procurement, drilling operations, health and safety regulations, and contractor management is an advantage. We'll consider you if you have oil and gas qualifications and experience too. If you're an experienced Drilling Engineer then you'll thrive on the opportunities available at Contact.

General Geothermal Opportunities

It goes without saying that with all of this development on the go we will require people experienced in the construction, operation and maintenance of geothermal plant. We will require people in the following areas:

- Site supervision
- Drilling engineers
- Reservoir engineers
- Mechanical/Electrical & Process engineers
- Project Managers
- Project Engineers

As an accredited employer with immigration New Zealand, Contact Energy is able to fully support all successful candidates with their Visa applications and offer generous relocation assistance. We will also recognize your expertise with an above average salary and benefits package.

If you have geothermal experience and a desire for a lifestyle change then check us out at www.contactenergy.co.nz

To apply for either of these roles please visit www.contactenergy.co.nz/careers. For more information please e-mail recruitmentcentre@contact-energy.co.nz or for a confidential conversation please ring Richard Gilhooly on +64 4 4621311.

Employment Opportunity—Terra-Gen Operating Company

Terra-Gen Operating Company is a newly formed independent power producer operating clean and reliable energy projects located in several western states. Current renewable projects include wind, geothermal, and solar. Terra-Gen is currently seeking...

Geothermal Resource Manager:

Manage/develop the geothermal resource company wide. Maintain departmental budget. Direct/support geological/resource needs i.e., on-going geologic model, temperature model, reservoir and well performance evaluation. Evaluate geothermal reservoirs, provides recommendations for well field operations. Target drilling for production and injection wells. Provide technical support for well maintenance i.e., workovers, acid jobs, caustic jobs, surveys, etc. Desired qualification: Relevant BS from 4 yr college or university; or 10 yrs related exp and/or training; or equal education and experience. Geological and temperature modeling knowledge.

Environmental Manager:

Supervise the Environmental Compliance Dept personnel. Oversee departmental budget integrated into plant budgets. Document, review and track department activities, reports, compliance documents, audits, and investigations. Ensure company operations comply with environmental permit requirements and federal, state and county/district regulations. Maintain an effective relationship with regulatory agencies. Prepare and update company programs, policies, and procedures for safety and environmental compliance. Organize, develop, implement and administer the company's safety program. Desired qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree from a 4-yr college or university; and 8+ yrs related experience and/or training; or equal education and experience. Environmental and safety regulation knowledge.

To apply for either position, send a resume to Terra-Gen Operating Company, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 1690, Inyokern, CA 93527, fax to 760-764-1318, or email to djackson@tgpny.com. Terra-Gen Operating Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Employment Opportunities—Mighty River Power

Mighty River Power's diverse generation portfolio helps New Zealand ensure its ability to meet future energy needs. Mighty River Power is an integrated energy generation and retail business with a diverse and expanding portfolio of generation assets throughout the North Island of New Zealand. That portfolio includes rapidly growing geothermal interests including those at Mokai, Rotokawa, Kawerau, and throughout the Taupo Volcanic Region. Mighty River Power's geothermal team performs to world class standards and is focused on implementing cutting-edge technology to the development of these renewable and greenhouse friendly energy resources. Rapid growth in our geothermal business has increased their need for engineers to join the geothermal team. They're looking for motivated engineers with good written and verbal English skill. They offer a stimulating environment for those who want to apply their geothermal expertise, whilst enjoying New Zealand's extensive lifestyle opportunities.

Reservoir Engineer:

As a reservoir engineer you will:

- Design and supervise well tests, and collect and interpret results
- Propose and oversee field monitoring projects
- Characterize resource behavior using sophisticated computer modeling software.
- Provide valuable technical support to high-dollar energy resource projects.

An engineering, hydrology or applied maths degree are relevant qualifications. An interest in real-world applications in a mixed office and outdoor environment is essential, as well as interests in geology, civil engineering, hydrology and computer modeling. Specialized knowledge and skills in geothermal field management, resource monitoring and well testing will be developed over time. This position reports to the Geoscience Manager and is located in Hamilton.

Senior Mechanical Engineer:

As a senior mechanical engineer you will:

- provide vital strategic support to both operations and new generation development
- provide engineering and economic evaluation for enhancement opportunities of existing assets and new developments
- oversee and provide leadership for a multi-disciplined team of engineers.
- ensure that the company's strategic goals are achieved through assurance of plant performance in consideration of life cycle costs

The ideal person for this role will hold a relevant engineering qualification and have more than 10 yr experience in geothermal projects. This position reports to the Geothermal Engineering Manager and is located in Hamilton.

Plant Chemical Engineer:

As plant chemical engineer you will:

- be responsible for determining appropriate treatment processes throughout the different geothermal power generation cycles
- oversee various specialist service providers
- review industry trends to ensure best practice principles are being applied
- specify and review the design of new installations
- supervise investigations

The ideal person for this role will hold a relevant engineering qualification and have more than 5 yr experience in geothermal power plant operation. This position reports to the Operations Manager and is located in Taupo.

Maintenance Manager:

As maintenance manager, responsible for a portfolio of power generation plant currently totaling 150MW and expanding to 500MW in the near future, you will:

- proactively improve and implement systems to enhance plant availability
- oversee and provide leadership for a multi-disciplined team of engineers.
- remain aware and trained on all technical advancements in the area of responsibility
- manage plant level capital projects in conjunction with the engineering team

This role will require a relevant engineering qualification and have more than 10 yr experience in geothermal power plant operation, including demonstrated line management skills. This position reports to the Operations Manager and is located in Taupo.

Drilling Engineer:

As a drilling engineer you will:

- Write drilling programs and monitor drilling progress
- Assist the onsite drilling supervisor with implementation of high profile drilling operations
- Review operations for process improvements
- Provide technical support to field managers and reservoir groups for well maintenance.

An engineering degree with computer skills and good written and spoken English communications skills are required. Specialized knowledge and skills in geothermal drilling are important and additional experienced can be developed over time where needed. This position reports to the Drilling Manager—Geothermal and is located in Hamilton.

If you would like more information about Mighty River Power please see the company Web site at www.mightyriver.co.nz. If you would like more information about any of these vacancies or wish to apply then email careers@mightyriver.co.nz, or phone +64 9 5803612, or post your application to Human Resources, Private Bag 92008, Auckland Mail Centre.

Employment Opportunity—Nevada Geothermal Power Inc.

Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. is seeking an experienced Geothermal Resource Exploration and Development Manager. Nevada Geothermal Power's 30 MW geothermal power development at Blue Mountain near Winnemucca is financed to production (\$120 million). This dynamic company seeks to significantly expand the resource base at Blue Mountain and is actively developing other geothermal power projects to meet the increasing demand for clean energy. The Company is well financed and expects significant growth through the next decade.

Geothermal Resource Exploration and Development Manager:

This is a senior management position that requires a MS in Geological Sciences, Geological Engineering or Hydrology with 10+ yr experience with geothermal field development. The successful candidate will plan and implement exploration and geothermal reservoir evaluation programs using a multi-disciplined approach involving geology, geochemistry, geophysics, and drilling up to and including large scale development wells, helping to achieve the Company's objective for growth. The position is based in Reno and/or Winnemucca and will involve supervision of resource technical staff and consultants. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required as is a familiarity with budgets and cost controls.

The Company offers excellent health benefits, competitive remuneration, opportunities for career advancement in an exciting field.

To apply, fax resumes to 604-688-5926 or email resumes to careers@nevadageothermal.com.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

RFP for Enhanced Geothermal Systems—U.S. Department of Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy announces its intent to request proposals for Enhanced Geothermal Systems, to demonstrate reservoir stimulation techniques at existing geothermal fields; establish an EGS field validation site where DOE and its partners can perform high-risk experiments under actual field conditions; develop new sensors, down-hole tools, and mapping capabilities able to operate at greater depths and higher reservoir temperatures; and provide outreach to the geothermal community to convey the benefits and potential opportunities of EGS technologies.

Funding amount and number of awards anticipated was not posted at this time.

For more info, contact James Damm at james.damm@go.doe.gov or go to: <http://e-center.doe.gov/doebiz.nsf/UNID/5E8F90C7ED4B98848525740400568EF1?OpenDocument>.

SMUD to Release 2008 Renewable Energy RFO (Due April)

On January 4, The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will release a Request for Offers (RFO) of renewable energy for power purchase agreements (PPA). Proposals will be due early April.

SMUD has a goal to meet 23% of its retail electricity sales with renewable energy by 2011 and beyond. The utility's need for renewable energy continues to increase due to its commitment to expand the amount of power from renewable sources in its power mix and a need to replace current contracts that expire in the coming years.

The 2008 solicitation is for PPA offers of California RPS eligible conventional renewables, which include resources such as wind, geothermal, small hydroelectric, landfill gas, biomass and biodiesel. A separate RFO for emerging renewable technologies is planned for mid-2008.

Interested parties can download the RFO documents from SMUD's Electronic Bid Solicitation System (EBSS) Web site at www.bids.smud.org when it becomes available. Registration to the EBSS site is required to access the documents.

SMUD recommends that those interested in this and future solicitations list their company name in the "Renewable Power" category as well as 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 RFO and will also receive notification of future solicitations for purchase of renewable energy resources.

For additional information, contact Cesar J. Beltran at (916) 732-6925 or cbeltra@smud.org.

RFO for Supply of Renewable Energy Resources— San Diego Gas & Electric (Due April 30)

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) today announced it has issued a competitive solicitation seeking supply of renewable-energy resources to help the utility meet California's mandate to derive 20% of its energy from renewable sources starting in 2010. This latest solicitation, also known as a "request for offers" (RFO), will help to further increase SDG&E's supplies of clean, renewable power for the region's energy portfolio.

"For the last five years, SDG&E has aggressively pursued renewable energy from developers whose projects deliver clean energy to our customers in San Diego and South Orange Counties," said Matt Burkhart, vice president electric and gas procurement for SDG&E. "For this year's solicitation, SDG&E seeks both long-term and short-term contracts that will build on our existing clean, 'green' energy resources and will aid us in our effort to secure 20% of our energy from renewables by 2010."

Through the bidding process, or RFO, SDG&E is seeking energy that comes from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and any other clean, renewable resource that qualifies under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard program. The plants that produce the power can be inside or outside the SDG&E service territory. Bids are due April 30, 2008.

The evaluation and selection of offers includes active participation by SDG&E's Procurement Review Group, comprised of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff, consumer advocates and other non-market participants, as well as an independent evaluator. These entities are involved at all stages of the process, including the preparation of the RFO, bid evaluation and determination of the final "short list" of bidders. Once the evaluation process is completed, all proposed contracts are subject to CPUC review and approval.

More information about this latest RFO for renewable energy is available at <http://www.sdge.com/renewablerfo2008>.

RFP for Renewable Power Projects—Southern California Edison (Due May)

Southern California Edison is looking for both short-term and long-term contracts for projects that produce solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal energy, according to a release. All proposals are welcome, but the company is especially interested in the Tehachapi area of Kern County.

Proposals are due in May 2008. SCE hopes to submit completed contracts to the California Public Utilities Commission by December.

Contact vanessa.mcgrady@sce.com. Visit the Southern California Edison Web site at <http://www.sce.com/>.

RFP Climate Change and Sustainability Conferences (Due June 5 and December 9)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a Broad Agency Announcement for Conferences, Workshops, and/or Meetings. EPA seeks applicants for the planning, arranging, administering and/or conducting of conferences and workshops in areas including, but not limited to: Economics and sustainability; air and global climate change; and technology. \$500K expected to be available, up to 15 awards anticipated. Proposals due 1/7/08, 6/5/08 and 12/9/08.

For more information, contact Bernice Smith at smith.bernicel@epa.gov or go to http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_baa.html. Refer to Sol# EPA-C2008-BAA. (Grants.gov 12/6/07)

Upcoming Events

Geothermal Working Group Meeting, April 8, Denver, CO

The Colorado Governor's Energy Office is sponsoring a Geothermal Working Group Meeting in Denver on April 8th. The agenda includes sessions on geothermal electricity development in Colorado and ground source heat pump applications.

Persons interested in this event are invited to contact John Gitchell at John@SustainableConferences.com.

MIT Energy Conference, April 11–12, Cambridge, MA

Registration is now open for the MIT Energy Conference, which brings together leaders in technology, policy, entrepreneurship, and finance to discuss multidisciplinary solutions to our global energy challenges. Based on the 2008 theme of “Solutions that Scale,” panel sessions will cover: Nuclear Power, End-Use Efficiency, Carbon Capture and Sequestration, Geothermal Energy, Transmission Infrastructure, Vehicles, and the all-conference session Renewables at Scale. Many of these panels will be moderated by MIT faculty who are leading researchers in these fields.

For more information and to register, visit <http://mitenergyconference.com/>.

Geothermal Working Group Meeting, April 22–23, Cedar City, UT

The next Geothermal Working Group Meeting will be at Southern Utah University. The theme will be "Geothermal Activities and Potential in Southwestern Utah: Ground Source Heat-Pumps to Electrical Generation.

Day one will offer presentations from private geothermal developers, utilities, and other industry members.

Day two will consist of an all day field trip to Blundell Geothermal Power Plant and Milgro Nursery in Newcastle, Utah.

Further event details will be announced soon.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jason Berry at jasonberry@utah.gov or 801-538-5413.

4th International Geothermal Conference, April 24, Freiburg, Germany

The International Geothermal Conference is one of the leading event for geothermal developers, finance providers and policymakers in Germany. The conference provides profound information about geothermal projects and creates ideal conditions to network with international business partners. The event will bring high level representatives such as Karl Gawell, director of the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), who will report on the state of US geothermal activities. Michael Kraml, consultant at the Federal Institute of Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) will offer high-quality information about current developments in South America and East Africa. A speech on the political frameworks, especially the „Erneuerbare-Energie-Gesetz“ (Renewable Energy Sources Act) and its essential effect on market developments in Germany will be given by Cornelia Viertl, consultant at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Following the lectures four workshops will take place and provide opportunity to exchange information about technical demands, project financing instruments and the legal framework situation. After keynote speeches and the presentation of a case study, representatives of banks, public authorities, drilling and insurance companies will offer sufficient time to share experiences and information during the following panel discussions. Speeches and workshops will be translated simultaneously into English and German in parts.

As last year, the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) oversees the International Geothermal Conference 2008. We are also happy to present one of the leading magazines for renewable energy, Sun & Wind, and vdi-nachrichten as the new media partners of the conference. Cooperation partners are amongst others the German Energy Agency dean as well as the International Geothermal Association (IGA). The conference invites investors, insurances, insurance companies, project developers, technology experts, consultants, energy providers, local authorities, political stakeholders and associations. The application fee is 300 Euro plus VAT.

For further information please visit: www.geothermiekonferenz.de.

Geothermal Energy Working Group Meeting, May 13, Santa Fe, NM

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Location: Porter Hall, Wendell Chino Building, 1220 South Saint Francis, Santa Fe, NM

Time: 8:00am–4:30pm

Meeting Overview:

This meeting will provide a forum on the exchange of information concerning the development of geothermal energy projects in New Mexico. Topics include but are not limited to: Ground Source Heat Pump Technology, Direct Use, District Heating Applications and Electricity Production.

Specific Goals of the Meeting Include:

- Updates on Strategic Planning action items for the working group
- Status of geothermal projects in NM
- Identify and discuss challenges concerning geothermal development in NM
- Sustainability of GSHP systems
- Discussion of drilling techniques and costs

Tentative Schedule:

8:00am—Sign in, Welcome

8:30am–Noon—Presentations

Noon–1:30pm—Lunch on your own

1:30–2:30pm—Presentations

2:30–4:00pm—Round Table Topics

4:00–4:30pm—Action Items, Adjourn

For information, contact Steve Lucero at 505.476.3324 or stephen.lucero@state.nm.us.

SMU Geothermal Conference, June 17–18, Dallas, Texas

Southern Methodist University will put on a Geothermal Conference June 17–18. This international conference specializes in the enhancement of existing oil & gas wells for electrical production. According to SMU, “Geothermal energy can be extracted from the well fluids using newly designed compact turbines with binary fluids. These systems are now sized to fit single wells or multiple wells with an approximate fluid temperature differential of 120°F+ between produced and cooling temperatures. Thus, in the Gulf Coast temperatures of 225°F or higher are eligible. This electrical production (geothermal energy) is renewable and considered a baseload source and is capable of producing 24 hours a day. This capability gives new life to low yield producers with high water volume and a reason to keep them pumping. Undesirable high water flow geopressure wells become an immediate revenue path if converted to electrical production. With a system installed in Chena Hot Springs, Alaska and another installation going into the Wyoming Rocky Mountain Oil Field Testing Center, the ability to use low temperature fluids is no longer just a concept, rather it’s a reality. New technology, data, and economics will be presented to assist you in developing your company’s renewable energy portfolio using existing wells.

Topics Presented To Include:

- Power Generation Technology Advancements
- Geothermal Resource Exploration and Assessment
- Reservoir Engineering
- Fracturing
- Geopressure Development

- Tight Gas Sands Development
- Well Longevity—Corrosion and Scaling Management
- Enhanced Geothermal Systems – International
- Green Power for Utilities (RECs)
- Economics and Business Plan
- Transmission needs
- Regulations and Leasing
- Financing
- Demonstration Sites

For more information and to read the Call for Papers, visit http://smu.edu/geothermal/Oil&Gas/2008/Geothermal_Energy_Utilization.htm.

GEA Trade Show/GRC Annual Meeting, October 5–8, Reno, Nevada

The GEA Trade Show and GRC Annual Meeting will take place October 5-8 Peppermill in Reno, Nevada. Annually, Geothermal Energy Association hosts a wide range of companies working in the U.S. and abroad within the geothermal power industry at its Trade Show. Last year in Reno/Sparks, Nevada, 71 booths were visited by over 1000 visitors. With dramatic growth underway in geothermal power projects in the U.S. and internationally, we expect the 2008 trade show in Reno to be our largest event yet!

For more information about the GEA Trade Show, visit http://www.geo-energy.org/2008_ts/index.htm. For information about the GRC Annual Meeting, go to <http://www.geothermal.org>.

2nd African Rift Geothermal Conference, November 25–29, Entebbe, Uganda

The second International Geothermal Conference on the African Rift will be held in Entebbe, Uganda. The conference is designed as a forum for the exchange of information on the African Rift Geothermal Resources and for discussion of the current state of scientific knowledge and understanding of all aspects of exploration and development of geothermal resources, including exploration, field and conversion technology, design and construction, environmental considerations, financial, marketing, and operational aspects.

Scientific Program

The Scientific Program of the conference consists of Plenary Lectures, Poster presentations, Workshop and Field Trips. The structure and the list of sessions below are preliminary.

A number of Keynote addresses will be given by eminent scientists, on subjects relevant to the main themes of the conference (as indicated in this circular). Lectures will be open to all participants and will take place in a large conference hall.

Sessions

The following will be the themes for oral and poster sessions:

- Session 1: Exploration: Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, and Hydrology
- Session 2: Drilling and well design: Shallow and deep, Production and Injection
- Session 3: Field development, Production Technology, Power generation & Operation.
- Session 4: Reservoir Engineering: Well Testing, Injection, and Modeling
- Session 5: Case Histories
- Session 6: Economics and Financing
- Session 7: Environmental, Social, Legal and Institutional Aspects
- Session 8: Direct Use: Agri- and aquaculture, Mineral extraction, Manufacturing, Air conditioning etc.

Contributions

The organizers of ARGeoC2 welcome submission of titles/extended abstracts for oral and poster presentations from all geoscientists, engineers and others involved in geothermal resources exploration and

development. Authors may submit papers for publication only, or for presentation and publication in “The Conference Proceedings”. Papers may be selected for presentation in a technical session, or poster session. Selection of papers for presentation will be based on subject material suitability, professional standards of writing, and quality of the illustrations. Time allotted for oral presentations will be 15 minutes each, with an additional 5 minutes for discussion. Oral presentations will be illustrated with LCD Projector in PowerPoint.

For more information and to register, contact Department of Geological Survey and Mines, Plot 21–29, Johnstone Road, P.O Box 9, Entebbe, Uganda. Phone: +256 712 812231, +256 712 835843, +256 773 129941. Fax: +256 414 320364. E-mail: argeoC2@minerals.go.ug or bahati@minerals.go.ug.



GEA Update

A newsletter for GEA Members written by Leslie Blodgett 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