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National News

Obama Administration Announces Billions in Lending Authority for Renewable Energy Projects and to Modernize the Grid

Loan Guarantees Will Help Create New Jobs while Fostering Clean Energy Innovation

Washington, DC – U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today that the Department of Energy will provide up to \$30 billion in loan guarantees, depending on the applications and market conditions, for renewable energy projects. Another \$750 million will support several billion dollars more in loan guarantees for projects that increase the reliability, efficiency and security of the nation's transmission system. The two new loan guarantee solicitations announced today are being funded partly through the Recovery Act and partly through 2009 appropriations.

“These investments will be used to create jobs, spur the development of innovative clean energy technologies, and help ensure a smart, strong and secure grid that will deliver renewable power more effectively and reliably,” said Secretary Chu. “This administration has set a goal of doubling renewable electricity generation over the next three years. To achieve that goal, we need to accelerate renewable project development by ensuring access to capital for advanced technology projects. We also need a grid that can move clean energy from the places it can be produced to the places where it can be used and that can integrate variable sources of power, like wind and solar.”

The lending authority includes:

- Up to \$8.5 billion in lending authority supported by 2009 annual appropriations for renewable energy.
- Up to \$2 billion in subsidy costs, provided by the Recovery Act, to support billions in loans for renewable energy and electric power transmission projects.
- Up to \$500 million in subsidy costs to support loans for cutting edge biofuel projects funded by the Recovery Act.
- Up to \$750 million in subsidy costs, provided by the Recovery Act, to support loans for large transmission infrastructure projects in the U.S. that use commercial technologies and begin construction by September 30, 2011.

The two solicitations issued today mark the sixth and seventh rounds of solicitations by the Department's Loan Guarantee Program, which encourages the commercial use of new or improved energy technologies to help foster clean energy projects. Applications will be accepted over the next 45 days. The Department has streamlined its processes to accelerate these new loan solicitations. By investing in both renewable energy technology for generating electricity and technologies to modernize the country's transmission system, the Recovery Act targets the full integration of renewable energy sources onto the electric grid. Read more information on this solicitation and the Department's [Loan Guarantee Program](#). Additional loan guarantee solicitations funded by the Recovery Act will be announced soon.

Applications for Treasury Grant Program Now Being Accepted

The Treasury Department has announced they will begin accepting applications for the Grants-in-Lieu of Tax Credit program (Sec. 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) during the first week in August. The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of the Treasury estimate distributing at least \$3 billion to approximately 5,000 renewable energy production facilities, according to DOE's Web site.

Applications must be submitted after the property is placed in service and before October 1, 2011. If construction begins in 2009 or 2010 it must be placed in service by the end of 2013 for geothermal projects (other dates apply for other renewable types). Payments will be made within 60 days after the application is

received. The amount generally is equal to the amount of the investment tax credit (ITC) for which the project would otherwise have been eligible, generally 30% of the qualified cost of the project, according to stoel.com.

"As we move quickly to get our economy back on track and to repair the financial system, we must make investments that lay the foundation for a stronger economic future," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told press. "Too many renewable energy projects have stalled due to a lack of financing. The Recovery Act program will lead to investment in our long-term energy needs, move us towards energy independence, increase jobs at energy-specific businesses, and protect our environment."

See <http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml>, http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=217, and <http://www.stoel.com/showalert.aspx?Show=5682>.

Cash for Clunkers Pulls Funding from DOE Loan Guarantee Program

Just before taking their August recess, the House of Representatives passed legislation adding \$2 billion to the Cash for Clunkers program, which was viewed as a wildly popular success in stimulating the moribund auto industry. But, while press covered the action feverishly, little attention was paid to the fact that the \$2 billion was being transferred from the funds made available for the DOE loan guarantee programs.

A wide range of groups and companies express strong concern that the move could undercut these needed programs, particularly the program to provide loan guarantees for renewable energy projects, but congressional and Administration sources said that the loan guarantee program would be "replenished" in the near future, and argued that the shift would do no damage to the DOE programs.

The details of the Senate version of the House measure, HR 3435, were still unclear, but it appeared likely that a version of the bill would pass the Senate this week to ensure ample funding to continue the popular auto industry stimulus measure. You can obtain additional information on this legislation, and its status, from the Library of Congress' information system at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

GTP Plan Describes RD&D for Geothermal Technologies to 2015, Program Activities to 2025

The Geothermal Technologies Program (GTP) Multi-Year Research, Development and Demonstration (MYRDD) Plan describes the planned research, development and demonstration (RD&D) activities for geothermal technologies through 2015, with additional information on potential program activities through 2025. Months of planning, peer reviews, and internal analysis went into the draft.

"This Multi-Year Research, Development, and Demonstration (MYRD&D) Program Plan is only the first step in a new program strategy," according to the Executive Summary of the report. "Lessons learned will inform Program decision-making and research and development planning to insure that system demonstrations are of the greatest possible value to industry stakeholders engaged in EGS commercialization. As more analyses are performed and the Systems Demonstrations projects progress, project data will inform future research and development activities."

GTP has committed to demonstrate by 2015 through geothermal energy developers that enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) is technically feasible. The MYRDD Plan describes how GTP's activities over the next seven years will achieve this goal. The report named three steps in pursuing EGS demonstrations goals:

- Validating the applicability of existing technologies.
- Establishing a broad knowledge base covering existing technologies.
- Thoroughly documenting the lessons learned to minimize duplicative efforts.

“The most critical near-term Program activity is demonstration of Enhanced Geothermal Systems,” the report states. “The key decision point for EGS demonstrations is whether these systems can be shown to be technically feasible by 2015. During 2006 EGS workshops, geothermal industry representatives agreed that initial EGS demonstrations should occur where data already exists indicating a favorable target for potential EGS development and electricity production. Accessibility to the grid, cooperative industry partner(s) with available land, and a favorable environmental setting are all critical for site selection.

The MYRDD Plan can be downloaded, and a comments form for feedback is available, at <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/geothermal/plans.html>.

Transmission Planning Needs Geothermal Backbone; GEA Submits Comments on RETI Phase 2A Report

In June 2009, several western states and the Western Governor’s Association (WGA) simultaneously released long-awaited studies that show where the nation’s best renewable energy resources are located, and how we might access these areas through an expanded electricity transmission grid. After a thorough review of the WGA, California, and Nevada renewable energy reports, the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) believes that the new economic and environmental data, and the long-understood value of grid reliability, should lead states such as California and Nevada to one, simple conclusion: if we are about to spend billions of dollars on developing new renewable energy projects and transforming our electricity grid to access “green electrons”, let’s start our transmission planning with a focus on geothermal power as the resource that will serve as the reliable “backbone” for this new energy delivery system.

The GEA submitted formal comments on the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) Draft Final Phase 2A Report, distributed July 22, that provide information supporting this conclusion. Prepared by John McCaull, GEA’s Western States Representative, the comments conclude that geothermal energy is not only the best source of renewable energy that mimics the “baseload” and capacity values and attributes of coal, gas and nuclear power, but geothermal energy resources are actually currently available for significant, near-term development and deployment. In other words, GEA is proposing a “high geothermal” case for consideration by California and Nevada energy agencies, utilities, stakeholders and local communities as the most cost-effective means to get to 20% and higher RPS targets.

GEA’s comments outline background on the issues and reference documented cost-effectiveness and environmental advantages to focusing the next phases of RETI and RETAAC’s detailed transmission planning and permitting on geothermal energy resource areas. GEA also provides specific recommendations for RETI Phase 2B-Phase 3 work plans:

1. Imperial Valley: Reconvene the Imperial Valley Study Group to specify a phased development plan for the construction of transmission upgrades capable of exporting 2,000 megawatts (MW) of geothermal power from the Imperial Valley region of California. It is worth noting that the 2005 work of this group and the California Energy Commission estimated 2142 MW of geothermal capacity in the Imperial Valley, which is almost 800 MW more than the RETI estimate of 1370 MW.

2. Central Nevada/Eastern Sierra: In cooperation with the RETAAC process, create a Central Nevada-Eastern Sierra Transmission Study Group that focuses on the southern and central Nevada transmission linkages identified in the RETAAC Report as the “Nevada New Export Alternatives” map (Figure 4, page 55 of RETAAC). With updated information from Nevada’s RETAAC report for their geothermal energy zones (G1-G3), it would appear that there are actually approximately 700-900 MW of high-quality geothermal resources that should be considered by RETI as the NV CREZ capacity estimates. RETI should revise their Northern NV and Central NV CREZ numbers accordingly (See Table 7, Geothermal Zones Summary, Page 41 of RETAAC Phase 2 Report).

3. Northern California, Northern Nevada, and Oregon: The recent announcements that Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) has terminated its Transmission Project does not in any way diminish the need or attractiveness of a northern California transmission plan. As TANC’s Board stated,

“identifying solutions for providing reliable and cost-effective transmission service to customers throughout northern California, in accordance with California’s energy goals and policies.” In the wake of the TANC Transmission Project termination, GEA recommends that California create a Northern California/Out of State Study Group that focuses on bringing geothermal power from Northern Nevada, Oregon and Northern California into the ISO system.

4. GEA would like RETI to update the Draft Final Phase 2A Report to cite the publication of the RETAAC Phase II Report, and specifically note the conclusions of the Report section on “Transmission for Export.” The following map from the RETAAC Report shows the spectrum of alternatives that relate to inter-state transmission options for CA and NV.

GEA's comments also stressed the importance of implementing a key recommendation of the Nevada Transmission Task Force effort -- building a North-South Transmission line to link Northern Nevada Renewable energy resources with Southern Nevada load centers. GEA's comments added, "As the RETAAC Phase I Report stated, “The Governor’s Office support the construction of a transmission line to connect the state’s northern and southern electric grids of sufficient capacity to provide Nevada Power with their non-solar renewable energy requirements from the abundant geothermal and wind resources in northern Nevada and provide Sierra Pacific Power access to the abundant solar resources in Southern Nevada.” RETI transmission planning that examines out of state resource scenarios should work with NV Energy and the state of Nevada to model the existence of this line by 2012."

For a copy of GEA's Transmission Comments, email research@geo-energy.org. Please put "Request for GEA Transmission Comments" in the subject line.

Health Care May Push Climate Bill to Next Year

With the fight over health care on Capitol Hill tying up key senators, the climate change bill may be pushed aside this year, according to politico.com. And it may be even harder to pass a bill next year, when Democrats will be even more afraid of taking unpopular votes during an election cycle.

Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) plans to release her cap-and-trade legislation when Congress returns from recess in September. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) will then piece together the larger legislation after Boxer’s committee, along with five other panels — Agriculture, Commerce, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance and Foreign Relations — complete work on the bill by Sept. 28.

“The reality is [the health reform bill] is going to happen before cap and trade,” said House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. Collin Peterson, who’s been working with farm-state senators on the climate legislation. “Who knows if it will ever come out of the Senate?”

On the other hand, “Everything is hard, everything is slow,” said West Virginia Democratic Sen. John Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. “My answer to that is let’s do what we always did with [former Senate Majority Leader] George Mitchell and stay until Dec. 22. We did that every year he was majority leader.”

Democrats would like to pass legislation before the Copenhagen international climate negotiations in December, as it will be hard to persuade China, India and other developing countries to make significant reductions unless the U.S. takes public steps to lower its greenhouse gas emissions.

See <http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=E776756A-18FE-70B2-A866AE5294B797E9>.

Senate Passes Energy and Water Appropriations with \$50 Million for DOE Geothermal Program in FY 2010

On July 29, the U.S. Senate passed the funding bill for the U.S. Department of Energy, H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for FY 2010. The vote was 85-9.

The bill includes \$50 million for the DOE Geothermal Technologies Program in FY 2010. The Committee Report states about this funding "Geothermal Technology- The recommendation for Geothermal Technology is \$50,000,000, the same as the administration's request. The Committee directs the Department to provide not less than \$5,000,000 to develop and deploy low temperature geothermal systems."

The Senate has asked for a Conference Committee to be appointed to work out differences between the House and Senate bills, and has appointed as Senate Members of the Conference Committee Senators Dorgan; Byrd; Murray; Feinstein; Johnson; Landrieu; Reed; Lautenberg; Harkin; Tester; Inouye; Bennett; Cochran; McConnell; Bond; Hutchison; Shelby; Alexander; and Voinovich.

Company News

Calpine Corporation: Geysers Receives Eighth Consecutive DOC Award

Press Release—July 30, [Calpine's Geothermal Operations Receive Eighth Consecutive Award from California Department of Conservation](#)

Calpine Corporation (NYSE:CPN) was recently recognized by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) for its ongoing commitment to safety and the environment and its excellence in lease maintenance at its geothermal facilities at The Geysers in Northern California.

The DOC presented Calpine's Geysers geothermal operations with its eighth consecutive Outstanding Lease Maintenance Award for environmental stewardship, safety, infrastructure maintenance and resource conservation. Mike Rogers, Calpine's Senior Vice President, Geothermal Region, accepted the award on behalf of Calpine from DOC Director Bridgett Luther.

For more, see <http://www.calpine.com/>.

Ram Power: Agreement Signed for 300 MW Geothermal Power

Press Release—July 31, Ram Power, Inc.

Reno, Nevada — Ram Power, Inc. is pleased to announce today that it has signed an agreement with Southern California Edison Company for the supply of up to 300 megawatts of clean, geothermal power.

The agreement, between Ram Power, Inc. and Southern California Edison, which is subject to approval of the California Public Utilities Commission, includes an initial contract for 40 to 100 megawatts of power from a geothermal generating facility, with two expansion options, each of the same capacity. The initial agreement as well as each option is for a primary term of 20 years with a 10-year extension by mutual agreement.

When complete, those projects (which are referred to as Orita 1, 2, and 3) are to include three facilities of up to 100 megawatts each. The projects, located in the Imperial County of California near the City of Brawley, are expected to come on line in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and will utilize double flash geothermal

technology with the use of geothermal steam condensate as the primary source of make-up water for their cooling towers.

In making this announcement Daniel Schochet, Executive Vice President of Ram Power said, "This is an example of Southern California Edison's commitment to expanding its renewable energy portfolio and benefits its customers, suppliers and the environment." Schochet added, "We are pleased that with the Orita Geothermal Projects we can look forward to a productive, long-term partnership with SCE, which is the continuation of more than 25 years of the building of professional relationships by Ram Power's senior management with Southern California Edison for the supply of clean, base-load, competitively priced geothermal energy."

Terra-Gen Power: Coso Facility Obtains Federal Permit to Increase Generation

Press Release—August 3, [Terra-Gen Power's Coso Geothermal Facility Obtains Critical Federal Permit to Increase Its Renewable Energy Generation](#)

New York -- Terra-Gen Power, LLC, ("Terra-Gen"), a wholly-owned affiliate of ArcLight Capital Partners ("ArcLight"), announced today that its Coso Geothermal Facility ("Coso") has obtained critical permits from the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") to construct a 9 mile pipeline to recharge the existing geothermal reservoir that will allow Coso to significantly increase generation of renewable baseload power.

The BLM has granted a Record of Decision and Right-of-Way Grant to permit the project to inject supplemental water into the geothermal resource in order to stabilize and enhance the geothermal field. The water enhancement project will allow geothermal energy to serve an estimated 50,000 additional California homes. After completing an extensive environmental review process, the BLM concluded there will be no significant impacts created by the project.

For more, see <http://www.terra-genpower.com/>.

U.S. Energy Corp.: Geothermal Acreage Acquired at BLM Lease Sale

Press Release—July 30, [U.S. Energy Corp. Acquires Additional Geothermal Acreage with Standard Steam Trust, LLC](#)

Riverton, Wyo. -- U.S. Energy Corp. (Nasdaq:USEG) ("USE" or the "Company"), a natural resources exploration and development company with interests in molybdenum, oil and gas, geothermal, and real estate assets today announced that its affiliate Standard Steam Trust LLC ("SST") successfully acquired additional Geothermal prospective acreage at a BLM lease sale. SST was formed to acquire, explore, develop and market geothermal resources in the Western United States. USE owns a 25% interest in SST.

In July, SST successfully acquired an additional 22,033 acres land at a BLM lease sale in Reno, Nevada. This additional acreage increases SST's total land holdings to 95,566 acres of BLM, state, and fee leases in eight prospect areas in three states.

For more, see <http://www.usnrg.com/>.

U.S. Geothermal: C\$10.9 Million Private Placement Financing Announced

Press Release—July 31, [U.S. Geothermal Announces C\\$10.9 Million Private Placement Financing](#)

Boise, Idaho - U.S. Geothermal Inc. (the "Company") announced today that it has entered into an agreement with a syndicate of Canadian investment dealers, pursuant to which the syndicate, as placement

agents (the "Agents"), have agreed to privately place approximately 8,100,000 Subscription Receipts, at C\$1.35 per Subscription Receipt, for gross proceeds of approximately C\$10,935,000.

Each Subscription Receipt will be automatically exchanged, without additional consideration on the exchange date (described below), for one Unit (a "Unit") of the Company. Each Unit consists of one share of common stock of the Company and one half of one common stock purchase warrant (a "Warrant"). Each Warrant will entitle the holder thereof to acquire one additional share of common stock of the Company for a period of 24 months following the closing of the offering for US\$1.75 per share of common stock. The net proceeds of the offering will be used by the Company for drilling wells at the Neal Hot Springs geothermal project and for general working capital purposes. The proceeds will not be subject to escrow.

For more, see <http://www.usgeothermal.com/NewsReleases.aspx>.

Western GeoPower: Secured Loan Facility Amount Increased US\$1.35m

Press Release—July 30, Western GeoPower Obtains US\$1.35 Million Increase to Secured Loan Facility

Vancouver, BC -- Western GeoPower Corp. (TSX VENTURE:WGP) (FRANKFURT:WE6), a renewable energy company, today announced that it has obtained an increase in the amount available under its existing secured loan facility (previously announced on January 26, 2009) from US\$11 million to US\$12.35 million. Under the terms of the amended loan facility, the additional tranche of US\$1.35 million will be available to the company when certain conditions precedent to that tranche have been met, which are the discharge of any liens other than permitted liens, payment of certain lending fees and expenses, and that no event of default then exists. Interest will be payable on this new tranche at a rate of 1.25% per month and the new tranche will be repayable on June 30, 2010.

For more, see <http://www.geopower.ca/>.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change News

House Will Get Another Shot at Feed-In Tariffs

From Sustainable Energy Coalition/SUN DAY Campaign: News Story Excerpts - 08/04/09

U.S. Representatives Jay Inslee of Washington and Bill Delahunt of Massachusetts are preparing a bill that would require utilities to purchase small-scale renewable energy from developers at rates equal to the cost of production plus a premium. The so-called feed-in tariffs proposal would set European-style guarantees for investors that many credit for a recent boom in solar energy in Germany. Under a feed-in tariff proposal that Inslee sponsored last year, renewable energy developments of less than 20 megawatts would be given priority access to the grid and could sign 20-year contracts with utilities that guarantee a 10 percent rate of return. Rates would be tailored to fit the cost of production in different regions of the country and would be set by the Energy Department. In May, Vermont became the first state to pass feed-in tariffs for renewable energy. Several other states -- including Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, California and South Dakota -- are considering their own versions of feed-in renewable energy tariffs.

See <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/08/03/03greenwire-house-will-get-another-shot-at-feed-in-tariffs-70749.html>.

Renewables Account for 11% of U.S. Energy Production in April 2009

Sun Day analysis shows production of renewable energy for the first third of 2009 (January 1 – April 30) was 6% higher compared to the same time period in 2008, according to renewableenergyworld.com.

Geothermal comprised 4.7% of U.S. renewable energy production during that time and grew compared to the first third of 2008 by 2.6%. The contribution from other renewables for the first four months of 2009 were 34.6% hydropower, 31.2% wood and wood wastes, 19% biofuels, 9.3% wind, and 1.2% solar. Wind expanded by 34.5%, biofuels by 14.1%, and hydropower by 8.2%. In April 2009 alone, renewable energy sources accounted for 11.1 percent of domestic energy production and exceeded the amount contributed by nuclear power.

“As Congress continues to debate energy and climate legislation, it would do well to take note of the clear trends in the nation’s energy mix,” Ken Bossong, executive director of the Sun Day Campaign told press. “Fossil fuel use is dropping sharply and nuclear power is barely holding on to its market share while month-after-month the mix of renewable energy sources continues to set ever-higher records.”

See <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2009/07/sun-day-analysis-renewables-account-for-11-of-us-energy-production>.

United States and China Sign Memorandum on Climate Change

From EESI Climate Change News - July 31, 2009

On July 28, the United States and China signed an agreement promising more cooperation on climate change and energy at the conclusion of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the memorandum highlighted the importance of climate change in relations between the two countries. "It also provides our countries with direction as we work together to support international climate negotiations and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy," she said. The memorandum did not set any firm targets, but it created a new climate change policy dialogue that will meet regularly. In addition, it listed ten areas of cooperation, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner use of coal, smart grid technologies, electric cars, and research and development. President Obama opened the conference with a speech that expressed confidence that the two nations could reconcile their differences. "Let's be frank: neither of us profits from a growing dependence on foreign oil, nor can we spare our people from the ravages of climate change unless we cooperate," Obama said.

U.S. Lags in Clean Energy Research and Development

From Sustainable Energy Coalition/SUN DAY Campaign: News Story Excerpts - 08/03/09

Significant basic research and development needs to happen before renewables can truly displace fossil fuels but the U.S. seems far from ready to spend the money needed to create long-term solutions to global warming. Energy Secretary Chu has seen his requests for more funding rebuffed by Congress. Chu wants to spend \$280 million to create eight new research and development labs - called "energy innovation hubs" - staffed by scientists from a variety of areas, to work on clean energy solutions. However, the House would give Chu only \$35 million for his innovation hubs — enough for one center. Meanwhile, another House bill would have the Energy Department spend \$30 million a year for five years on natural-gas vehicles, even though the Obama Administration hasn't sought the money and few experts believe natural gas is a smart fuel. And the current House cap-and-trade bill would channel perhaps around \$10 billion a year to energy research in its early stages — but not solely for clean energy. By contrast, on the campaign trail Obama promised to spend \$150 billion over 10 years just on clean energy research.

See <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1913781,00.html>.

State News

California: IID Geothermal Lands to Factor in Negotiation with Developers

The Imperial Irrigation District has yet to sign a contract with geothermal developers, according to [ivpressonline](http://www.ivpressonline.com). Market prices for geothermal energy remain higher than natural-gas fired plants; meanwhile IID has about 8% renewable energy, and the state has mandated utilities reach 33% by 2020. IID owns prime geothermal land it would prefer to use as leverage in negotiating for lower energy prices, David Kolk, the IID's manager for energy supply and trading told press. IID plans to sort through responses and begin negotiations, and Kolk told press he hopes to have a sizable plant built by 2012 or early 2013.

See http://www.ivpressonline.com/articles/2009/07/21/local_news/news04.txt.

International News

Australia: Panax Receives Drilling Grant for Salamander-1

Panax Geothermal Limited announced it has received the first two payments relating to its Geothermal Drilling Program grant, awarded in April 2009 for drilling Salamander-1 near Penola, from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. The payment was for \$2.45m, with an additional \$1.75m expected in late September or early October. "The aim of drilling Salamander- 1 is to establish Australia's first geothermal reserve," Panax executive director Kerry Parker said.

See <http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/3747>.

Australia: Drilling Planned for Koroit Wells

Hot Rock Limited (HRL) announced it has secured a drilling rig and drilling time with MB Century Drilling to sink the test wells in preparation for the \$12 million geothermal power plant, according to standard.net.au. The wells will be up to three km deep and will gauge flow rates. "HRL expects to spud the Koroit KG1 well in February 2010 and is planning to spud Koroit KG2 well immediately following a successful KG 1 well," HRL said. "The completion of two wells will enable HRL to advance quickly through the 'proof of concept stage' of the Koroit project."

See <http://www.standard.net.au/news/local/news/general/hot-rock-drilling-planned-for-koroit/1583509.aspx>.

Australia: Geothermal energy plan to provide clean energy future

Bligh Government Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Stephen Robertson announced an additional 16,000 sq km of land for geothermal exploration and released a consultation paper on the proposed draft legislation for geothermal energy production. "The new legislation being developed will enable explorers to progress to production when a suitable geothermal resource has been identified," Robertson told press. "The Bligh Government is delivering on our commitment to provide a clean, greener future for Queensland and this legislation will ensure geothermal production can begin as soon as the industry is ready." A formal consultation paper provides an overview of the 400-page draft Geothermal Energy Bill and includes questions to encourage public discussion and feedback on key aspects of the draft Bill. Copies of the consultation paper and draft Bill are available at www.dme.qld.gov.au.

See http://www.australia.to/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13266:geothermal-energy-plan-to-provide-clean-energy-future&catid=74:business-news&Itemid=198.

Notices

Closing This Week

- CEC Cost Share Grant Solicitation, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (August 6)
- Call for Papers, Renewable Energy World North America (August 7)

New This Week

- **Treasury Department Accepting Applications for Grants-in-Lieu of Tax Credit Program**

The Treasury Department has announced they will begin accepting applications for the Grants-in-Lieu of Tax Credit program (Sec. 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) during the first week in August. Payments are expected to be made to the tax payer within 60 days of receiving the application. See <http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml>.

- **DOE Small Business Research Programs Funding Opportunity Announcement**

The Department of Energy will soon accept Phase I grant applications from qualified small businesses for an upcoming Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program Solicitation. A total of \$37M in Recovery Act funds will be made available for SBIR and STTR Phase I and Phase II grants through the end of FY 2010. An emphasis will be placed on near-term, clean energy technology commercialization potential and U.S. jobs creation. A detailed Funding Opportunity Announcement describing research areas in which applications are sought will be available August 5, 2009.

Small businesses with strong research capabilities in science or engineering in any of the following research areas are encouraged to apply: 1) advanced building air conditioning and refrigeration, thermal load shifting, and cool roofs; 2) water usage in electric power production; 3) power plant cooling; 4) advanced gas turbines and materials; 5) sensors, controls, and wireless networks; 6) advanced water power technology development; 7) smart controllers for smart grid applications; 8) advanced solar technologies; 9) advanced industrial technologies development; and 10) advanced manufacturing processes.

The deadline for submission of grant applications is September 4, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. EST. Applications will only be accepted electronically through www.grants.gov. Successful applicants (approximately 60) may receive up to \$150,000 for a Phase I grant for a period of six months to demonstrate the feasibility of the idea.

Other Notices Available on GEA Web Site

Notices from past weeks are now available on GEA's Web site:

- GEA Announces Geothermal Energy Webcast Live from Expo Hall
- SMU Geothermal Laboratory Offers Networking for Geothermal Projects
- Labor Department Offers \$500 Million for Clean Energy Job Training (August–October)
- EPA Extends Comment Period for Renewable Fuel Standard Program (September 25)
- Resource Development Opportunity, Contact, Nevada
- Hannon Armstrong Announces Advisory Services for DOE Loan Guarantees

For details, see <http://geo-energy.org/publications/updates.asp#Notices>.

Employment Opportunities

Employment Opportunities Available on GEA Web Site

Open Employment Opportunities are now available on GEA's Web site:

- Vice President of Engineering, Ram Power, Inc.
- Drilling Program Manager, Major Geothermal Power Company in CA
- Senior Director, Business Development, Major Geothermal Company
- Geothermal Project Supervisor, Central American Bank for Economic Integration, Costa Rica
- Research Associate II, SMU Geothermal Laboratory

For details, see <http://geo-energy.org/publications/updates.asp#Employment>.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Closing This Week

- Green Capacity Building Grants, Recovery Act (August 5)
- RFP for Ground Source Heat Pumps, Recovery Act, DOE (August 6)
- RFP for Carbon Capture and Sequestration, Recovery Act (August 7)
- RFP for RECs, Western Area Power Administration (August 7)
- Carbon Capture & Sequestration Training – Recovery Act (August 11)

Other RFPs Available on GEA Web Site

Requests for Proposals listed in past weeks are now available on GEA's Web site:

- RFP for State Energy Program, DOE (Due Dates Vary)
- RFP for Contribution of Cost Share for Transportation Related Recovery Act RFPs, CEC (Due Dates Vary)
- RFP for Technology and National Research Priorities, Recovery Act (Ongoing)
- RFP for REC Deliveries (August 14)
- U.S. & China Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (August 17)
- RFP for Electric Energy Proposals, Southern California Edison (August 21)
- RFP for Smart Grid Demonstrations, DOE, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (August 26)
- Renewables, Architect of the Capitol (September 1)
- Community Renewable Energy Deployment, Recovery Act (September 3)
- Energy Training Partnership Grants, Recovery Act (September 4)
- Renewables, Western U.S. (September 10)
- RFP for Environmental Implications of Emerging Technologies, NSF (September 15)
- RFP for Energy for Sustainability, National Science Foundation (September 15)
- RFP for Thermal Transport Processes, National Science Foundation (September 15)
- Rural Community Development Initiative (September 24)
- Local Energy Assurance Plans, Recovery Act (October 8)
- RFP for National Lab Partnerships for Energy Research, DOE (November 9)
- RFP for Renewable Energy Resources, Los Angeles (March 11, 2010)
- RFP for Smart Grid Investments, DOE, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (March 31, 2010)

For details, see <http://geo-energy.org/publications/updates.asp#RFPs>.

Upcoming Events

Happening This Week

- GEA: Direct Use/Small Power Finance Workshop, Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), August 12-13 (Klamath Falls, OR)

Klamath Falls, Oregon will be the site of a workshop intended to promote two exciting growth areas for geothermal energy in the U.S. On August 12 the Geothermal Energy Association and the Oregon Institute of Technology's Geo-Heat Center will be holding a workshop focusing on direct heat and small power utilization. Pratt & Whitney Power Systems, maker of the PureCycle® Power System, is the Gold Level Sponsor of the event and the Oregon Department of Energy is a co-sponsor.

"This workshop will bring together -- for the first time ever -- those interested in using geothermal energy for distributed generation and direct heating purposes across the West," noted Karl Gawell, Executive Director of GEA. "New technology developments, state and federal laws and incentives, and growing concern about climate change are driving a strong growth trend in both areas," he added.

In the last few years, small power technology has been leading geothermal power production into several new states. Alaska, Florida, New Mexico, Oregon and Wyoming have each seen or will soon see geothermal power produced for the first time. In each of these cases the power is being used locally for distributed generation, and the geothermal power plants have capacities of less than one megawatt. In many states, special incentives are being offered for small, renewable power generation less than 10 MW.

OIT's Klamath Falls campus is a world-class example of both geothermal direct use heating and small power production. "Our 280 kW Pratt & Whitney power plant will be up and running by the time of the workshop," noted John Lund, Director of the OIT Geo-Heat Center. "This will be the first geothermal power generation in Oregon, and together with our geothermal heating systems OIT's campus will be a practical showcase for those interested in these technologies," he said.

The GEA-OIT Workshop is planned for August 12 in Klamath Falls, in addition OIT has organized a field trip for the following day. Registration for the August 12 Workshop is \$195 for the general public and \$95 for GEA Members, non-profit groups, government employees. Registration includes workshop materials, snacks, and lunch. Registration for the August 13 Field Trip is an additional \$75.

The Preliminary Agendas for the Workshop and Field Trip follows. For more information, or to register for the workshop or field trip, visit:

http://www.geo-energy.org/workshops/GEO_Small_Power_Direct_Use_Workshop_Aug12.asp.

GEA Events

- GEA: Geothermal Energy Expo/GRC Annual Meeting, October 4-7 (Reno, NV)

Every year, the Geothermal Energy Expo hosts the world's largest gathering of vendors providing support for geothermal resource exploration, characterization, development, production and management. It provides a unique opportunity for exhibitors to showcase their projects, equipment, services and state of the art technology to the geothermal community.

The Geothermal Energy Expo 2009 will be held at the Peppermill, Reno's premiere hotel and casino in Reno, Nevada. The Geothermal Energy Expo hosts the world's largest gathering of vendors providing support for geothermal resource exploration, characterization, development,

production, and management. It provides a unique opportunity for exhibitors to showcase their projects, equipment, services, and state of the art technology to the geothermal community.

If you are interested in exhibiting at the Geothermal Energy Expo please act soon! Only 5 booth spaces remain.

For more information about the Geothermal Energy Expo, visit: <http://www.geo-energy.org>.

Other Events Available on GEA Web Site

Upcoming Events listed in past weeks are now available on GEA's Web site.

- U.S. Marine Corps Energy Summit 2009, August 13 (Washington, DC)
- CanGEA Workshop, Investment Conference, and Networking Reception, September 9-10 (Toronto, Canada)
- Renewable Energy Indonesia 2009 Trade Show, October 14–17 (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- SMU Geothermal Conference, November 3–4 (Dallas, TX)
- XVII Annual Congress and Annual Assembly, Mexican Geothermal Association, November 13 (Mexico)
- 31st New Zealand Geothermal Workshop 2009, November 16–18 (Rotorua, New Zealand)

For details, see <http://geo-energy.org/publications/updates.asp#Events>.



GEA Weekly Update

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