Green Power and Market Research News

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Week of January 24, 2011

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Renewable Energy Technologies

Magma under Hawaii said close to surface

U.S. researchers studying the magma chamber that forms the Hawaiian Island chain say the molten rock lies much closer to the surface than previously thought. Scientists from Ohio State University say the discovery could help in predicting when Hawaiian volcanoes may erupt, and also suggests Hawaii has huge potential for geothermal energy production, a university release said Monday.

Julie Ditkof, an Ohio State honors undergraduate student in earth sciences, conducted the study and found that magma lies an average of 1.9 miles to 2.5 miles beneath the surface of Hawaii. Read more. *Source: UPI, 12/13/10*

San Diego port to dedicate green power system today

San Diego will become only the fifth major port worldwide to have such a system. It also will be used to supply electricity to ships at the new Port Pavilion nearby.

The Carnival Cruise Ship Oosterdam will be humming with electricity from shore power, rather than dirty diesel-generated juice, thanks to a new “cold-ironing” system being dedicated at the port today.

The 950-foot ship, preparing to depart on a seven-day cruise to Mexico, could draw up to 12 megawatts of emission-free electricity through the new $7.1 million system at the B Street Cruise Ship Terminal. Read more. *Source: Southwestern Riverside News Network, 12/11/10*

Mexico plans cross-border green energy storage unit

Mexico is building its first major green energy storage unit to warehouse electricity generated from wind and solar farms that can be used on both sides of the border, the company building the project said on Wednesday.

Rubenius, a Dubai-based global energy company, will invest $4 billion to build the 1,000 megawatt storage facility in Baja, California, and will start construction by mid-2011, continually bringing on line capacity until the project is finished in 5 years. Read more. *Source: Reuters, 12/9/10*

Certification Poised to Drive Small Wind Growth

22 Turbines Now In Queue; Incentive Programs Requiring Certification

As the Small Wind Certification Council (SWCC) consumer labeling process for moves forward, the need for certification is becoming more pressing to qualify for incentives. With several recent new additions, 22 turbine models currently have pending applications for SWCC certification. Energy Trust of Oregon is leading the way in requiring certification for turbines to qualify for incentives beginning January 1, 2012. Read more. *Source: Small Wind Certification Council, 12/7/10*

DuPont and Everbright Collaborate on Largest Thin Film Solar Rooftop Installation in China

DuPont Apollo Photovoltaic Module Production Facility Powered by Clean Energy

DuPont, through its wholly owned subsidiary, DuPont Apollo Limited (“DuPont Apollo”), and China Everbright International Limited (“Everbright”) have jointly announced the completion of an on-grid 1.3 megawatt (MW) rooftop photovoltaic installation at the DuPont Apollo production facility in Guangming New District, Shenzhen. The project is considered the largest single structure thin film photovoltaic rooftop installation in China to date.

“DuPont Apollo is pleased to collaborate with Everbright on this large-scale rooftop installation to support the daily operation of our production facility with clean and cost-effective solar electricity,” said David Chu – DuPont Apollo leader. “We hope this project will be a role model for other businesses that wish to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels by generating the electricity they need on their own rooftops.” Read more. *Source: Dupont via PRWeb, 12/8/10*

Duke Energy secures $231MM in financing for Wyoming wind farm

Duke Energy is leveraging its ownership of the Top of the World Windpower Project in operation near Casper, Wyoming, to finance continued investments in renewable energy.

Duke Energy Generation Services (DEGS), a Duke Energy Commercial Businesses unit that develops and owns

renewable power assets, secured roughly $231 million in non-recourse credit facilities. This figure includes an 18-year term loan worth approximately $193 million, and nearly $38 million in letters of credit. Read more. *Source: PennEnergy, 12/7/10*

Skyline Solar to install High Gain Solar Arrays on US military bases (Ind. Report)

Mountain View, California-based High Gain Solar manufacturer Skyline Solar has been awarded a U.S. Department of Defense contract for the installation of HGS systems with an estimated combined output of 436 MW-hours per year, at two US military bases. The projects will demonstrate HGS performance in hot sunny climates, validate Skyline Solar's field up-grad ability and rapid system deployment capability.

Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a recent Energy Security Forum speech said the military needed to take a serious look at renewable energy from an energy security perspective. "Failing to secure, develop and employ new sources of energy or improving how we use legacy-energy systems creates a strategic vulnerability and, if left unaddressed, could threaten national security."

In an effort to promote US energy independence, the DoD launched the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) to promote innovative, cost-effective environmental technologies through demonstrations on DoD sites. Skyline Solar has been awarded an ESTCP project in a competitive solicitation intended to identify technologies that solve key DoD needs and have the highest potential for widespread deployment. *Source: SolarNovus 12/7/10 via EPOverviews 12/8/10*

'BIOMASS' POWER PLANTS Plan to use wood now on back burner

lans to burn wood instead of coal at nine Ohio power plants now might do little more than fill state filing cabinets.

For a while, utility companies were gung-ho on burning wood as a renewable source of electricity and praised the idea as a way to meet a state mandate to cut down on coal.

The first public sign of trouble came on Nov. 17, when FirstEnergy announced that converting its R.E. Burger coal-fired power station into a "biomass" plant would cost too much. Located near Shadyside in Belmont County, Burger instead will be used only during peak electricity demand.

Officials with all of Ohio's major utilities, including Columbus-based American Electric Power, are now sounding equally discouraged about eight other proposed biomass projects. In all, the projects promised to power as many as 260,000 Ohio homes. Read more. *Source: PennEnergy, 12/5/10*

Learn more about renewable resources.

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Wind interconnection workshop announced

Jan. 19-21
Electric Power Training Center

Golden, Colo.

Are you ready to integrate the world's fastest growing form of generation into your power mix? Bring your questions about wind and solar system interconnection to the Wind Interconnection Workshop, Jan. 19 to 20, in Golden, Colo.

The Utility Wind Integration Group is sponsoring this annual educational event at Western Area Power Administration's Electric Power Training Center. Co-sponsors include American Public Power Association, Western Area Power Administration, Wind Powering America Program, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, U. S. DOE Wind Technologies Program, American Wind Energy Association and Solar Electric Power Association. *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 12/1/10*

NREL publishes A Guide to Community Solar

This guide is designed as a resource for those who want to develop community solar projects, from community organizers or solar energy advocates to government officials or utility managers. By exploring the range of incentives and policies while providing examples of operational community solar projects, this guide will help communities to plan and implement successful local energy projects. In addition, by highlighting some of the policy best practices, this guide suggests changes in the regulatory landscape that could significantly boost community solar installations across the country. Download *A Guide to Community Solar* (pdf). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Nov. 2010*

ACORE webcast of renewable energy policy forum available online

The need for leadership on U.S. energy policy has never been more important. Soon a new Congress will convene and a slate of new governors will take office, presenting an opportunity to find common ground on the critical issues facing renewable energy. The Phase II National Policy Forum will lay the groundwork for a new, collaborative national renewable energy policy agenda. It will explore the key issues on renewable energy supply, national security, economic development and jobs, and the environment and climate. It will define a new platform of commitment, innovation, finance and education. View the webcast. *Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 12/9/10*

Climate Talks Briefing Update Webcast from Cancún

Alden Meyer, director of strategy and policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, was featured in a press conference held this morning in Cancun, which provided reporters with an update on summit proceedings. A webcast of the conference is available. If you would like to speak with Alden, please contact Elliott Negin at 202-997-1472. *Source: Union of Concerned Scientists, 12/7/10*

A Proposal for Effective and Equitable Adoption of Opt-In Dynamic Pricing

Economists who study electricity markets are virtually unanimous in arguing that time-varying retail pricing for electricity would improve the efficiency of electricity systems and would lower the overall cost of meeting electricity demand. Yet, retail prices almost never change over within-day or within- week time periods, so retail customers are given no more incentive to reduce their electricity use when the cost of obtaining or generating power is high than when it is low. Retail prices that more accurately reflect the true cost of power would shift usage to lower cost periods in a way that would improve the economic welfare of customers. Besides the direct cost impact, greater

adoption of dynamic pricing—time-varying pricing where prices are set a day or less in advance in order to be responsive to system conditions—could potentially also help in integration of intermittent generation resources, such as wind or solar power.

This policy paper, examines the reasons for customer resistance to time-varying pricing in general and dynamic price in particular, including opposition to mandatory time-varying pricing, concern about "bill shock" for customers who consume significant quantities at high-price times and about bill volatility in general, and worry about the impact on low-income and disadvantaged customers. I present a proposal for phasing in voluntary time-varying pricing over time in a way that could increase acceptance and actually improve the effectiveness of the pricing.

For more information, contact the Energy Institute at Haas. *Source: University of California, Berkeley, 12/7/10*

Endangered Species Report 2010

The Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species prepared the report, *Balancing Economy with Ecology*, as required by Senate Bill 2534 during the 81st Legislative Session. This report details the activities of the task force since its creation and provides helpful information on threatened and endangered species in Texas as well as programs available to assist landowners and communities in conserving these species. *Source: Texas Comptroller's Office, Nov. 2010*

Learn more about education and outreach activities.

News from Washington

Interactive panoramas give virtual view of solar study areas

The Solar Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Information Center has developed interactive panoramas of its solar study areas to help users learn more about the potential impacts of utility-scale solar development in six Western states. *Source: Solar Energy Development PEIS, 12/13/10*

Learn more about national activities.

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority releases annual report

The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority focuses on developing new transmission projects to promote renewable energy. It is the first of its kind in the nation, and an innovative and bold move to stimulate clean energy production and create high paying jobs, capital investment and greater economic development in rural areas. Download its 2008-9 annual report (pdf). *Source: New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, 12/13/10*

More renewable energy demanded of state utilities—again

Even before California's power companies have met a year-end target of getting 20 percent of their energy from renewable sources such as wind or solar, state Sen. Joe Simitian is upping the ante.

A bill introduced this week by the senator would require utilities to generate 33 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020, a standard Simitian says would go a long way to fighting global warming, spawning green investment and assuring California a local source of energy. The proposal, Senate Bill 23, failed in past years but Simitian, D-Palo Alto, hopes this time will be different. Read more. *Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel, 12/7/10*

Maryland Begins Offshore Wind Energy Development Process

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced on November 8 that it is moving toward wind energy development offshore Maryland on the Outer Continental Shelf. BOEMRE, in partnership with the Maryland Energy Administration, has issued a Request for Interest (RFI) for renewable energy development to test the interest in the development. The agency will use industry responses to gauge specific interest in the commercial development of wind resources off the state's shores. If there is no competitive interest, the agency may proceed with the noncompetitive lease process. The process will include public participation as well as an environmental review.

The western edge of the RFI area is located approximately 10 nautical miles from the Ocean City, Maryland coast and the eastern edge is approximately 27 nautical miles from the same coast. The area was selected through consultation with the Maryland Renewable Energy Task Force, an intergovernmental coordination group led by BOEMRE. BOEMRE's RFI also invites all interested and affected parties to comment and provide information that will be useful in considering the area of interest for commercial wind energy leases, including information on environmental issues and concerns. See the BOEMRE press release and the Nov. 9 Federal Register notice. Comments should be submitted by Jan. 10, 2011, and may be mailed to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs; 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4090; Herndon, Virginia 20170. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 11/8/10*

Wind Energy rights clarified in Wyoming legislation (Leg. & Reg.)

In Wyoming, legislators are drafting wind energy legislation that would include wind energy property, surface, and mineral rights. If enacted, the bill would prevent Wyoming landowners from selling wind energy rights separate from their surface rights, as some property owners have already done.

The legislation, which is currently being drafted in the Joint Judiciary Committee, isn't as high-profile or potentially contentious as other wind energy issues that are likely to arise during next year's legislative session, such as wind generation tax rates and granting wind developers eminent domain rights. Under the draft legislation, wind energy rights could still be leased, but they couldn't be sold separately from surface ownership. North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska already have similar policies in effect. Several Wyoming legislators and attorneys said that while only a few landowners in the state have already sold their wind energy rights, interest in doing so is growing. And that, they said, could lead to trouble down the line. The draft legislation also sets time limits for wind energy producers to develop leased land. Under the bill, unless the developer and landowner agree otherwise, any wind energy lease would automatically be canceled if wind energy production ceases for 10 years or if no electricity is generated from a wind turbine within 20 years of the lease being signed. An initial draft of the legislation contained additional protections for landowners, including a 75-year cap on all wind energy leases. But those provisions were removed after groups ranging from the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Powder River Basin Resource Council voiced concern that landowners should be given more leeway when negotiating leases. *Source: Billings*

Gazette 12/5/10 via EP Overviews, 12/7/10

New regulations proposed to address commericial wind farms

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners is looking at amending its zoning regulations to cover commercial wind farms.

In 2008, the County Board approved a zoning change that allows small wind turbines to be built on homes, acreages and farms in rural areas, but commercial wind farms were not addressed. Read more. *Source: Lincoln Journal Star, 12/2/10*

Learn more about energy analysis.

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Addendum Made to California Renewable Energy Research RFP

The California Energy Commission has made modifications to RFP #500-10-503, Research Needs for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy, in response to questions and concerns from prospective bidders. Specifically:

- Attachment 7, Preference Points for California-Based Entities has been modified with an updated table.

Additionally attached are:

- The questions received in writing and at the Pre-Bid conference as well as the answers to those questions.
- The presentations from the Pre-Bid Conference.
- The list of Pre-Bid Attendees.

See the Summary of Current Solicitations for more details. *Source: California Energy Commission, 12/6/10*

Learn more about funding solicitations.

This news item comes to you as a service of Western's Renewable Resources Program.

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