

The Oklahoma WinCharger

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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

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OG&E Calls for 80 MW of Wind Power

On December 20, 2004, Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) issued a request for proposals (RFP) from wind power developers to add up to 80 MW of additional wind power to its system. “It has been over a year since we last requested bids to determine the cost of adding wind to our system,” said Brian Alford. “In that time, we’ve seen gas prices continue to rise, as well as the extension of federal renewable energy tax credits. From a dollars and cents standpoint, now is a good time to look at adding more wind and to weigh its value to customers.”

OG&E currently purchases 51 MW of electricity generated by the Oklahoma Wind Energy Center near Woodward, OK. Their voluntary program that offers electricity generated by the wind has close to 9,000 customers signed up to receive all or part of their electricity from wind in just over a year’s time.

“Enrollment in our wind program has been impressive, and we thank our customers for embracing green power,” Alford said. “Their support has given us time to experience the operational and economical issues surrounding use of wind-generated energy.”

OG&E plans to use the proposal responses to evaluate how adding more wind will affect customers today and in the future. A final

decision is expected to be announced in the first quarter of 2005.

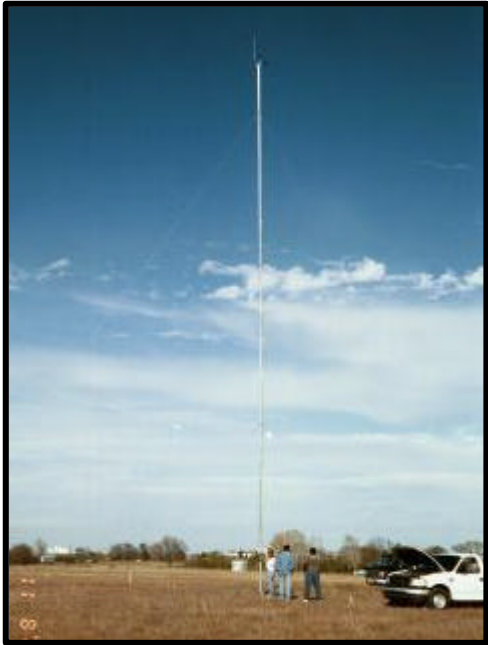
OWPI Helps Citizen Potawatomie Nation Install Instruments

On November 8th, OWPI helped the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribe of Oklahoma install wind resource monitoring instruments on a 66-ft tower in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. The tower and



Above: The tower being raised into position.

instrumentation were obtained from the U.S. DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as part of their Native American wind instrument loan program. This program is intended to assist tribal groups in turning their wind resource into energy savings and/or to sell for profit.



Above: The tower stands ready to collect wind measurements!

Data from the tower will be collected for at least a year. If the wind resource is viable, the tribe will consider installing a wind turbine to power several buildings in the local community. Richard Kunze from the tribe will monitor the tower and send the data chips to NREL for analysis.



Above from left to right: Richard Kunze of the CPN tribe, a CPN member, and Kylah McNabb of OWPI pose at the base of the newly installed tower.

Kylah McNabb of OWPI assisted the tribe with the tower installation and will prepare information for NREL on the vegetative and topographic characteristics of the area. For more information about the NREL wind instrument loan program, visit www.eere.energy.gov/windpoweringamerica.

State Funds Back Projects

A new report released by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in conjunction with the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) highlights the financial support given by state clean energy funds over the past several years to 163 large-scale renewable energy projects. A total of 9 states have given more than \$345 million in support of renewable energy projects, totaling over 2,288 MW of capacity.

Fourteen states across the United States have established funds to help promote the development of renewable energy, including wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and other clean energy sources. These funds are often financed by a small surcharge on retail electricity rates, and these funds currently collect over \$300 million per year for support of renewable energy. The report's findings are based on a new, publicly available database that is designed to track information on all large-scale renewable energy projects supported by funds that work together through CESA, a new non-profit organization of state clean energy funds.

States included in the survey report are California, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Rhode Island. Wind power was the most popular technology, receiving 60% of the total funding, and 80% of the total capacity supported. Of the 2,288 MW of new capacity being supported, 707 MW has been built so far, leaving over 1,500MW still in the development pipeline.

For a copy of the full report, please visit: http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/cases/EMP_case.html

Editor's Note: Portions of this story were taken from the North American Windpower, Vol.1, #11, December 2004 Issue.

Cape Wind Environmental Study Released

The Army Corps of Engineers released their 3,800-page draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

for the Cape Wind offshore wind project on November 8, 2004. The DEIS is the result of three years of scientific, environmental, and economic analysis. It includes the input of 17 federal and state cooperating agencies with inclusive public participation. This report comes after two positive reports from the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that also found that the Cape Wind project would produce important energy, environmental, and economic benefits to the region.

Some of the DEIS finding included:

- Cape Wind would help stabilize gas price fluctuations by reducing the region's overall dependence and demand for natural gas.
- 600 to 1,000 new jobs would be created during the construction period.
- Permanent economic changes resulting from the combination of direct, indirect, and induced effects of Cape Wind would result in permanent increases of: 154 jobs, \$21.8 million in economic output, \$10.2 million in value-added, and almost \$7 million in labor income.
- According to DOE, Cape Wind would also have national-level economic benefits to the U.S. economy for the amount of \$1.5 to \$2 billion.
- There is no expected adverse impact upon local real estate prices or tourism.
- Air pollution would significantly be reduced, and Cape Wind would help reduce the levels of mercury, ozone, and acid rain in the region. The estimated public health benefit would be approximately \$53 million from the reduced air pollution.
- Approximately 1 million tons of carbon dioxide would be offset annually by the Cape Wind project.

Cape Wind could provide three-quarters of the electricity used on Cape Cod and the Islands. For more information, please visit: <http://www.capewind.org>.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1118.

Wind Energy: Year in Review & the Year Ahead

2004 proved to be a frustrating year for the wind industry in the United States. The expiration of the federal tax credit at the end of 2003 brought numerous projects to a halt, and shelved others until the federal tax credit could be revived. This led to the installation of only 448 MW of wind projects for all of 2004, bringing the total US installed wind capacity to 6800 MW.

Iowa saw the largest growth, with the installation of 160 MW in 2004, bringing the total for the state to 632 MW. Others that saw growth were Texas, New Mexico, and California.

September 2004 provided hope, though, as the federal production tax credit (PTC) was signed and effective once again, but only until the end of 2005. This has led to a flurry of activity as the race is on to get projects in the ground and producing power by December 31, 2005. Due to this, 2005 is looking to be a banner year for wind project installations across the U.S.

Oklahoma will add to our current 176 MW of wind capacity in 2005. The Weatherford Wind Energy Center, being built by FPL Energy, is should be operational and supplying wind energy to Oklahomans by summer of 2005. Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO), a unit of American Electric Power (AEP), signed to purchase the power from the Weatherford Wind Energy Center in June of 2004. The 106.5 MW project is expected to produce enough electricity to power 31,000 homes.

The passage of the federal PTC also spurred planning for future development in Oklahoma. PSO announced a call for proposals in December for up to 250 MW of additional renewable energy generation (see November/December 2004 issue), and OG&E is calling for proposals for an additional 80 MW of wind energy for their customers (see above story). If all this comes to fruition in Oklahoma, the state could be home to 613 MW of renewable energy. This would move Oklahoma into the top ranking states in the nation in renewable energy generation.

PA Governor Signs RPS Into Law

At the end of November, Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell signed into law the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that passed the state

legislature the previous week. The standard will require that 18% of Pennsylvania's electricity be generated by alternative energy sources by 2020.

The 18% requirement is broken down into two "tiers" of electricity generation. "Tier I" renewable energy sources are to provide 8% of the electricity. These sources include solar, wind geothermal, and biomass. The remaining 10% requires that the generation come from "tier II" resources. These include waste coal, integrated combined coal gasification technology, municipal solid waste, large-scale hydro, demand-side management, and distributed generation systems.

According to the law, electric companies are not required to comply with the RPS mandates until their rate cap period ends or by 2010, whichever is earlier. The Public Utility Commission also must set up a credit trading program to allow distribution companies and electric generation suppliers to use and attain renewable energy credits to meet their requirements. The bill will take effect 90 days after signing.

The state already is close to meeting the goal for tier II resources, according to John Hanger, president of PennFuture. Pennsylvania will need to develop 3,600 MW of new wind energy capacity to meet the new standard's requirement, as indicated by research done by Platts' Analytics group. Pennsylvania already has 129 MW of wind generation.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1120. Seven states enacted RPS legislation in 2004, bringing the total number of states with a renewable energy requirement to 18.

RPS Coming to D.C.

At the end of December, the City Council for the District of Columbia (D.C.) passed a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that will require that energy providers in the District get 11% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2022. The bill passed in a voice vote with no opposition.

The measure still needs to be signed by the Mayor and approved by the House Committee that oversees D.C. laws. The bill requires the creation of a renewable energy credit market, allowing power companies the flexibility to find renewable energy sources that are the best fit economically. It also has an alternative compliance fee that acts as a cap on potential renewable energy sources. If the energy supplier chooses to pay the alternative compliance fee as opposed to buying the clean energy, the money will go into a fund for local clean energy projects.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1123.

NREL Appoints New Director

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham recently announced the appointment of Dan E. Arvizu as the new director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado. Arvizu was formerly the senior vice president and chief technology officer for CH2M Hill. His appointment will begin effective January 15th.

"Dan is well known around the Department of Energy as someone who understands energy technology – not just renewable energy, but nuclear and fossil energy as well," said DOE assistant secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Garman. "Dan shares our view about the importance of getting our technology out of the lab and into the marketplace, and he is an excellent choice to lead NREL. Under Dan's leadership, we expect NREL to achieve new heights of technical excellence and market relevance."

Midwest Research Institute (MRI) also appointed Arvizu as senior vice president. MRI has operated and managed NREL for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) since NREL opened in 1977. "We are pleased to have him join our management team and look forward to his leadership role as he works with the NREL team and DOE to address the many significant energy challenges of the future", said James L. Spigarelli, president and CEO of MRI.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1124.

Renewables Encouraged by KS Governor

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius is calling for the Kansas electric utilities to have a total of at least 1,000 MW of renewable energy capacity installed by 2015. That would be equal to 10% of the state's electricity generation. The Governor has recently adopted a set of recommendations for wind energy development that encourages renewable energy development, while preserving the Flint Hills region.

The Governor has also requested that tools be provided to the counties so that they may make informed decisions on development. These tools include:

- A set of “detailed, actionable siting standards,” which the Kansas Energy Council will make available by end of January
- An assessment underway by the Kansas Department of Commerce or tourism and other economic development opportunities, including wind energy
- A budget request of \$800,000 to match federal monies available for purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners

“We must establish a vision for Kansas that emphasized increased renewable energy production. This benefits Kansans across the state, both in lower utility bills and enhanced environmental protection,” the Governor said.

To aid the Governor's 10% challenge, the Kansas Energy Council has been asked to prepare an impact analysis of state facilities attaining 2.5 – 5% of their electricity from renewable energy sources. The creation of voluntary green power programs will also be evaluated. Additionally, the Kansas Corporation Commission is being asked to assess the full range of benefits of renewable energy as part of their review of utilities electric generation plans.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1126.

UCS Study Shows Benefits of 20% RPS for NM

The Union of Concerned Scientists released a new study on January 21st showing that if utilities increased their use of renewable electricity to 20% by 2020, New Mexico electricity consumers would save \$570 million on energy bills, mainly from the reduction in natural gas demand. The benefits for New Mexico found by the analysis include:

- 4,760 new high-skilled jobs in manufacturing, construction, operation, maintenance, and other industries – 2.7 times more jobs than new natural gas and coal power plants would create;
- \$1.6 billion in capital investment;
- \$117 million in property tax revenues for rural communities;
- \$57 million in payments to ranchers and rural landowners from wind power leases and the production of biomass energy.

A 10% standard would yield more moderate benefits, including \$250 million in consumer savings, 790 new jobs, \$948 million in capital investment, and \$69 million in new property tax revenues for rural communities.

Editor's Notes: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly # 1126. New Mexico ranks below Oklahoma for wind resource, yet has more wind energy capacity installed for the state at this time.

Distribution of the WinCharger

Electronic distribution of *The Oklahoma WinCharger* is available by signing up to be part of the ListServ mailing list. To sign up to receive your copy of the WinCharger by email, go to the OWPI website at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi, click on the link on the left side that says, “Subscribe to the Oklahoma WinCharger,” and follow the instructions from there. Receiving your copy of the WinCharger by email allows you to receive the newsletter faster, and helps us keep our mailing costs down.

If you have recently moved or changed your email, please let us know. Address corrections or updates can be sent to Mark Giesken, who can be reached at 405-447-8412, or by email chsmlg@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Calendar of Coming Events

- Feb 9** Meeting of the **Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council**, 10 am to noon, OK Department of Commerce, Gallery 1-2. See www.ocgi.okstate.edu/orec for more information.
- Feb 23-24** **Renewable Energy in the Upper Midwest**. Alterus Center, Grand Forks, ND. See <http://www.undeerc.org/reconference/> for more information.
- Mar 8** **GIS Day at the Capitol 2005**. State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK. For more information, contact Shellie Willoughby at (405) 521-4828, or via email shelliew@okcc.state.ok.us.
- Mar 9** Meeting of the **Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council**, 10 am to noon, OK Department of Commerce, Gallery 1-2. See www.ocgi.okstate.edu/orec for more information.
- Apr 8** **2005 Oklahoma Sustainability Network Conference**. Wes Watkins Center, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. For more information, visit <http://www.oksustainability.org/conferences.htm> or contact Amber Magdaleno at (405) 702-5175, or via email: amber.magdaleno@deq.state.ok.us.
- May 15-18** **Windpower 2005 Conference and Exhibition**. Sponsored by AWEA, Denver, CO. Visit www.awea.org/wp05.html for more information.
- Sept 27** **Emerging Energy Technologies Conference**. Hosted by the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council. National Center for Employee Development, Norman, OK. More information coming soon!

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