

The Oklahoma WinCharger

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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

A Collaborative Project by the
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University
based at the

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PSO Announces Wind Agreement with FPL

On Monday June 28th, Public Service Company of Oklahoma announced their purchase of up to 106.5 MW of wind power from a wind farm to be built near Weatherford. The Weatherford Wind Energy Center will be developed on 3,800 acres by FPL Energy, LLC. The project is expected to produce enough electricity to power more than 31,000 homes.

The development of the third wind power project for Oklahoma is contingent upon the extension of the federal production tax credit (PTC) that is currently pending in the U.S. Congress. Construction of the project will only begin after the PTC is approved and other necessary approvals are then acquired by FPL Energy.

PSO is including the cost of the purchased wind power into its fuel costs. Given the current cost of natural gas, PSO expects that the purchase of wind power could slightly reduce their customers' bills by replacing the purchase of natural gas regularly needed for power generation.

“This is a project that benefits everyone,” said Stuart Solomon, PSO president and chief operating officer. “Competition in the wind energy industry in Oklahoma is increasing and helping to make wind power economical for customers,” he added.

This will be the second wind project for FPL Energy in Oklahoma. FPL Energy also developed the Oklahoma Wind Energy Center near Woodward in northwest Oklahoma. OG&E and OMPA are purchasing the power produced by the wind farm near Woodward.

PSO, a unit of American Electric Power, is an electric utility that serves more than 500,000 customers in eastern and southwestern Oklahoma. PSO is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. AEP is the largest electricity generator in the U.S., as well as, one of the largest electric utilities with close to 5 million customers.

NPPD Oks 60MW Wind Farm

The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and four partner public power entities are planning on developing a 60MW wind power facility near Ainsworth, NE. The Board of Directors for NPPD gave approval for the final size of the wind facility on May 14th and gave approval to move forward on obtaining the regulatory approval.

“Construction of this wind facility, the largest in the state, is an example of public power at its best; Nebraskans generating power for other Nebraskans and public power entities,” said Bill Fehrman, president and CEO of NPPD. The participating organizations include: Omaha Public Power District (10MW), Jacksonville Electric Authority (10MW), Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (7MW), city

of Grand Island, Nebraska (1MW), and NPPD (32MW).

Editor's Note: The above is a summary of AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1093.

RI and HI Pass RPS Legislation

Two states joined the ranks of states that have a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in June. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle signed into law an RPS requiring 8% of electricity sales by the end of next year, increasing to 20% by the year 2020. Hawaii currently gets between 7% and 8% of its power from renewable energy.

The Rhode Island General Assembly unanimously passed a bill that requires 15% of Rhode Island's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. The bill also stated that only 2% of the target requirement can come from existing renewable energy sources. Both legislative sponsors noted the economic factors, particularly job creation, as the major reasons for the bill.

Editors Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #'s 1095 & 1098.

Wisconsin Releases State Wind Study

The Energy Center of Wisconsin recently published a new report titled "A Study of Wind Energy Development in Wisconsin." The report explores impacts of existing wind farms in the state and investigates the potential for future development. The report was funded in part by the Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Energy, through the Wisconsin Energy Bureau and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Organizations that contributed to the report include The Energy Center of Wisconsin, Seventh Generation Energy Systems, Inc., Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development from Seattle, WA, and Wind Utility Consulting from Jefferson, IA.

The report can be downloaded from the Energy Center of Wisconsin Website at <http://www.ecw.org/prod/231-1.pdf>.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly # 1099.

PTC Update

The House Corporate Tax Bill (H.R. 4520) which contains an extension of the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) passed the House of Representatives on June 17th with a vote of 251-178. The Senate had passed its version of the corporate tax legislation on May 11th. This bill will now head to conference committee to resolve the differences between the two bills. The conference committee process is expected to be difficult due to significant policy differences between the Senate and House version of the bills. The current belief is completion of the bill could take until September.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary of AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1097.

First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm Contracted

Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) announced on May 26 that it would begin negotiations with FPL Energy to build a 140MW offshore wind facility. Next, the two organizations will begin negotiating a power purchase agreement.

FPL Energy proposed a plan that included around 40 turbines to be located southwest of Robert Moses State Park, with the closest turbine to shore at approximately 3 miles. Before construction can begin, the new project will undergo extensive environmental and regulatory review by different agencies. This project could still be the first wind project to be built in U.S. waters.

OWPI's New Assistants

With the departure of Jeremy this past spring, there was quite a void around here at OWPI. We have since hired two students from the University of Oklahoma to assist with operations. Please allow them to introduce themselves:

Jim Southard joined the OWPI staff in May.

I am a senior at the University of Oklahoma and majoring in meteorology. Originally from Southern California, I moved to Oklahoma for three main reasons: the top-notch meteorology program at OU, Sooners football, and to experience Oklahoma's diverse weather! When I have a free minute from my studies, I enjoy reading, hiking, storm spotting, and playing inline roller hockey.

I am excited to work with the WinCharger staff to help spread the word about Oklahoma's tremendous potential in wind power. Oklahoma has a wonderful opportunity to be one of the nation's leaders in wind power, and I am looking forward to the challenge of reaching that goal!

Mark Giesken joined the team in April.

I was excited to join the EVAC team in April. I am excited because EVAC focuses on and does a lot of research in area in which I am interested in. I am originally from Chesaning, Michigan, and thus hockey is a big passion of mine. My favorite team is the Detroit Red Wings. I came to OU in 2000 and earned a B.A. in Geography this past May. During my time at OU, I have enjoyed focusing on Geography and Environmental classes and issues. My future plans are to hopefully attend graduate school in the fall to study climate and climate change.

REC's-A Benefit to Development

Last month, OWPI began a series of articles defining and explaining the role of renewable energy certificates (REC's) in the wind power industry. This month, read on to learn more about how the sale of REC's aid in the development of the wind power market in the U.S.

There are several benefits of REC's that can spur wind power development. Issues such as circumventing the physical challenges of delivering the electricity from wind power, scheduling transmission line availability and the addition of green power costs being separately included on customers' electricity bills are a few that can be avoided with REC's. The underlying electricity generated by the wind farm can be delivered to the regional grid when and where it is most cost effective.

REC's also provide an additional source of revenue. The creation of REC's as a distinct product provides the opportunity for markets to emerge that recognize the value environmental and non-electrical attributes of wind power. This additional source of money can be quite important. The additional revenue from selling REC's can often make up the difference between the higher generation costs of wind

power and that of fossil fuels. The number of potential customers of wind power can also increase with the use of REC's. The regions with the best and most wind resource are often far from population centers where customers interested in buying the environmental attributes of wind power are located. Due to the fact that REC's separate the "greenness" of wind power and allow it to be sold separately, that allows those that generate electricity to access local customers, as well as potential customers in more distant regions.

Next month, OWPI will explore the markets in which REC's can be sold.

OWPI Change of Address

Effective August 1, 2004, the mailing address for OWPI will change. Please make a note of the following new suite number,

Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative
Environmental Verification and Analysis Center
University of Oklahoma
3200 Marshall Avenue, **Suite 150**
Norman, OK 73072-8032

Thank you and we apologize for any inconvenience.

Electronic Distribution of the WinCharger

You have probably noticed that this month's delivery of the WinCharger is new and different. We have moved the email distribution list for the WinCharger to a List Serv mailing system. This means that you will be receiving the WinCharger in a more timely manner, and you will be able to add or remove yourself from the list at any time. The list is protected, so you will not receive any emails other than our newsletter.

To add or remove yourself from the WinCharger mailing list, please go to the OWPI website at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi and click on the appropriate link to "Add" or "Remove" from the mailing list.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy the new distribution system. If you have further questions you may contact Jim Southard, OWPI database manager, at (405) 447-8412 or jsouthard@ou.edu.

Calendar of Coming Events

- Aug 5-7** **Southwest Renewable Energy Fair**, a conference to discuss and promote new technologies, products, and services to Power Up, Build Green, and Drive Clean. Flagstaff, AZ. See www.sustainabilityexpo.com for more information.
- Aug 11** 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.
- September** The **NWCC Southwest Power Pool Workshop**, presented by the National Wind Coordinating Committee. Date and location to be determined.
- Sep 8** Meeting of the **Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council**, location and time to be determined. Watch www.ocgi.okstate.edu/orec for more information.
- Oct 26-27** The **Kansas Wind Workshop**, a meeting for stakeholders and developers of wind power in Kansas, will be held in Topeka, KS. For more information, contact Donna Johnson at (785) 832-8866.

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