

The Oklahoma WinCharger

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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

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based at the

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Federal Energy Bill Awaiting Bush's Signature

After months of debate and compromises Congress adopted a national energy bill on Friday, July 29th. The bill is currently awaiting President Bush's signature. Contained in the 1,724-page bill is a 2-year extension of the wind energy production tax credit (PTC). The PTC, which was set to expire on December 31, 2005, provides a 1.9 cent/kilowatt-hour tax credit for electricity generated by wind for the first 10 years of a wind project's operation.

This marks the first time the PTC has been extended without the previous credit expiring. The seamless extension will allow for smoother planning and expansion of wind projects nationwide. Up to 2,500 MW of wind energy is scheduled to come online this year, representing enough power for 700,00 homes in the United States and \$3 billion of investment. It is anticipated that with the extension of the PTC until December 31, 2007, this momentum will continue.

Also included in the wide-ranging energy bill is a requirement to double the nation's ethanol production, a 30% credit (capped at \$2,000) for residential solar systems and fuel cells, and credits for purchasing a hybrid vehicle. Unfortunately, the bill does not include incentives for the purchase of small wind

systems, a provision included in the Senate-version, but left out of the final version.

Weatherford Wind Project Dedicated

On June 28th over 200 people attended the dedication of the Weatherford Wind Energy Center. Commercial operation of the 106.5 MW project began on April 30, 2005. Currently, a 40.5 MW expansion of the project is being built, which will bring the total capacity to 147 MW – enough to power about 44,000 Oklahoma homes. The expansion is to be completed by the end of the year.

Speakers at the dedication included Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Miles Tolbert, Lt. General Tom Stafford (retired), Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown, Florida Power and Light Vice President of Development Mike O'Sullivan, and Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) President and COO Stuart Solomon.

“Today, we're proud to say that we continue to lead the way by providing our customers with the benefits of wind power from the Weatherford Wind Energy Center, while also advancing the wind energy industry in Oklahoma,” said Solomon.

The Weatherford Wind Energy Center is owned and operated by Florida Power and Light Energy. PSO purchases the output from the wind farm and provides the power to customers throughout their service territory.



Above: Dedication attendees check out the inside of one of the GE 1.5 MW turbines.

John Deere Investing in Wind

The well-known colors of green and yellow will not only be associated with agricultural equipment but with wind energy development as well. Deere & Co., renowned leader in the manufacturing of agricultural, forestry, and construction equipment, announced on July 28 their plans to invest in wind projects across the country. Two projects have already been chosen in Texas and Minnesota with the company considering other locations in other states. The new business unit will be managed by John Deere Credit.

Although not producing the turbines themselves, Deere & Co. will provide support services and financial counsel to the farmers' seeking the economic benefits of wind power. Robert W. Lane, Deere & Co. chairman and CEO, is quoted saying, "For generations, the world's most productive farmers have used John Deere equipment to provide food to the world and now, through wind energy, the same farmers

can help meet the growing demand for electricity."

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1152.

Texas RPS Doubled

New legislation now awaiting Texas Governor Rick Perry's signature will double the Texas' renewables portfolio standard to 5,880 MW (approximately 5% of the state's electricity) by 2015, including a target of 10,000 MW by 2025. This new bill also creates "competitive renewable energy zones", which will be designated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). These areas are ones in which transmission lines will be built in support of renewable energy development.

Susan Williams Sloan of the The Wind Coalition believes that the pending legislation will benefit consumers through energy independence and the potential millions of dollars invested by wind developers in local economies.

After six years and ahead of schedule, Texas will have accomplished its goal of 2,880 MW of renewable energy that was written into legislation in 1999. Governor Rick Perry expanded the special session called on June 21 to include renewable energy. "With energy costs draining family budgets and slowing economic growth nationwide, now is the time for lawmakers to pass legislation that will help Texas become more energy independent," Perry said.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1150

EET Conference - Sept. 27, 2005

The 2005 Emerging Energy Technology Conference is fast approaching! The upcoming one-day conference focusing on keeping Oklahoma a leader as an energy state will take place on September 27, 2005 in Norman, OK at the National Center for Employee Development (formerly known as the Postal Training Center.) Registration will open on August 8th, and registration fees will be \$65/person before September 16th and \$75/person after September 16th.

This year's agenda will include morning discussions on regional energy policies, initiatives in other states, and regional electric transmission and grid

issues. Invited speakers for the morning sessions include Secretary of the Environment Miles Tolbert, Stanley Bull from the National Renewable Energy Lab, Craig Christenson from GE Energy, and Bill Keese from the California Energy Commission representing the Western Governor's Association.

After lunch, the afternoon will feature four breakout sessions with discussion topics of:

- Wind Energy/Power Distribution
- Carbon Sequestration/Fossil Fuel Advances
- Biomass Energy
- Educational Programs

Invited speakers for the afternoon sessions include Commissioner Denise Bode of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Wayne Walker from Goldman Sachs/Zilkha Renewable Energy, Tom Lucas from High Plains RC&D, Clay Pope from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Terry Detrick from the Oklahoma Farmers Union, Dr. Stephen McKeever from Oklahoma State University, and Justin Smedley from the Oklahoma Department of Career Tech Education.

Wrapping up the day will be a discussion on federal, private sector, state, and utility viewpoints on the future of Oklahoma and the energy industry. Invited to take part in this closing session is Commissioner Denise Bode; Bob Sullivan, former Secretary of Energy for Oklahoma; and Bill McKamey, Vice President of External Affairs from Public Service Company of Oklahoma.

For the latest information, please visit <http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/conference2005>.

Exhibit spaces and sponsorship slots are still available, and forms are available online to sign up. We hope to see you on September 27th in Norman at the EET Conference!

NWCC Transmission Meeting

Mark your calendars for September 19, 2005 for the National Wind Coordinating Committee's (NWCC) Transmission Planning and Wind Energy in the Southwest Power Pool meeting. This event is scheduled to take place at the

Ramada Downtown in Topeka, KS. Registration, along with a draft meeting agenda, logistics, and travel information is available online at <http://www.nationalwind.org/events/spp/02/default.htm>.

The meeting will provide a forum for decision-makers at the local, state, regional, and national level to discuss the issues, opportunities, and challenges facing wind energy and electric transmission in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) region. Discussions will include potential wind energy development in the SPP, the transmission planning processes that are underway in the SPP, and how new transmission additions and wind energy developments might play a role in providing affordable, reliable, and clean electricity in our region.

If you have further questions regarding this meeting, please contact Miles Keogh, Senior Outreach Coordinator with the National Wind Coordinating Committee at mkeogh@resolv.org.

OWPI Exhibiting at Oklahoma State Fair

Do you have questions about wind power? Are you planning to attend the State Fair of Oklahoma? Well make plans to stop by the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative exhibit booth at the Oklahoma State Fair this September 15th – 25th! OWPI will be located at Space # 8108 in the Oklahoma Building #1. We will be showcasing the latest information on wind power and Oklahoma, as well as providing answers to all your questions.

Distribution of the WinCharger

Electronic distribution of The Oklahoma WinCharger is available. To sign up to receive your copy of the WinCharger by e-mail, 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 e-mail allows you to receive the newsletter faster and helps us keep our mailing costs down.

If you have recently moved or changed your e-mail address, please let us know. Address corrections or updates can be sent to Stephanie Buway at sbuway@hotmail.com or by phone at 405-447-8412. Thanks!

Calendar of Coming Events

- Aug 10** 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.
- Sep 13** 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.
- Sep 15-25** **State Fair of Oklahoma**, State Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City, OK. See www.oklahomastatefair.com for more information.
- Sep 21-23** **Environmental Federation of OK 14th Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK. See www.envirofdok.org/events for more information.
- Sept 27** **Emerging Energy Technology Conference**. Hosted by the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council. National Center for Employee Development, Norman, OK. See www.ocgi.okstate.edu/conference2005 for the latest information!
- Sep 28 – Oct 1** **AWEA Wind Energy Fall Symposium**, La Quinta Resort & Club, La Quinta, CA. See www.awea.org/seminars/educational.html for more information.
- Oct 12** 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.
- Nov 12-14** **Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Convention & Meeting**, Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK. See www.okfarmbureau.org for more information.

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