



The Oklahoma WinCharger



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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

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PTC Extended

On October 4th, President Bush signed into law a major tax package (H.R. 1308) which includes an extension of the federal production tax credit (PTC) until December 31, 2005. The PTC provides a 1.8¢/kwh tax credit (adjusted annually for inflation) for the electricity generated from wind. The PTC, which had expired on December 31, 2003, will be extended retroactively from then to December 31, 2005.

A longer-term extension (until December 31, 2006) is still part of the corporate tax/Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) bill, which is still being considered by Congress. The JOBS bill also calls for the creation of a new tax credit designed to encourage the use of small wind systems for homes, farms, and small businesses.

With the PTC now in effect, wind projects across the country are moving forward. This includes the project here in Oklahoma, the Weatherford Wind Energy Center, which is being built by FPL Energy. The project is projected to be 106.5MW in size. Public Service Company of Oklahoma, part of American Electric Power, is purchasing the electricity produced by the wind project.

PSO Issues RFP for 250MW of Renewable Energy

On Monday, November 1st, Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) issued a request for proposals for up to 250MW of renewable energy. Sources that qualify include wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric and biomass or biomass-based waste products.

PSO is part of American Electric Power Company (AEP). AEP's current renewable energy experience includes ownership of Desert Sky, a 160MW wind project in Pecos County, TX, and Trent, a 150MW wind farm near Sweetwater, TX. Both these projects were built in 2001. AEP also purchases 75MW of wind energy from the Southwest Mesa Wind Project near McCamey, TX. Being added to their current renewable energy portfolio is the purchase of 106MW currently under construction near Weatherford, OK, the Weatherford Wind Energy Center.

The proposals are due by December 1, 2004. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held in Dallas, TX on November 11th at 10 am. AEP expects to complete contract negotiations by March of 2005. For a full copy of the RFP, please visit <http://www.aep.com/go/RenewablesRFP>.

Gamesa to locate in PA

Gamesa Corporation, a wind energy company headquartered in Vitoria, Spain, has announced plans to base its operations in the United States in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gamesa will also open an advanced technology manufacturing facility for turbine blades in Pennsylvania as well. Gamesa is the second largest wind energy manufacturer in the world.

Gamesa acquired 400MW of new power purchase agreements (PPAs) from utilities in the state of Pennsylvania for projects that Gamesa are developing. This additional power will provide nearly 135,000 homes in the state with clean electricity. As a result of Gamesa's commitment, nearly 1,000 new jobs are expected to be created within the state over the next 5 years.

Gamesa's CEO Inaki Lopez Gandesegui thanked Pennsylvania's governor for his commitment by saying, "We are very impressed by the strong reception, leadership, and well grounded thinking we have experienced in Pennsylvania." Pennsylvania is already a leader on the East Coast with 129MW of wind farm capacity, and another 49MW expected to come on line within the next year.

Editor's note: The above is a summary of AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1111.

GE Selected for 990MW in Canada

GE was recently selected by Canadian wind project developers to build 8 wind farms across Canada that will create 990MW of wind power for Hydro-Quebec. The two developers of these projects are Cartier Wind Energy and Northland Power.

Cartier's award calls for the development of 6 wind farms totaling 740MW, for an estimated cost of \$1.2 billion. Northland received awards to build 2 wind farms for 250MW of wind power. Work on these projects is expected to begin by 2006, and completed by 2012.

GE will supply nearly 660 turbines for the projects. GE will set up facilities in the region to enable up to 60% of the wind energy component, materials and services to be

supplied, manufactured, and assembled locally. GE will also provide operation and maintenance serviced under multi-year contracts currently being negotiated.

Editor's Note: The above story is a summary of AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1113.

OEC to offer RECs

Members of the Oklahoma Electric Cooperative will now have the opportunity to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) through OEC's WindWorks Program. The REC will serve as a receipt for 100kWh of renewable energy, and will be sold for 50 cents each.

OEC is a co-op member of the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, which receives wind power generated by Blue Canyon Wind Farm near Lawton, OK. To sign up for WindWorks, you can contact OEC at 321-2024, or you will soon be able to sign up online at www.okcoop.org and click on the "Oklahoma Wind Power" link.

CO Voters Decide State RPS

This past November 2nd, voters in Colorado were given the opportunity to vote on a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for the state under Amendment 37. The situation in Colorado is unique and first of its kind due to the fact that the amendment calling for the RPS was put on the ballot directly by voters, rather than being processed through the state legislature.

Amendment 37 calls for a 10% RPS, including a 4% solar requirement, to be attained by 2015. RPS legislation has failed four times in Colorado's legislature.

At the time of this newsletter, preliminary results indicated that the amendment was passed with a 53 – 47% margin of victory.

The Next Big Thing-5MW Turbine

Germany's Repower is in the final stages of working to install their 5 MW wind turbine. The turbine sits atop a tower 120 meters (394 feet) high, and has blades that are 61.5 meters (201 feet) long. The wind only needs to blow just over 3.5 m/s (7 mph) to start this massive turbine, and it is projected to have peak performance with winds around 13 m/s (29 mph).

The turbine is going through final electrical commissioning. It is expected to be providing power to the local area of Brunsbittel by the end of the year. The 5 MW turbine has the capability to provide power to 4,500 people.

FB 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants Awarded

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced their choice of 167 recipients in 26 states to receive a portion of the \$22.8 million in grants to support renewable energy projects. Section 9006 of the Farm Bill provides money to be used by rural small businesses, farmers, and ranchers for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements.

Oklahoma received 10 grants totaling just over \$300,000 from this award, all for energy efficiency improvements. A complete list of the selected grant recipients and projects is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/news.htm>.

Siemens Enters Wind Power Market

Siemens Power Generation recently took its first step into the wind power industry by acquiring Bonus Energy, a Danish wind energy company. Bonus Energy is one of the five major suppliers of wind energy systems worldwide. The acquisition closing is expected in early December 2004.

This is not Siemens first time dealing with renewable energy technologies. The company formerly owned a solar photovoltaic division, which has since been sold to Shell. The recent acquisition of Bonus Energy signifies a major move toward wind energy and other renewable energy technologies.

New York Adopts 25% RPS

The New York State Public Service Commission voted on September 22nd to adopt a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 25% to be attained by 2013. This follows Governor George Pataki's goal that he announced back in January of 2003 during his State-of-the-State address.

New York becomes the 17th state to adopt an RPS. The RPS is expected to bring 3,700 MW of new renewable generation to the state. Currently, New York gets about 19% of its power from renewable energy, mostly hydroelectric power.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's October 2004 Windletter.

Study on Wind Power and Job Creation

A report released by the Renewable Energy Policy Project (REPP) has found that if U.S. wind energy installations were increased to eight times the current levels, as many as 150,000 new manufacturing jobs would be created. Their findings indicated that 90 companies in 25 states currently manufacture wind components. However, there is potential for over 16,000 companies in all 50 states to enter the wind turbine market.

AWEA's Director Randall Swisher supports the findings by saying, "Wind energy is already a boom for communities across the heartland, and could become an important source of manufacturing jobs nationwide, including areas that have been hardest hit by job losses."

This is the first such report to address this issue. The REPP's full report can be viewed at <http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/WindLocator.pdf>.

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, and 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

- Nov 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.
- Nov 9-10** **Ohio Wind Power Conference**, Cleveland, OH. Contact Tom Maves at 614-466-8425 or visit www.ohiowind.org for more information.
- Dec 8** 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.
- Jan 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.
- Jan 20-21** **Harvesting Clean Energy V**. Great Falls, MT. See www.harvestingcleanenergy.org for more information.
- May 15-18** **Windpower 2005 Conference and Exhibition**. Sponsored by AWEA, Denver, CO. Visit www.awea.org/wp05.html for more information.

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