

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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EET Conference A Success

The Oklahoma Emerging Energy Technology Conference was held on Tuesday, September 27th at the National Center for Employee Development/Marriott Hotel in Norman, OK. This year's conference included two morning general sessions, then four afternoon breakout sessions covering Biofuels, Wind Energy & Power Distribution, Carbon Sequestration, and Energy Education Programs. Following the breakout sessions, a Closing Session brought the day to an end.

We wish to extend our thanks to the speakers and exhibitors for taking time to be a part of our conference this year. We also would like to extend our gratitude to this year's sponsors:

Platinum Level: Oklahoma Department of Commerce – State Energy Program, US Department of Energy – Wind Powering America Program

Gold Level: AEP/Public Service Company of Oklahoma, Horizon Wind Energy, Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E), Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council (OREC), Oklahoma State University

Silver Level: Chermac Energy Corporation, Jolen Operating Company, University of Oklahoma

Bronze Level: Commissioner Denise Bode, Department of Environmental Quality – Air Quality Division, Hobart Industries, Oklahoma

Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), Oklahoma Farmers Union, Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI), Suzlon Wind Energy Corp., USDA Rural Development, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC).



Above: Miles Tolbert, Secretary of Environment for Oklahoma, opens the conference.



Above (L to R): Susan Savage, Miles Tolbert, Craig Christenson – GE Wind Energy, and Steve Palomo – Wind Powering America Program, serve as panel speakers for the Opening Session.



Above: Susan Savage, Secretary of State, smiles as questions are fielded following the presentations.



Above: The Environmental Science Graduate Program at Oklahoma State University Exhibit



Above: Kevin Easley – Grand River Dam Authority, Richard Halvey-Western Governor’s Association, Dub Taylor – Texas State Energy Conservation Office, and Les Dillahunty – Southwest Power Pool take part as panel speakers in the General Session.

For more information regarding the conference, including copies of speaker’s presentations and the conference program, please visit the conference website at <http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/conference2005>.

WINDPAC Releases Recommendations Report

On September 27th at the Emerging Energy Technology Conference Commissioner Denise Bode released the Recommendations Report for the Oklahoma Wind Power Assessment Committee. The Recommendations Report follows the Interim Report released to the State Legislature in April of 2005.

Recommendations in the report include:

- legislative proposals calling for renewable energy purchases for government entities,
- conformity of requirements for regulated and non-regulated utilities,
- statewide study and development of transmission infrastructure,
- funding for small demonstration projects,
- proposals for education and information dissemination,
- proposed rule changes regarding small and renewable generation purchase provisions.

A full copy of the report can be found on the OWPI website at <http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi>.

Chuck Ward 1942-2005

Oklahoma lost a dear friend recently. Charles “Chuck” Ward passed away on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 after a year long battle with leukemia.



Chuck was born on July 7, 1942 in Tucumcari, New Mexico. After making a career in the military by serving in the Navy, he became the Executive Director of Oklahomans United, a non-profit organization. Chuck also became involved with the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council and the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Foundation. He took to heart and made it a mission to bring wind power to the state of Oklahoma. He worked diligently and tirelessly, educating and informing legislators, state

officials and the public on the benefits and policy needs for the wind power industry. Chuck was truly instrumental in creating an atmosphere and policy base for what is now a half billion dollar industry in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council recently honored Chuck with an award for his efforts in advancing the wind industry in Oklahoma. The award was showcased at the Emerging Energy Technology Conference and was presented to Chuck posthumously at his funeral on October 16th. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Zilkha Now Horizon Wind Energy

Zilkha Renewable Energy has officially changed its name to Horizon Wind Energy. Houston - based Horizon Wind Energy, has a portfolio of nearly 4,000 megawatts in various stages of development in a dozen states. Goldman Sachs purchased the company, formerly owned by the father-and-son team of Selim and Michael Zilkha, in June 2005.

OWPI Exhibits at OK State Fair

OWPI recently took the opportunity to exhibit at this year’s State Fair of Oklahoma from September 15th through the 25th. The event was attended by over 80,000 people from around the state.

During the event, OWPI unveiled new fact sheets on wind power in Oklahoma.

- “Weatherford Wind Energy Center – An Economic Case Study” highlights the economic development surrounding the installation of the Weatherford Wind Energy Center.
- “Oklahoma Wind Power – Saving Money and Lives” showcases the health benefits wind generation in Oklahoma is providing including amount of emissions saved and economics of those emissions.
- “Small Wind Systems – Questions and Answers” gives homeowners the basic facts and information regarding wind systems for their homes.

These information sheets are available on the OWPI website at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi.

TX and OK Wind Power Customers See Economic Benefits

With the weather becoming cooler, consumers are looking at their energy bills and the increasing price of natural gas. Those who receive wind power need not worry about the price of natural gas because the fuel-cost adjustment fee is not applied to their bill. The wind customers of Edmond Electric saw their electricity bill balance out after the adjustment cost was taken away. In Texas, Austin Energy is expecting their customers to see a 2.6% - 4.2% increase in bills because of the fuel cost adjustment. However, Austin Energy's wind customers will not be affected by the increase since they have locked in a fixed rate for 10 years.

Not only are savings being seen in the consumers' home energy bills but also in property taxes. In Nolan County, Texas, the County Commissioners lowered the property tax rate to \$0.5218 from \$0.54 for each \$100 of property value. Even with the lower rate, the county expects to bring in more tax revenue due to the wind farms.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1162

USDA Selects Grant Winners

Nearly \$21 million dollars in USDA grant funds will be distributed to 150 applicants across 32 states for renewable energy and efficiency projects. The projects being funded range from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal technologies. Wasatch Wind, LLC, located in Utah, will receive funds in the amount of \$500,000 to initiate the beginning phase of a wind generation project that will start with one 1.5 MW turbine and finish with ten. To power a hydrogen generator in Ketchum, Idaho, Synthetic Energy, Inc. will use their grant funds of \$199,863 to purchase a wind turbine.

“Renewable energy is...a major growth area for American farmers and a top priority for USDA,” said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. “Energy conservation and renewable fuels are good for the environment, the economy, and farmers' bottom lines.”

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1159

Nebraska Poll Favors Renewable Energy Sources

The 100th annual University of Nebraska “2005 Nebraska Rural Poll” mailed out approximately 6,300 surveys to rural Nebraska households with questions regarding the quality of life and policy issues in the state. Among the questions asked were inquiries on the reliability, cost, potential to help the economy, and feasibility of alternative energies. When the responses came back, 90% of the respondents were in favor of renewable energy and 65% also said that renewable energy was better for the environment than fossil fuels.

On the issue of ethanol-blended gasoline, results showed that the majority of respondents almost always fill up with an ethanol blend of gas. 90% of farmers and ranchers said that producing more soy biodiesel and ethanol would be good for the Nebraska economy. Wind power was also highly accepted as a possibility for alternative energy and a benefit to the economy. Of those surveyed, 70% of the residents concluded that 10% of Nebraska's energy should be from wind. An even higher percentage said that the winds never stop blowing in their state and believe that wind power can be produced and used locally.

“This strong response sends a clear signal to our public electric utilities to accelerate their efforts to move ahead with wind power. This tells policy makers that Nebraskans want this to be part of their future. It could be an economic advantage to rural areas if that energy can be produced and used locally,” said Bruce Johnson, an Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources agricultural economist who worked on the poll.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1154

TX Offshore Wind Farm Gains Momentum

A lease for an 11,000 acre tract in the Gulf of Mexico has been sold by Texas for what supporters believe will be the first offshore wind farm built in the U.S. Galveston Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of Louisiana-based Wind Energy Systems Technologies, purchased the lease and estimate production to begin between 2010 and 2012. The company expects to erect 53 turbines, enough to power approximately 40,000 homes.

It is expected that the project in Texas will encounter fewer obstacles than the proposed wind farm off the coast of Massachusetts and the one in New York due to the Texas General Land Office oversees territory up to 10 miles from the coast. There are also oil and gas platforms currently visible from Texas beaches.

The above story is a summary from an AP Report on MSNBC.com accessed on 10/24/2005.

Wind No Longer Subject to Deviation Penalties

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Market Working Group recently submitted a proposal that would penalize wind farms for generating more or less than 10% of the forecasted amount of energy. Xcel Energy found this to be a problem considering weather-dependent resources can never be 100% accurate in their estimates. They proposed an amendment to the SPP Market Working Group to eradicate this penalty because it entails costs that are unfair to wind generators that cannot control the amount of wind that blows. The SPP committee voted in favor of the amendment 18-7.

Rick Walker of Sustainable Energy Strategies said, "This vote sends a very positive message to the wind industry that it has allies in the SPP that want to see continued development of wind energy in the region due to its low cost and environmental benefits."

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1163

Now Planning – Farm Bill Workshops!

Yes, it is that time again! Time for this year's informational Farm Bill Section 9006 Workshops, hosted by OWPI and Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council. We are currently in the planning stages and are targeting the first part of December 2005 for the two workshops this year.

Of noted interest this year is the fact that Farm Bill Section 9006 applications are now processed on a rolling basis. This means that unlike in year's past where we needed to wait until the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) was released, applications can be accepted at any time. Due to this change, we are hosting workshops earlier in the year to take advantage of the rolling application process.

So keep your eyes and ears open in the coming weeks as we settle the details on when and where these workshops will take place. For more information on the Farm Bill Section 9006 Grant and Loan Programs, please visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/>.

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

- Nov 1-2** **Governor's 26th Annual Water Conference**, Cox Convention Center. Contact Mary Nell Brueggen, 405-530-8800 for more information.
- Nov 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.
- Nov 12-14** **Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Convention & Meeting**, Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK. See www.okfarmbureau.org for more information.
- Nov 15-17** **Native Renewables Energy Summit: Solutions for Tribes & Cities**, Denver, CO. See <http://www.dciamerica.com/sessions/conference/nativerenewables.htm> for more information.
- Dec 14** 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 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.

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