

# The Oklahoma WinCharger

1 December 2001

(A Newsletter for Oklahoma Wind Stakeholders)

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## Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

A Collaborative Project by the  
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based at the

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## Electronic Distribution of the WinCharger

Due to limited funds, the WinCharger staff will reserve hardcopy mailings to those who do not have access to e-mail. Therefore, if you receive a hardcopy of this December issue and have an e-mail account, we would appreciate receiving that address from you. Please send your e-mail address to Kylah Kissinger, our WinCharger database manager, at [ouweatherchick@hotmail.com](mailto:ouweatherchick@hotmail.com).

Thank you for helping us keep our mailing costs down. For those of you with e-mail who would still like hardcopy versions for sharing/distribution, please contact the WinCharger to request that some be mailed to you.

## OWPI Helps Otoe-Missouria Install Tower

On November 16th, the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative assisted the Otoe-Missouria Tribe with the installation of a 20-meter (66 ft.) wind resource monitoring tower. The tower and 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 and landowners in turning their wind resource into energy savings or development as a resource to sell for profit.

John Norman, First Member and Tribal Housing Director for the Otoe-Missouria, was in charge of applying for and receiving the tower and instruments. The data logger will monitor wind speed and direction for at least a year, storing the

information on small "data plugs". Moran Bibles will monitor the data logger. Each month Moran will swap out data plugs and mail the used plug to NREL personnel for assessment of the local wind resource. NREL has given permission to OWPI to use this data in improving their wind resource model outputs.

As with the Kaw Nation tower (story in the November issue), Tim Hughes and Troy Simonsen of OWPI assisted with the installation and prepared information for NREL on the vegetation and terrain surrounding the Otoe-Missouria tower site, located about 6 miles ENE of Red Rock, Oklahoma. For more information on NREL's wind instrument loan program, contact Hughes or Simonsen care of 'The



Troy Simonsen (OWPI; left side) and members of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe install wind instruments and a lightning rod atop tower.



Tower raised with battery-powered winch.

WinCharger'. A PowerPoint presentation about this tower and the surrounding area will soon be available on the OWPI web site ([www.seic.okstate.edu/owpai](http://www.seic.okstate.edu/owpai)).



Moran Bibles (left) and John Norman (right) of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe work with Troy Simonsen to set up the datalogger on the 20-meter tower.

### **OK Native American Wind Workshop Set**

A workshop on wind power development specifically targeted for Native American groups will be held on January 9, 2002, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., on the Tulsa University Campus in the Allen Chapman Activities Center, Chouteau – C (second floor).

Sponsored by the Tribal Environmental Coalition in Oklahoma (TECO) and hosted by the National Energy-Environment Law and Policy Institute (NELPI), a program within Tulsa University

College of Law, this workshop is part of U.S. DOE's Wind Powering America program's outreach to Native America. Similar workshops have been held in Alaska, Pacific Northwest, Northern Great Plains, and the Western Great Lakes with plans for more workshops in California and the Southwest. Intertribal wind energy briefings have also been held in conjunction with other Intertribal meetings in northeastern U.S.

Overall, Native lands throughout the country offer tremendous opportunity for developing wind resources to meet local needs or for commercial export. Projects can range from single-home or community-scale wind applications to large scale, multi-megawatt commercial applications. In the Pacific Northwest, the wind potential of the Indian reservations is many times that of the existing hydropower dams. In the Northern Plains, commercial scale wind resource potential is over 100 times that of the capacity of the 6 dams on the Missouri River. The U.S. DOE has estimated that 75% of lower 48 states' electricity demand could be produced by Great Plains' wind resources. Oklahoma along with central Kansas and northwestern Texas enjoys one of the best wind resources in North America.

These workshops are designed to bring technical assistance from the National Renewable Energy Lab and wind developers to Indian tribes interested in assessing their wind resources and understanding the opportunities for and barriers to the development of those resources. Speakers include experts from the NREL/Wind Powering America program, TECO, NELPI, Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, and the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative. Topics will include Native American wind development issues, Oklahoma and national wind resources, project financing, and more.

There is no registration fee, but advanced registration is recommended since the workshop will include a luncheon. To register, or for more information, contact: (continued next page)

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### **2002 Oklahoma Wind/Green Power Conference**

Mark your calendars! The second annual Oklahoma wind power conference will be held on April 11, 2002 at the Myriad Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. For this conference, some breakouts will be added for other renewable energy technologies and/or special interest groups. The registration fee for landowners and other individual attendees will be nominal.

An information/registration web page will be constructed soon and more information on agenda, speakers, etc. will be provided in the January and February issues of the WinCharger. In the meantime, planners are happy to hear from potential cosponsors. If you are interested in having yourself, your company, or other organization listed as a cosponsor, please call or email Tim Hughes, Planning Committee Chair, c/o the WinCharger.

### **SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES FARM BILL'S CLEAN ENERGY PROVISIONS**

*(Editor's note: the following was excerpted from the November 2001 issue of The American Wind Energy Association's publication, "Windletter")*

On November 6, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee passed the Energy Title to the 2002 Federal Farm Bill. The Energy Title was developed by Committee Chair Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Ranking Minority Member Richard Lugar (R-Ind.). It includes a strong focus on energy efficiency and developing renewable energy resources in a way that brings economic benefit to America's farms and ranches.

The bill's proposed clean energy section provides more than \$500 million for clean energy programs over the next five years. There is significant funding for new renewable energy project development, including both small-scale and utility-scale wind power systems, and for energy efficiency audits and improvements on farms and ranches.

If it becomes law, the bill could have special value to the small wind turbine industry through the following initiatives.

- It offers loans, loan guarantees, and grants directly to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.
- It provides new authority for Department of Agriculture (USDA) to make loans, loan guarantees, and grants to rural electric cooperatives and rural utilities (funded at \$9 million annually from 2002 through 2006) to promote development of economically and environmentally sustainable new renewable energy projects.
- It encourages farmer-owned wind cooperatives or similar projects through loans, loan guarantees and grants to assist farmers and ranchers in becoming equity owners (through new cooperatives or participation in limited liability corporations) of utility-scale renewable energy projects and marketers of electricity produced from renewable energy plants.
- It attempts to support deployment of fuel cell technology on farms, and it features a competitive grant program for demonstration projects for fuel cell and other hydrogen technologies in farm and rural applications as well as studies of new fuel cell and hydrogen technologies not yet ready for demonstration. This program favors innovative, renewable energy projects that are economic, produce environmental benefits and have commercialization potential as mass-produced, farm-sized systems.

"It will be important for renewable energy advocates to let their Congressional representatives know that they support the new initiatives that are included in the Senate's energy title," said Randall Swisher, AWEA's Executive Director. "The proposed new clean energy title is a major step forward for the Federal Farm Bill, and could really play a significant role providing support for wind deployment in rural America." *(Editor's note: learn more about this bill at Senator Harkin's web site: <http://harkin.senate.gov/~harkin/index.html> ).*

## **Interim Studies on Green Energy**

The first part of an Interim Study on Green Energy, conducted by the Energy and Utility Regulation Committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, was held at the University of Oklahoma on November 8, 2001. The Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council (OREC) hosted the event. Twelve committee members, four house staff, and State Representatives James Covey (Dist. 57) and Jack Bonny (Dist. 55) attended, along with members of the press and OREC participants.

Part I was entitled "Green Energy Experiences in Other States and Economic Development through Small Turbine Manufacturing in Oklahoma". Committee Vice-chair Dale Wells (Dist. 33) opened the event, and Tim Hughes, OREC Interim Chair, gave a brief description of OREC. Following Tim, Henry Durrwachter of Texas Utility Energy Trading and Peter Adels of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future gave perspectives on utility restructuring and renewable portfolio standards for their respective states. Mike Bergey, President of Bergey Windpower Co., gave a presentation on small wind systems and manufacturing opportunities.

Presentations and summaries in PowerPoint or PDF format are available at the OREC web site: <http://www.seic.okstate.edu/orec>.

The second interim study on green energy will take place on January 23, 2002 at the State Capitol with a focus on the economic benefits of green power. More information on content, time and location will be presented in the January issue of the WinCharger.

## **Results of POWER competition**

In the September issue of the WinCharger, wind resource monitoring equipment along with data collection and analytical services provided courtesy of Plains Organization for Wind Energy Resources (POWER) and OWPI, were offered to an interested community. A competition ensued, with criteria set by POWER and OWPI for appropriate locations. OWPI is pleased to announce the community of Hobart as the winner of this competition. Led by resident Lou Sims, City Manager Wilt Brown, Harold Moad of the Hobart Economic Development Authority, and Superintendent of Schools Roger Hill, a compelling application was submitted. Access to a 400-foot tower was secured, along with

personnel to install and maintain instrumentation and equipment. Superintendent Hill wrote that the educators at the Hobart Public Schools are very excited about integrating the wind data and energy studies into their curricula, and the community is keenly interested in exploring the potential for cooperative ownership of wind turbines to serve their businesses and town. OWPI Director Tim Hughes will visit the town in mid-December to review logistics. Installation will occur by mid-January.

It is expected the success of this prototype for public-domain wind resource data will have the following benefits for citizens of Hobart and for others in the region:

- high-level wind resource data will help OWPI improve its wind resource model output;
- data in vicinity of the town will further attract wind-farm developers to the area;
- the data will aid in economic and technical feasibility studies on how distributed wind generation (electricity produced mostly or entirely for use by customers in an electrical distribution system) may benefit local citizens, without dependence on transmission capacity;
- the successful use of data will lead to funding for more publicly owned wind resource assessments in other communities;
- and ultimately improving the accuracy of Oklahoma resource data and models will attract more development to all wind-rich areas of our state.

If your community would like to be considered for similar endeavors in the future, please write to 'The WinCharger' so we can demonstrate your interest to officials as OWPI seek support in expanding this program.

## **Questions? Issues?**

If you have questions or issues you would like to see addressed in future issues of 'The Oklahoma WinCharger', please call or write to:

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## Calendar of Coming Events

- Dec. 4 - 6** National Indian Economic Development Conference, Westin Hotel, Downtown Oklahoma City. A presentation on wind power will take place during the afternoon session (3:00 to 4:30) on Wed., Dec. 5th. Visit [www.oiih.org](http://www.oiih.org), or call the Oklahoma Institute of Indian Heritage at (405) 329-3772 for more information.
- Dec. 12** Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council meeting, 10 to noon, at the State Capital, Room 419A. Visit [www.seic.okstate.edu/OREC/](http://www.seic.okstate.edu/OREC/) for agenda and updated information. There will be a meeting from 9-10 a.m. at the same location for those interested in planning the next green power interim study and the April 11, 2002 Wind/Green Power Conference.
- Jan. 9** Oklahoma Native American Wind Workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Tulsa University in the Allen Chapman Activities Center, Chouteau – C (second floor). See above article for more information.
- Jan. 16** Tentative date for January meeting of the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council, 10 to Noon (meeting location TBA).
- Jan. 23** Second interim study on green energy, conducted by the House Committee on Energy and Utility Regulation. More details on time and location will be available in the January ‘WinCharger’.
- Apr. 11** 2002 Oklahoma Wind/Green Power Conference, Myriad, OKC, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.