



West Texas Wind Wire

May 2006



Texas soars past California to lead Western Hemisphere

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West Texas has soared past wind energy pioneer California to take the lead in Western Hemisphere wind generation capacity,

completion of the 2.3 MW Siemens turbine deployment at Horse Hollow 3 (Nolan County) this summer, West Texas will have roughly 2,500 MW of generation.

Additional leasing activity is moving briskly throughout West Texas and North Central Texas for probable 2007 projects.



In fact, Nolan County alone will add almost 1,000 MW in 2006. Shackelford County (Albany) will add another 360 MW in a Horizon Wind Energy LLC project in 2006.

West Texas could surpass 3,000 MW of operational wind capacity by year-end 2006, and the Rolling Plains area alone could top California within a year. Texas will have enough operational wind energy in 2006 to power almost 1,000,000 homes.

and the Lone Star State will rocket further ahead with the rapid pace of 2006 construction.

Other West Texas projects are anticipated to come on line in 2006 in Callahan, Scurry, and Howard counties.

South Texas projects are now also in the planning stage with an onshore project announced on the Kenedy Ranch (400 MW) and two potential offshore projects announced: a 150 MW project slated for the Gulf of Mexico off Galveston Island, and a 500 MW concept announced off of Padre Island.

When 2005 came to a close, West Texas had 1,995 megawatts in operation, while California set the pace with 2,150 MW — roughly the same total that the Golden State has had since the 1980s.

With FPL Energy's Horse Hollow 2 reaching operational status in Nolan County, West Texas wind generation capacity has surpassed 2,200 MW. On



Summer 2006 West Texas wind events

- *Legal seminar*
- *Industrial summit*
- *Trade Fair*
- *Regional workshops*
- *Wind project tours*
- *PUC transmission proceedings*
- *Landowner action*

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TSTC develops wind technician degree program

Located in the heart of the West Texas wind energy production area, Texas State Technical College is working with wind energy field staff and West Texas wind leaders to establish an Associates Degree workforce skills program to train wind energy technicians.

TSTC plans to offer the Wind Energy Technician degree program beginning in the Fall 2006 semester.

TSTC West Texas has campuses in Sweetwater, Abilene, Brownwood, and Breckenridge.

TSTC curriculum development staff have been working for many months with wind project supervisors from FPL Energy and GE Wind, as well as West Texas Wind Energy Consortium officials and leaders at Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center to develop the program.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinat-



TSTC curriculum development staff discuss core competencies and course concepts with representatives of FPL Energy, GE Wind, Texas Tech University, and the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium.

ing Board is currently reviewing the TSTC degree plan proposal.

The degree plan will include such course topics as wind energy materials and mechanics, power delivery systems, wind

business overview, turbine troubleshooting, engineering math, electronics, OSHA safety procedures, and more.

Many TSTC graduates from other fields already work at wind projects in West Texas and around the world. Development of the tailored Wind Energy Technician degree program will greatly enhance employability prospects for those interested in a wind project career. The degree will also simplify wind energy companies' hiring practices, as completion of the degree program will require mastery of a comprehensive set of skills necessary to efficiently and safely operate a major wind project.

TSTC's objective is to establish the Nation's premier wind energy technician degree program in the heart of the hemisphere's leading wind energy region.

Industrial initiative aims to grow Texas jobs

Industrial workers across Texas are making crucial components for the wind energy industry. Now a new initiative is being launched to amplify the Lone Star State's industrial role.

The Texas Wind Industrial Network Development Initiative — the Texas WIND Initiative — will bring together active Texas wind industrial companies, local economic development corporations, Texas industrial development officials, and policymakers to maximize efforts to retain, expand, develop, and recruit additional wind energy manufacturing here.

The inaugural Texas Wind Industrial Network Summit — Texas WINS I — will convene Aug. 9 at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

Texas industrial companies already manufacture a wide range of wind energy components, including fiberglass blades, carbon fiber, steel towers, and tons of steel components for each tower.



Cities across the state also want to recruit U.S. and international manufacturers to build such major components as blades, nacelles, and other systems. The Texas WIND initiative aims to create a forum for industry, communities, and policymakers to identify industrial development opportunities and to enhance the state's wind industrial image to companies looking to open new manufacturing facilities.

In addition, the initiative will explore joint venture concepts through which existing Texas companies can team together to develop new wind energy manufacturing opportunities for Texas workers.

The second Texas Wind Industrial Network Summit — Texas WINS II — will be held in Austin.





Wind tourism blows across West Texas

From McCamey to Fluvanna to Trent to Nolan — visitors are flocking to West Texas wind sites in search of the alluring mechanical equivalent of bluebonnets.

Students from Canada, film crews from New York, policymakers from Austin — and tourists from everywhere — are following the energy independence trail across West Texas.

Texans are used to seeing motorists swerving for a great vista of seemingly endless fields of the state flower, but now vast areas of West Texas are attracting similar attention for their fields of 250-foot tall wildflowers.

Taller than the Statue of Liberty, the hundreds of huge wind turbines have captured the imagination of tourists, film



crews, policymakers, and the wind industry itself. The majestic towers are spreading across Texas ranchland like no where else.

Already film crews from HBO, Voom! High Definition News, RFD Network, and countless regional news teams have interviewed ranchers, farmers, small business operators, and wind industry officials across the region.



Transmission debate continues

Officials at the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) are working with stakeholders to implement the Texas Legislature’s directive to develop a more extensive and robust electric transmission network.

In order to open up more land to wind energy development, the Legislature in 2005 required the PUC and ERCOT to evaluate geographic areas as renewable energy generation zones —

Dubbed “Competitive Renewable Energy Zones” or CREZ.

Dozens of West Texas counties dominate the candidate list for new transmission, but it is crucial for West Texas landowners, elected officials, and business leaders to be vigilant and active as this process moves forward.



Some interest groups advocate development of new wind projects closer in to major metro areas rather than in West Texas.

West Texas landowner initiatives advance

From the Concho Valley to the Red River to the Texas Panhandle and all points in between, West Texas ranchers, farmers, and county leaders are organizing, marketing, and building wind energy projects.

This intensity and depth of action is in stark contrast to other areas of the U.S. and even South Texas, where wind projects continue to face stiff “not in my back yard” (“NIMBY”) opposition.

In fact, in many West Texas areas, the battle cry is often “Put them in my front yard . . . Please!”.

Literally thousands of West Texas farmers and ranchers have been meeting in community centers, churches, abandoned gymnasiums, and other gathering places in several counties. The sessions involve Q&A sessions with county officials, legal counsel, and WTWEC advisors, as West Texans explore the pros and cons of wind energy development.

Working with county leaders, Runnels County farmers & ranchers have demonstrated their interest in wind development by organizing pooled and individual marketing efforts totaling hundreds of square miles of well-suited West Texas territory.

Hundreds of square miles of West Texas lands have been voluntarily entered on county maps as demonstrations of interest by ranchers and farmers.

Runnels County has set the pace for the model of homegrown, proactive organization and marketing. Similar initiatives with hundreds of thousands of acres each are ongoing in Concho, Tom Green, Mitchell, and Nolan counties. Upcoming regional workshops have been called by landowners and county leaders in the Red River Valley, the South Plains, and the High Plains.



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Representing America's
energy independence region

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West Texas Wind Energy Consortium invites you to join in a new era of joint action to capitalize on the value of wind energy to West Texas.

Our region supplies more than 25 percent of U.S. wind energy capacity, and only 4 foreign nations produce more wind energy than West Texas. This rapidly expanding industry provides substantial job creation potential and tax base growth for our region, and the outlook is strong into coming decades.

To facilitate a strong West Texas-wide effort to maximize our common economic benefits, leaders throughout the region — in cooperation with Texas State Technical College-West Texas — are forming the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium across the breadth of West Texas: the Rolling Plains, Permian Basin, Pecos Valley, Texas Panhandle, Texas Mountains, and the Red River Valley — **America's energy independence region.**



Summer 2006 West Texas wind energy events

West Texas Wind Energy Consortium is sponsoring the following events this summer:

May 31 — Sweetwater

WTWEC luncheon: Texas Industrial Wind — featuring Bo Barr of Barr Fabrication of Brownwood.

May 31 — Sweetwater

Texas Public Utility Commission staff will hold an informal information gathering session with West Texas land-owners, elected officials, and community development representatives at

June 1-2 — Sweetwater

The University of Texas School of Law will host the first Wind Energy

Institute, a continuing education opportunity for lawyers (open to non-lawyers). Texas, U.S., and international lawyers will attend.

June 13 — Vernon

Red River Valley Wind Energy Workshop

July 12 — Trent

2nd Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair (Conference wind project tours on July 13 — Sweetwater)



July 18 — Dumas

Texas High Plains Wind Energy Workshop

July 19 — Levelland

Texas South Plains Wind Energy Workshop

August 9 — San Angelo

1st Texas Wind Industrial Network Summit (Texas WINS I)

July 8-15-22-29 & Aug 5-12-19-26 — Sweetwater

Saturday half-day tours of two of the world's largest wind projects

Contact texaswind@wtconnect.com for more details.

