



West Texas Wind Wire



September 2006

Milestones keep coming

West Texas powers USA wind

Like a New York taxi meter, the number of wind turbines operating in Texas spins too fast to count.

In June 2006, commencement of commercial operation for almost 300 GE 1.5 MW turbines in FPL Energy's Horse Hollow 2 rocketed West Texas past California to lead the Western Hemisphere.

In mid-August, a row of Siemens 2.3 MW turbines in FPL Energy's Horse Hollow 3 pushed the USA over 10,000 MW of operational wind — enough to power more than 4 million homes.

In late August, another row of Siemens 2.3 MW machines came on line at Horse Hollow 3 — moving the USA ahead of Spain as the second most powerful wind energy nation. Only Germany (with almost 20,000 MW of operational wind energy) now has more wind power capacity than the USA.

West Texas trails only Germany, the USA, Spain,



FPL Energy announced that the 735 MW project is the world's largest wind energy facility. Horse Hollow stretches roughly 40 miles from east to west in Taylor and Nolan counties.

As currently configured, Horse Hollow includes 291 GE 1.5 MW turbines and 130 of the Siemens 2.3 MW turbines. The project covers almost 50,000 acres in West Texas.

Horizon Wind Energy's Lone Star wind project continues to rise over the ranchland of Shackelford County, southwest of Albany. Approximately 400 MW of Gamesa 2.0 MW turbines are currently being constructed.

Irish-based Airtricity is heavily into the construction phase at the 125 MW Forest Creek project in Sterling County, with substantial additional development in West Texas pending announcement.

and India, and is running neck-and-neck with Denmark for world leadership.

West Texas will rank securely as the 5th most powerful wind energy nation by year-end 2006, and could challenge India for 4th place globally by 2008.

On October 19, FPL Energy is scheduled to formally dedicate the first three phases of their Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center. On Sept. 7,

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Developers active in West Texas projects under construction

- *FPL Energy*
- *Babcock & Brown*
- *AES Seawest*
- *Horizon Wind*
- *Airtricity*
- *Cielo*
- *John Deere*

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Regional Round-Up

Farmers, ranchers, counties & industries take action across West Texas

Abilene — The Abilene Industrial Foundation’s Board of Directors discussed wind energy economic impacts and initiatives at a September 12 session. Abilene is home to Zoltek, which makes carbon fiber for Vestas and Gamesa blades. The Abilene Chamber of Commerce will unveil a series of billboards later this fall promoting the West Texas wind energy industry.

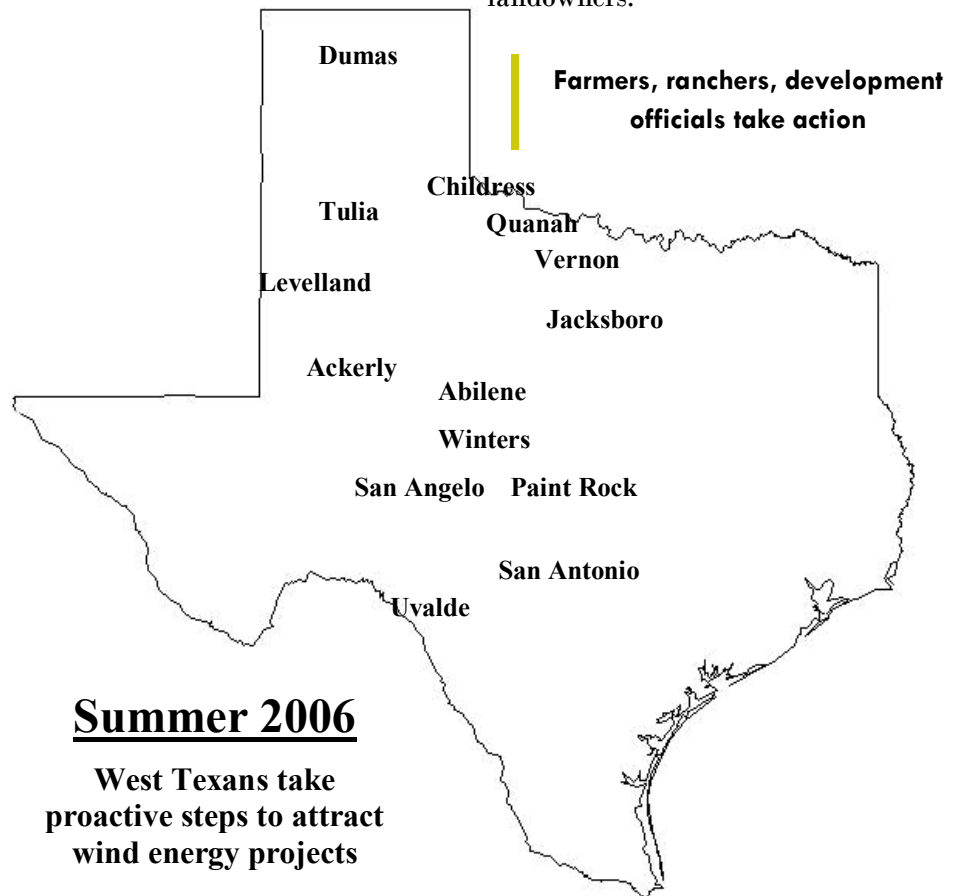
Ackerly — Almost 150 farmers from Dawson, Martin, Howard, and Borden counties gathered at Pal’s Place in Ackerly on July 25 to discuss wind energy and to form an official marketing and development entity.

Childress — An all-day wind energy seminar in Childress on Aug. 22 drew State Senator Robert Duncan, State Rep. David Swinford, and other legislators. More than 200 farmers, ranchers, and local development officials from throughout the Red River Valley, the South Plains, and the Texas Panhandle gathered for the event coordinated by the Texas Department of Agriculture, Childress Economic Development Corporation, and WTWEC. Sweetwater attorney Jim Wilks discussed lease issues, and the Texas General Land Office discussed manufacturing and other economic initiatives.

Dumas — High Plains officials drew more than 100 farmers, ranchers, and local development officials from Panhandle counties at an all-day seminar on July 18. Texas Depart-

ment of Agriculture, Dumas Economic Development Corporation, and WTWEC coordinated the event. Carson County Judge Lewis Powers presided over the seminar. State Rep. David Swinford discussed the “Panhandle Loop” transmission concept to link High Plains and South Plains wind resources to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) market. Dr. Ken Starcher of West Texas A&M University discussed wind economics.

Jacksboro — On Sept. 21, the Childress Trail Economic Development Corporation, WTWEC, Jack County, Bowie Economic Development Corporation drew more than 220 persons from at least 14 counties for an evening workshop. Jack County Judge Mitchell Davenport presided. Gamesa and FPL Energy discussed wind developer perspective. Nolan County rancher Johnny Ussery, Jr. discussed landowner perspective. Sweetwater attorney Zolie Steakley discussed legal issues for landowners.





More Regional Round-Up of West Texas Action

Here are more examples of the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium working with West Texans who are taking proactive steps to secure wind projects and increase manufacturing jobs:

Levelland — Oldham County Judge Don Allred discussed region-wide economic implications of wind energy at an all-day seminar on July 19. The workshop was hosted by Texas Department of Agriculture, WTWEC, and Levelland Economic Development Corporation. Texas Tech University’s Dr. Andy Swift discussed the wind resource in the South Plains and Panhandle. Roughly 100 leaders from a dozen counties attended.

Quanah — About 100 Hardeman County landowners gathered on September 11 for an evening workshop. The group announced the formation of an official joint marketing and development entity.

Paint Rock — Almost 200,000 acres (including one block of more than 25,000 acres) have been signed up in expressions of interest by Concho County ranchers and farmers working with Concho County elected officials.



San Angelo — San Angelo hosted the first Texas Wind Industrial Network Summit (Texas WINS I) at Angelo State University on Aug. 9. Sponsored by WTWEC and the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, the conference focused on wind compo-



nent manufacturing. Attendees included industrialists, local economic development officials, and senior state agency staff. The agenda included industrial retention, expansion, recruitment, and development. Ranchers and farmers across Tom Green County have signed up tens of thousands of acres in expressions of interest through the Tom Green County Judge and Commissioners Court.

San Antonio — On Sept. 19, rural development officials from across the USA heard presentations on the economic impact of the wind energy industry in West Texas. At the Council of State Community and Economic Development Agencies, Fort Stockton economic development director Doug May discussed economic impacts in the Pecos Valley and the Permian Basin. Greg Wortham addressed broader West Texas impacts. Travis Brown, Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), hosted the session.

Tulia — Representatives from the Texas Panhandle on Sept. 5 attended an evening workshop at the Swisher County Courthouse. County Judge Harold Keeter presided over the session, which was sponsored by Swisher County, Texas Department of Agriculture, and WTWEC. Dr. Ken Starcher of West Texas A&M University discussed wind energy development economics. State Rep. David Swinford presented the “Panhandle Loop” transmission concept, and Oldham County Judge Don Allred discussed regional strategies and economic benefits.

Uvalde — Roughly 150 officials and business leaders from across southwest Texas and Mexico are scheduled to discuss wind energy on Oct. 5 at the Southwest International Trade Conference and Exposition. The event is sponsored by the Middle Rio Grande Development Council Area.

Vernon — Vernon College on June 13 hosted an evening workshop on wind energy development in the Red River Valley. The event — sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture, WTWEC, and Vernon economic development officials — drew more than 160 people from at least 15 counties. Sweetwater attorney Zollie Steakley discussed landowner lease issues.

Winters — Runnels County and the Winters Area Business & Industrial Corporation continue to set the pace for proactive initiatives. Hundreds of farmers and ranchers have joined forces to form marketing entities that together cover hundreds of square miles of mesas and farmland.



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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 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 —

West Texas . . .

America's energy independence region.



West Texas submits comments on transmission

On behalf of the more than 500,000 West Texans represented by its members, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium submitted comments on September 29 to the Public Utility Commission of Texas in the ongoing debate on transmission capacity expansion.

At the direction of the Texas Legislature, the PUCT is evaluating regulations to designate "Competitive Renewable Energy Zones" or "CREZ" across Texas. Once these CREZ are designated, the PUCT will establish streamlined procedures for transmission capacity upgrades to move wind energy to market from these areas.

The West Texas comments focused on four primary topics: (1) Upgrade the "Graham" substation bottleneck;

(2) upgrade power lines from Lamesa to Uvalde and into west San



Bold action on transmission holds key to Texas wind energy future.

Antonio to establish a robust Southwest Texas link into the metro areas of south and central Texas; (3) build the "Panhandle Loop" to connect Panhandle and South Plains wind projects to Metro Texas; and (4) recognize the immense wind energy opportunities throughout West Texas and take bold action now.

A public hearing will be held at **9:00 a.m. in Austin on Friday, Oct. 13**, on CREZ, the transmission system upgrades, and the PUCT's proposed rule. **West Texas farmers, ranchers, local development officials, and elected officials are urged to attend this PUCT public hearing. The hearing will be held at the PUCT offices in the William B. Travis Building at 1701 North Congress.**

