



# West Texas Wind Wire



October 2005

## Congress, Texas advance wind energy

Both the U.S. Congress and the Texas Legislature took major steps this summer to advance the West Texas wind industry.

President George W. Bush in July signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which extends the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) through December 31, 2007.



Texas Governor Rick Perry also in July signed legislation that raises the State's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 5,880 megawatts (MW) by 2015. The legislation also directs the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to dramatically upgrade transmission in West Texas to enable the export of the region's vast wind resources to metro-

politan markets in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin.

The federal PTC has been a driving force in deployment of wind turbines throughout West Texas, as well as in assuring industrial jobs here. The proactive extension through 2007 gives certainty to industrial workers and wind developers alike.

The Texas and U.S. actions assure wind developers of a market for their energy, leading to more-land leases across West Texas, particularly in the Rolling Plains region within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) transmission



grid. Transmission constraints across the U.S. — including some areas of West Texas — underscore the importance of prompt action by the PUCT to alleviate transmission bottlenecks.

The new Texas RPS target replaces the previous goal of 2,880 MW, which had been projected for 2009 but which would be met in 2006. The upgraded target of 5,880 MW would represent about 5 percent of Texas energy needs in 2015.

The RPS includes various renewable energy sources, but will include more than 5,000 MW of wind energy.



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### U.S. wind power generation leaders:

- *California*
- *West Texas*
- *McCamey region*
- *Iowa*
- *Minnesota*
- *Nolan County*
- *Taylor County*
- *New Mexico*

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# WTWEC members elect first Board

Members of the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium elected the regional group's inaugural Board of Directors at a membership meeting Sept. 29 held on the Sweetwater campus of Texas State Technical College-West Texas.

Directors hail from Van Horn to Abilene to Brownwood, and WTWEC members reserved the right to name additional directors in the coming months.

West Texas community leader Johnnie Lou Avery-Boyd of Big Spring and Abilene chaired the nominating committee, which fielded recommendations from throughout the region and across stakeholder sectors.

The Board represents education, local government, regional economic development, heavy industry, landowners, and banking. The Board will oversee evolution of the regional alliance as the wind industry continues its rapid growth across the breadth of West Texas.

**Board members:**

**Homer Taylor, education, President, Sweetwater**

**Taylor County Judge George Newman, rancher, Vice President**

**Greg Wortham, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Director**

**Bo Barr, industry, Brownwood**

**Raymond McDaniel, rancher, Taylor County**

**J. Robert Scott, banking, Big Spring**

**Sue Young, Mitchell County Board of Economic Development**

**Jeff McCoy, Van Horn Economic Development Corporation**



## TSTC Regents Tour West Texas Wind Ranch

When the statewide Board of Regents for Texas State Technical College gathered in Sweetwater in October, several dozen senior officials from the college system toured the operational facilities at the 230 MW Sweetwater 1-2-3 Wind Project in Nolan County.

*Texas State Technical College is working to develop the premier national training center for wind energy workers.*

Regents, administrators, senior faculty, and development officials met with GE Wind operational staff and viewed wind towers, computer systems, and electric grid interconnections. West Texas Wind Energy Consortium arranged the tour.

TSTC has campuses across the state, including Waco, Harlingen, Marshall, and West Texas. TSTC-West Texas has campuses in Sweetwater, Abilene, Brownwood, and Breckenridge.

With its geographic presence in the West Texas wind energy region and its mission to train workers for emerging industries, TSTC officials are working to develop the premier national training center for wind energy workers.





# Congressman tours Horse Hollow site

U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock) met with local and national wind energy stakeholders during a tour of wind energy operations and construction in Taylor and Nolan counties Oct. 10.

West Texas Wind Energy Consortium officials coordinated the tour of FPL Energy's 220.5 MW Horse Hollow wind project and joined Congressman Neugebauer for the fact-finding session.

Among the WTWEC Board members represented were president Homer Taylor, vice president George Newman (Taylor County Judge), and members Bo Barr (Brownwood steel fabricator), Raymond McDaniel (Taylor-Nolan County rancher), and executive director Greg Wortham.



**Taylor County Judge George Newman and Kevin Christian (representing Gov. Rick Perry) join Congressman Randy Neugebauer and FPL engineers inside turbine tower at Horse Hollow site.**

FPL Energy staff leading the tour included site manager Gary Bouska and legislative policy specialist Ned Ross, who flew in from Austin for the briefing. Kevin Christian of Abilene represented

Gov. Rick Perry, and Taylor County Commissioner Jack Turner also participated.

Horse Hollow 1 is one of the largest wind projects in North America and is predominately located in Taylor County. A portion of the current project extends into Nolan County, and FPL Energy officials from Florida will be meeting with Nolan County Commissioners on Nov. 14 to discuss a major expansion (Horse Hollow 2) into Nolan County.

FPL Energy is the largest U.S. generator of wind power, with 45 wind energy developments in 15 states.

FPL Energy also operates the 114 MW Callahan Divide project in Taylor County, as well as established wind ranches in the Permian Basin and Texas Mountains regions.

# U.S. Air Force salutes Dyess energy strategy

Across the entire U.S. Air Force, only four major civilian service awards are earned each year, and for 2004 Abilene's Dyess Air Force Base received two of the coveted awards from the Air Force Association (AFA) in an Oct. 26 ceremony.

Dyess energy manager Tom Denslow was honored for his efforts leading the team that has made Dyess the nation's largest federal purchaser of renewable energy, particularly wind energy.

As a whole, the U.S. Air Force leads the federal government in renewable energy purchases with 1,059 gigawatt hours of renewable energy purchases in the past fiscal year. A very distant second, the U.S. Army used 52 gigawatt hours of renewables.

Denslow, a maintenance and electrical engineer by training, has worked at Dyess for 12 years. He was awarded the AFA Civilian Program Manager of the Year award. He is assigned to the 7th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

Denslow led the effort to make Dyess AFB the Nation's first military installation to have a 100% renewable energy electricity supply — primarily from West Texas wind energy.

On Oct. 24, the USAF earned a Green Power Leadership Award — on the shoulders of leaders like Dyess AFB — for the military branch's aggressive commitment to renewable energy.

Dyess AFB's other AFA award went to budget analyst Sharon Williams, who discovered and recovered a \$1.5 million overcharge for the 7th Bomb Wing.

**Dyess Air Force Base leads the nation in wind energy purchases.**



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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, Texas Panhandle, and the Texas Mountains — **America's energy independence region.***



## Wind projects dedicated at Cottonwood Creek, Callahan Divide

More than 200 MW of West Texas wind energy projects were dedicated Oct. 28 in simultaneous events in Nolan and Taylor counties. Almost 400 state, national, and local officials attended the events.

CPS Energy — San Antonio's public utility — christened the 100 MW Cottonwood Creek wind ranch, part of the 400MW-plus Sweetwater 1-2-3-4 wind project. The Cottonwood Creek site stretches across a vast area of Nolan County south of Sweetwater and Roscoe and east of the Highland school.

CPS Energy, which also purchases the 160 MW output of the McCamey region's Desert Sky project, is the state's largest public purchaser of renewable energy, principally wind.

Texas Railroad Commission chairman Victor Carillo, formerly the Taylor County Judge, was keynote speaker at the CPS Energy event. Roscoe High School's Plowboy Band provided the music, and Highland High School student leaders gave opening remarks. The 75-year-old world famous Sweetwater Chuck Wagon Gang provided a steak meal for more than 250 people, including San Antonio officials, Cottonwood Creek investors, state and local leaders, and area high school students.

Across the way in southern Taylor County, FPL Energy dedicated the 114 MW Callahan Divide wind project. State senator Troy Fraser (R-Horseshoe Bend) was the keynote speaker to an audience of more than 100.



The Callahan Divide event included school district and county officials from Taylor County, as well as FPL Energy officials from Florida, and other West Texas community leaders.

West Texas Wind Energy Consortium was represented at both events, with numerous members attending each dedication. Taylor County Judge George Newman, WTWEC vice president, was at the Callahan Divide event, while WTWEC president Homer Taylor of Sweetwater and Board member Sue Young of Mitchell County were at the Cottonwood Creek dedication.

