



West Texas Wind Wire

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Economic Stimulus???



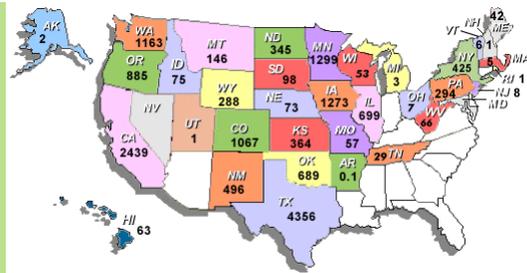
Texas industry hangs in limbo until Congress acts

Congress is debating an economic stimulus package, and extension of the federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy may be included. With continuing Congressional

Welcome to 2008, which promises to be a grand year for wind energy development, Texas industries, and West Texas communities. Hold onto your hats, 'cause West Texas will be blowin' and goin' in '08!

Texas tops 5,000 MW, widens lead

The latest national statistics show Texas a switch-flip away from 5,000 MW, with hundreds of megawatts completed and awaiting final commissioning.



As of early 2008, Texas is hours away from doubling California, which pioneered large-scale wind power in the Western Hemisphere and led in installed capacity until 2006.

The American Wind Energy Association (www.awea.org) officially credits (West) Texas with 4,356 MW installed and operational as of year-end 2007. AWEA stats indicate that roughly 1,240 MW are under construction across West Texas.

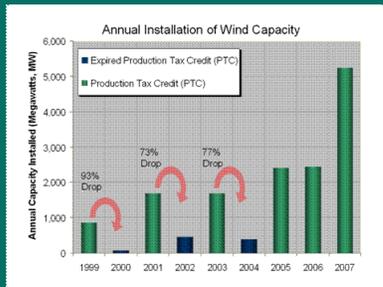
Most of the projects under construction at year-end 2007 are virtually complete, and some are now coming on line. Projects such as Sweetwater 5, Champion, Roscoe, Silver Star, Barton Chapel, Stanton, Panhandle, Buffalo Gap 3, Whirlwind, and others will easily glide West Texas beyond 5,000 MW.

Immense additional projects are starting construction across West Texas for 2008 completion. With pending

inaction on both the Production Tax Credit and a National Portfolio Standard, the progress and promise of tremendous beneficial economic impacts are in jeopardy across the USA. As Texas is by far the leader in wind energy operations and future development, Texas industries, Texas workers, Texas communities, and the Texas economy will suffer the greatest losses to future prosperity if the PTC is not extended. We ask our Members of Congress to take the lead to continue the economic stimulus that the wind energy industry has demonstrated. Billions of dollars in Texas investment and thousands of jobs for Texans are at risk.

We look forward to congratulating our Congressional delegation on job well done.

For more information, see the American Wind Energy Association website at www.awea.org.



Nothing spins like a Deere



John Deere Wind continues to build an impressive portfolio of projects across the Texas

expiration of the federal Production Tax Credit, intensive efforts will be directed toward commercial operation of all possible projects prior to December 31, 2008.



Texas turbine rises at Highland

Texas has its first wind turbine factory -- in Round Rock -- and the Texas prototype is now standing tall at Highland, southwest of Sweetwater.

Texas State Technical College West Texas (www.westtexas.tstc.edu) has purchased the first DeWind 8.2 turbine built by Texans. The 2.0 MW prototype is the first turbine in the Sweetwater Wind Energy Engineering Technology (SWEET) Center, on range land owned by the City of Sweetwater near the Highland School, on FM 608 about 8 miles due south of Roscoe and Interstate 20.

DeWind, a division of Composite Technology Corporation (www.compositetechcorp.com) is manufacturing the 2.0 MW turbine in Round Rock in a strategic alliance with TECO-Westinghouse at their major industrial complex on the west side of Interstate 35 north of Austin.

TSTC -- home to the Nation's premier wind energy technician training program -- will use the turbine for training purposes and to power TSTC campuses in Sweetwater, Abilene, Brownwood, Breckenridge, Waco, and Harlingen.



Shallowater Sets Pace for School Wind

Panhandle in the Southwest Power Pool. More than 150 MW of John Deere wind energy projects are operational or nearing completion across the northern Panhandle include the High Plains project above near the town of Panhandle, Texas.

For more information, see www.deere.com (then choose John Deere Credit USA and then Wind Energy).

Operation Hometown USA



As the wind energy industry continues to expand exponentially across West Texas, our region is facing two pleasant new challenges: where to find hundreds of new skilled workers and how to attract hundreds of new high quality homes and apartments. Regional leaders are working on solutions to both opportunities through the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium.

On the skilled workforce front, WTWEC and other regional groups are linking with **Green Collar Vets** (www.greencollarvets.org) to transition military personnel to new long-term, high-paying wind energy jobs in West Texas. This will occur through the cooperation of Green Collar Vets, WTWEC, and wind energy employers as an ongoing 24/7 portal between military personnel (current and recently separated from the military) and

Shallowater ISD leads the USA in school wind energy generation. The modern school complex northwest of Lubbock supplies 30 percent of its electricity demands from its own five wind energy turbines.



Texas Tech University uses the Shallowater turbines as part of the University's doctoral program in wind energy engineering.

Several school districts across West Texas have operational wind turbines, and many more districts in the region are currently contemplating wind turbine installations for direct use by their campuses.

For more information on the Shallowater wind energy experience, visit www.entegritywind.com/school.html and www.shallowaterisd.net.



Oil, Wind & Economic Development Mix in Permian Basin

The latest proof that oil & wind mix in West Texas is the 120 MW Stanton Energy Center in Martin County in the venerable Permian Basin, between Midland and Big Spring.

Chicago-based Invenergy LLC (www.invenergyllc.com) is the owner-operator of the project that features 80 GE Wind 1.5 MW turbines. Northeast of Stanton along Interstate 20, the Stanton Energy Center is in the Stanton and Grady school districts.

The combination of wind and oil activity is also bringing Stanton its first major motel -- a Baymont Inn & Suites hotel that will open in Spring 2008 -- developed in cooperation with the City of Stanton's economic development initiatives.

Invenergy has more than 1,300 MW of wind projects operational and under construction, including several projects across West Texas.

the West Texas wind region.

Opportunities will also be maximized through periodic **Operation Hometown USA** events that bring transitioning military to West Texas communities that have hundreds of immediate wind energy positions.

The first Operation Hometown USA event will be April 18-19, 2008 in Sweetwater. The April event will involve career placement workshops at TSTC, job fair, career placement interviews & testing, and "community recruitment" events such as a parade, patriotic concert, baseball game, hospitality events, and more.

Stay tuned for more information as the event evolves. Housing solutions will be discussed in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 31 -- Amarillo -- Texas Tech University hosts a Wind-Solar economic development strategy session at its Amarillo campus

Feb. 14-15 -- Austin -- AWEA Siting Conference -- www.awea.org/events

Feb. 14 -- Berlin, Germany -- German-USA wind energy business development conference -- www.gacctexas.com

Feb. 28 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

March 27 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

March 31-April 3 -- Brussels, Belgium -- EWEA's European Wind Energy Conference -- www.ewec2008.info

April 24 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

May 22 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

June 1-4 -- Houston -- AWEA's Windpower '08 -- www.windpowerexpo.org

June 19-20 -- Sweetwater -- Wind Law III -- TSTC West Texas

June 26 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

July 8-9-10 -- Trent -- 4th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

West Texas Wind Energy Consortium

The West Texas Wind Energy Consortium brings together the spectrum of wind energy stakeholders across our region -- school districts, counties, economic development corporations, heavy industry, small business, farmers, ranchers, colleges, wind companies, chambers of commerce, cities, electric utilities, and more. We represent the 5th largest wind energy operations "nation" in the world. We represent more than 1,000,000 West Texans covering more than 100,000 square miles from Dallas-Fort Worth to El Paso and Dalhart to Del Rio and beyond. We invite you to join us at www.WestTexasWind.us.

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Wind Law III

The Nation's original field law seminar in wind energy law returns June 19-20, 2008 in Sweetwater as the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium, Texas Tech University School of Law, and Texas State Technical College again join forces for the 3rd Annual Wind Law Institute. The unique event provides continuing legal education (CLE) credits for lawyers -- and valuable training for non-lawyers, as well -- through a combination of seminars on the latest practical wind energy issues and interaction with wind energy professionals in the field. Wind Law III will again feature tours of the world's most intensive wind energy development region -- including the USA's three largest wind energy projects, a wide array of cutting edge turbine types, the TSTC-owned DeWind 2.0 MW turbine, and the GE Wind Energy Operations Center. Limited to the first 100 registrants. Registration information will be released soon. Watch www.law.ttu.edu/career/events for more information.