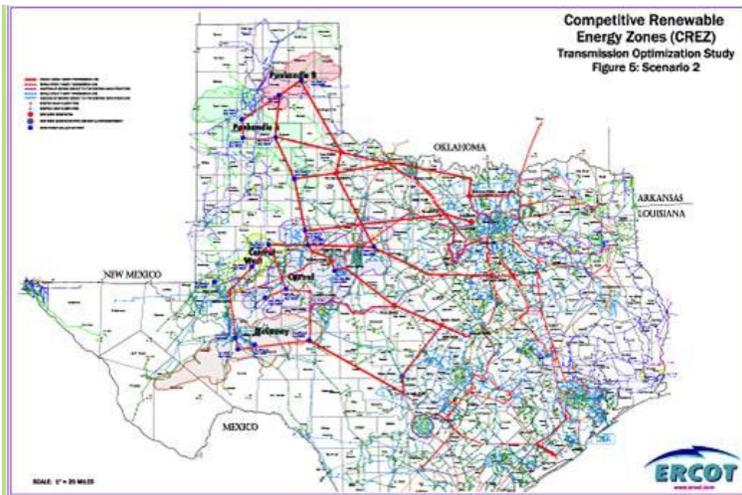




West Texas Wind Wire

July 2008 -- Volume 4, No. 4

West Texas continues to set the pace for the Western Hemisphere, and Texas is becoming active in global manufacturing and operations recruitment. Intensive action by communities, industry, and Texas policymakers assures that Texas is launching into a new level of global leadership in energy innovation.



Texas PUC adopts bold \$5 Billion transmission expansion plan

Texas will launch to a new level of global energy leadership with the Texas Public Utility Commission's July order for a \$5 billion upgrade of the state's electricity transmission grid.

The PUC chose "Scenario 2" in the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) docket, which will enable efficient transfer of almost 18,500 MW of wind energy resources from West Texas wind energy sites to metro consumers in Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, and elsewhere within the state.

The PUC now is considering proposals from major companies to build the lines and other upgrades as quickly and inexpensively as possible. The enhanced transmission grid is projected to lower consumers' electricity bills by sending increased amounts of low-priced wind energy into high-cost metro zones.

Costs and benefits of the enhanced transmission grid will be spread across all consumers in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) grid system -- which serves most of Texas except for the Panhandle, South Plains, El Paso, Beaumont, and Texarkana areas.

"Scenario 2" will enable substantial increases in wind energy construction and production in the Permian Basin, Rolling Plains, South Plains, and Panhandle regions of West Texas. Priorities in the expansion plan are to alleviate existing curtailment challenges and then to enable construction of major new wind energy centers.

The PUC decision is the culmination of roughly three years of regulatory proceedings that were directed by the Texas Legislature in 2005 by Senate Bill 20.

Along with immediate steps to implement this CREZ decision, the PUC is expected to undertake in 2009 petitions for consideration of additional transmission expansion to include counties and grid upgrades not designated in this initial CREZ docket.



100,000 members and growing

T. Boone Pickens issues national call to action

Natural gas, wind energy, and solar power are at the heart of T. Boone Pickens' national strategy to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, and more than 100,000 people across the USA have already signed up and organized grassroots action.

With barely three weeks passed since the launch of the Pickens Plan (www.PickensPlan.com), the energy initiative has resonated with Americans ready for immediate action on USA energy policy and frustrated by Democrat vs. Republican barbs in Washington.

At the heart of the Pickens Plan is a strategy to make natural gas a primary transportation fuel that could enable Americans to reduce foreign oil imports by almost 40 percent. The role of natural gas in electricity supply would be substantially taken over by wind energy.

In the big picture, Pickens takes the position that all U.S. domestic fuel sources have a place in power supply and transportation, and we should use the latest innovative technologies to put each U.S. fuel supply to work.

Pickens is head of Dallas-based Mesa Power, which has its primary field operations site in a major building in downtown Pampa, Texas. Mesa Power is developing the world's largest wind energy project -- 4,000 MW -- in the northeastern Texas Panhandle.

Pickens Plan has established a Great Plains outreach office in Sweetwater, which opened in late July with about a dozen staff. Installed wind energy capacity between Snyder and Abilene is roughly equivalent to the 4 GW that Mesa Power will operate near Pampa and Miami, Texas.

The latest Pickens Plan national television commercial was filmed in Nolan and Taylor counties. The production involved on-camera interviews with ranchers, students, wind energy workers, Texas State Technical College staff, and community leaders. The commercial debuts the first week of August. A five-minute film version of the West Texas interviews is being finalized for website broadcast.

The Bush Administration released a report in May projecting that wind energy can supply at least 20 percent of U.S. electricity supply by 2030. This would call for 300,000 MW of wind energy operations, primarily in the Great Plains from Texas to Canada. *To read the report, go to www.20percentwind.org. More information is also available on the American Wind Energy Association's website at www.awea.org.*

For more information on the Pickens Plan, please visit www.PickensPlan.com or call the Pickens Plan -- Great Plains outreach office at 325-235-1215.



Texas Tech brings engineering course to Sweetwater in October

With two successful course offerings on the Texas Tech campus in Lubbock in 2007 and 2008, Dr. Andy Swift and Dr. Jamie Chapman of Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center will bring their three-day short course to Sweetwater, October 1-3.

Entitled "Introduction to Wind Power Systems: Technology and Economics", the course provides in-depth wind energy engineering training to engineers, community leaders, landowners, wind developers, and others.

The short course is co-sponsored by the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium in Lubbock and in Sweetwater. Texas Tech will again host the course on the Lubbock campus in June 2009.

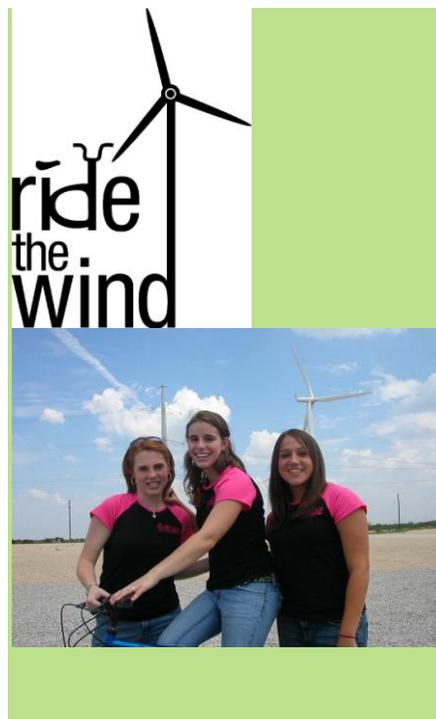
Interactive classroom lectures will take place on Oct. 1-2, and Texas Tech faculty and WTWEC staff will lead participants on a wind project tour on Oct. 3. In addition, there will be a ranch

reception and dinner on the evenings of Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. In conjunction with the "Ride the Wind" bike event, there will also be an evening reception on Oct. 3.

Specific course topics include wind characteristics and measurement, conversion of wind energy to electricity, wind turbine architecture and technology, economics of wind energy, and emerging wind energy applications. The event will also involve exposure to the Texas State Technical College wind energy technology training program at Sweetwater.

The course is especially well-suited to independent wind energy developers, wind energy staff seeking upward mobility, economic development staff from communities seeking wind energy manufacturing and service operations, engineers, and others.

For registration and additional information, please visit www.ode.ttu.edu/outreach.



Can you "ride like the wind"? You will have your chance on Saturday, October 4, as cyclists in the 2nd Annual "Ride the Wind" bike ride and bike race wind their way through the world's most active wind energy region.

The race is sponsored by the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium and was begun in 2007 by WTWEC intern Lindsey Turner. Turner graduated from Sweetwater High School in May and enrolls at Baylor University in August.

Ride the Wind '08 will feature bike rides of 5, 10, and 35 miles through the Highland hills in central Nolan County. New for '08 is an 80-mile hard-core bike race through wind energy centers in Nolan and Taylor counties.

Ride the Wind benefits the Children's Miracle Network via Meek Children's Hospital at Hendrick

Medical Center in Abilene. Last year's race netted more than \$1,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, and pledges for Ride the Wind '08 have already exceeded the 2007 contribution level.

Sponsorships and rider participation are encouraged, and teams from San Diego to Houston have already pledged to ride in the 2008 event.

Ride the Wind begins and ends at Highland School, south of Roscoe. Highland is in the midst of an \$8 million campus construction program, made possible in large part by wind energy development in the area.

The 80-mile bike race route takes cyclists through hills, plateaus, and lake terrain in view of the Sweetwater, Champion, Roscoe, Horse Hollow, Buffalo Gap, Callahan Divide, Trent Mesa, and South Trent wind energy centers.

For more information, visit www.WestTexasWind.us or contact Lindsey or Shelby at 325-236-9499 or texaswind@wtconnect.com.

Texas A&M University System

Texas Aggies take lead role with wind energy purchases

Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M System, and Stephen F. Austin State University are now supplying a substantial part of Aggieland's energy needs with West Texas wind energy. Working through TXU Energy, Texas A&M will supply roughly 15 percent of the University System's energy needs from West Texas wind.

In July, TXU Energy hosted a high-level Texas A&M delegation in Sweetwater and Trent, as Chancellor Mike McKinney, A&M Board of Regents Chairman Bill Jones, and others toured the 150 MW Trent Mesa wind energy center and surrounding wind energy activity.

"Our new contract with TXU Energy powers twelve of our campuses across Texas," Board of Regents chairman Jones said. "As a result, it was important for us to learn more about wind energy and how we can continue to take steps to invest in cleaner power to meet our energy needs."



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY





Upcoming Events

August 3 -- National television debut of Pickens Plan commercials filmed in Nolan and Taylor counties (www.PickensPlan.com)

August 28 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas -- topic: Pickens Plan and its implications for West Texas

September 9-13 -- Husum, Germany, wind energy trade fair -- world's largest wind energy business event -- www.HusumWindEnergy.com

September 25 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

October 1-3 -- Sweetwater -- Texas Tech University Wind Energy Engineering & Economics Short Course (www.ode.ttu.edu/outreach)

October 4 -- Highland -- "Ride the Wind '08" bike ride & race (www.WestTexasWind.us)

October 7 -- Houston -- German-American Chamber of Commerce sponsors "Green Initiative Networking Event" featuring the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium -- 6-8 pm @ The Tasting Room (www.gaccsouth.com)

October 15 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

November 12 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

November 19-21 -- AWEA Fall Symposium 2008 -- Palm Desert, California (www.awea.org)

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 one of the largest wind energy operations "nations" in the world -- reaching 10,000 MW by year-end 2008! 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.

Wind fact & foto:

3 MW Vestas turbines rise 105 meters above Scurry County landscape at the Snyder wind energy center, and are the tallest and most powerful wind energy generators outside of Europe.

