



West Texas Wind Wire

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T. Boone Pickens promotes energy policy



Oil, natural gas, and wind energy

West Texas continues to set the pace for the Western Hemisphere, and Texas is becoming active in global manufacturing and operations recruitment. 2008 will set records for intensity of wind project development and for wind-related job growth in Texas.



Texas PUC poised for major transmission upgrades

Armed with detailed upgrade scenarios from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and thousands of pages of evidence from wind energy parties, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) is nearing major announcements for transmission upgrades for the Texas grid.

Mid-July 2008 is now the projected target for the PUC to select a scenario for bold expansion of the Texas grid, enabling transfer of thousands of megawatts of wind energy and other power sources from West Texas to metro Texas.

As directed by the Texas Legislature, the PUC has worked through rulemakings, contested case hearings, and mountains of written filings to reach this pivotal point. As the ERCOT grid lies wholly within Texas, most of the Texas electrical system avoids U.S. federal jurisdiction.

Therefore, fundamental decision about the state's electric policy and operations are made in Austin, while other states have to await Washington deliberations.

By mid-July, the PUC will order specific line construction via the "competitive renewable energy zone" (CREZ) process. The PUC would then consider proposals from various companies to construct the lines. Exact operational dates of the new lines depend on many factors, but substantial components are expected to be operational in the 2011-2014 range.

leader T. Boone Pickens is promoting a comprehensive energy policy for the U.S. -- and he's taken his case to the White House, to Wall Street and to Main Street.

The Pickens plan would also be a major "boon" to the revitalization of rural America, as well. Pickens has been seen regularly of late on CNBC, CNN, and other outlets proclaiming the pivotal role that Sweetwater, Pampa, and other West Texas and Great Plains communities will play in providing solutions for America's energy future.

On May 27, Pickens was joined by Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, Sweetwater Mayor Greg Wortham, and Pampa economic development director Dwight Fiveash -- and a crowd of more than 250 Panhandle landowners and community leaders. Pickens outlined his vision for West Texas' continued leadership in spurring American energy independence.

Pickens noted that Americans are exporting more than \$700,000,000 every year in payments for imported oil. Pickens' vision is that substantial wind energy will allow displacement of natural gas from the electric generation sector to the transportation sector. Substantial reliance on natural gas for transportation, in turn, would dramatically reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Pickens is putting his money where his vision is. See related article where Pickens' Mesa Power has already committed roughly \$2 billion for GE Wind turbines.

The PUC is conducting discussions with multiple companies that have proposed construction of transmission lines that will enhance connections between the wind generation region and the state's major metropolitan areas.

ERCOT delivered transmission upgrade scenarios to the PUC in April. Some PUC targets for transmission upgrades would enable as much as 25,000 MW of new electric generation across West Texas.

The West Texas Wind Energy Consortium is a party to the PUC Docket 33672, the CREZ case. In early June, WTWEC will file comments on the beneficial economic impacts of wind energy on Texas communities. It will be useful for community leadership groups to file brief statements on economic impact (actual to date for existing projects, or projected impacts for communities anticipating wind projects). This is not a request for an extensive letter-writing campaign; rather, organized community economic development institutions and local wind development coalitions are requested to file one or two pages with the PUC under the WTWEC's party status. Comments from communities should be sent to:

The Honorable Barry T. Smitherman, Chair
Public Utility Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Reference: PUC Docket No. 33672



June 1 thru 4:

Houston hosts
Windpower '08

Texas will host the Western Hemisphere's largest wind energy conference as Houston draws *more than 10,000 wind energy leaders from around the globe*. Windpower '08 is the American Wind Energy Association's annual conference, and takes place from June 1-4, 2008 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Hundreds of West Texans will be an important part of Windpower '08, showcasing their businesses, their communities, and the state of the art wind projects that span our vast region.

Commissioner Patterson, one of the Lone Star State's primary leaders for wind energy economic development, reiterated his proven position that wind energy represents comprehensive economic opportunities for all of Texas -- from the ports to the Plains, and at manufacturing sites across the state.

Mayor Wortham, also WTVEC executive director, laid out examples of the positive economic impact that wind energy has had across West Texas, with focus on specific examples from the Sweetwater area. Current wind development from Snyder to Sweetwater to Abilene is roughly of the same magnitude that Mesa Power will operate in the northeastern Panhandle.

Pampa EDC's Fiveash discussed preparations underway in the Pampa area to capitalize on the construction, operations, and manufacturing opportunities that will come in the near future from the Mesa Power project and other regional wind energy initiatives.



U.S. Department of Energy Report

Federal study says 20% wind penetration by 2030 is feasible

Wind energy can contribute at

More than 700 exhibitors will have booths in the expo hall, including several West Texas communities, regional alliances, colleges, businesses, and industries. As with the expo at Windpower '07 in Los Angeles, most exhibits by the major wind energy companies and turbine manufacturers will feature West Texas projects.

There will be three days of informative conference seminars, as well as dozens of business networking events relevant to West Texas wind energy interests.

For registration and more information, please visit www.awea.org.



Texas Tech offers short course on wind engineering and economics

Dr. Andy Swift and Dr. Jamie Chapman of Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center will present a three-day short course entitled "Introduction to Wind Power Systems: Technology and Economics".

The intensive seminar will take place June 9-11, 2008 at Texas Tech's outreach and Distance Education Building on the Lubbock campus. The short course is co-sponsored by the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium.

Interactive classroom lectures will take place on June 9-10, and Texas Tech faculty will lead participants on a wind project tour on June 11. In addition, the American Wind Power Center will host a reception, guided tour, and dinner on the evening of June 9.

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 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.

least 20 percent of all U.S. electricity needs by 2030, according to a report released in April by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Bush Administration's wind report "is a thorough look at America's wind resource, its industrial capabilities, and future energy prices, and confirms the viability and commercial maturity of wind as a major contributor to America's energy needs, now and in the future," DOE Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for the U.S. Department of Energy Andy Karsner, said.

"To dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance our energy security, clean power generation at the gigawatt-scale will be necessary, and will require us to take a comprehensive approach to scaling renewable wind power, streamlining siting and permitting processes, and expanding the domestic wind manufacturing base."

Included in the report are an examination of America's technological and manufacturing capabilities, the future costs of energy sources, U.S. wind energy resources, and the environmental and economic impacts of wind development. Under the 20% wind scenario, installations of new wind power capacity would increase to more than 16,000 megawatts per year by 2018, and continue at that rate through 2030.

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.



Abilene has won a coveted wind energy tower manufacturing facility, as Broadwind Energy, Inc., announced May 28 that its wholly owned subsidiary Tower Tech Systems will open a plant in Abilene's Five Points industrial park near Zoltek.

Tower Tech Systems has been producing wind towers since 2004 at its Manitowoc, Wisconsin manufacturing facility. Now the company is expanding to Abilene and to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Because of Abilene's central location in the wind region and efficient rail and highway connections, the West Texas location helps Broadwind and Tower Tech Systems compete more effectively.

The Abilene plant will employ more than 150 workers at the outset, with the potential for substantial expansions. Tower Tech Systems will be located in the same industrial park as Zoltek, a major supplier of carbon fiber to the wind energy industry.

Other major steel component suppliers in the Abilene area include Barr fabrication in Brownwood and Coleman industries such as Wind Clean and Trinity Industries.

For more information, consult www.DevelopAbilene.com and www.broadwindenergy.com.

1 GW of GE Wind 1.5's

Mesa Power orders 667 turbines for Phase 1 of Texas Panhandle project

Mesa Power LLP announced on May 15 that the company is buying 667 wind energy turbines from General Electric. The GE Wind turbines are 1.5 megawatts (MW) each and would create a 1 gigawatt (GW) (1,000 MW) first phase of Mesa's planned 4 GW wind project in the northeastern Texas Panhandle.



The 4 GW project will be built near the communities of Pampa and Miami. Forbes.com reports that the 667-

turbine transaction is in the range of \$2 Billion, and the first phase would come on line in 2010. Mesa Power's creator, T. Boone Pickens told CNBC that the ultimate project will require roughly \$8 Billion of wind turbines and \$2 Billion for transmission line investment.

"You find an oilfield, it peaks and starts declining, and you've got to find another one to replace it," said Pickens. "It can drive you crazy. With wind, there's no decline curve."

Reuters reports that GE's turbines for Phase 1 will arrive in 2010 and 2011.

Mesa Power is based in Dallas.



Upcoming Events

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

June 9-11 -- Lubbock -- Introduction to Wind Power Systems: Technology & Economics -- Texas Tech University www.ode.ttu.edu/outreach

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

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

July 9-10-11 -- Trent -- 4th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

July 29 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

August 28 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

October 4 -- Highland -- "Ride the Wind '08" bike race

4th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

Trent, Texas, will host hundreds of West Texas wind energy leaders, landowners, workforce recruiters, and officials from counties, schools, and community economic development, as the West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair returns to town in July.



The state-of-the-art Trent school has served as the event's convention center since the Trade Fair was launched and the school was opened in 2005.

July 9-10-11 are the dates for the multi-faceted conference and expo. July 9 and July 10 events are at the Trent School, at Exit 261 on Interstate 20 between Sweetwater and Abilene. July 11 tours leave from and return to Sweetwater.

Day 1 (Wednesday, July 9) will be devoted to small turbines, such as those used by schools, ranches, and homes to manage energy costs. Topics will range from a manufacturers' showcase of small turbines to case studies to an overview of "Small Wind 101".

Day 2 (Thursday, July 10) will be the "Mega Wind" day, focusing on diverse aspects of large scale wind projects and large turbine deployment. More than 25 seminars will cover topics from landowner lease issues to wind project safety to workforce recruitment to economic development to transmission expansion.

Day 3 (Friday, July 11) will offer tours of the largest wind energy projects in the USA and the world, including projects in Taylor, Nolan, and Scurry counties.

Registration is \$30 for WTWEC Members for one day or \$50 for both conference days. For non-members, registration is \$50 for one day or \$75 for both conference days. The wind tour fee is \$15 for WTWEC Members and \$20 for non-members.

To register, exhibit, or sponsor, call the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium at 325-236-9499 or info@WestTexasWind.us.

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 6th 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 fee is \$500.** Call 806-742-3990, ext. 278 to register. Online, register at www.law.ttu.edu/CLE.