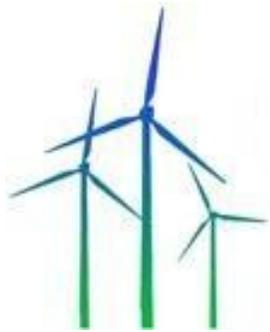




West Texas Wind Wire

April 2005



1st Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

Volume 1, Issue 3

April 2005

Tuesday, July 12, 2005
Conference

Trent High School
“The House that Wind Built”

Wednesday, July 13, 2005
Wind Ranch Tours
Sweetwater



West Texas welcomes the world to the heart of the action in the North American wind energy industry — Deep in the Heart of Texas.

The 1st Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair will bring participants to Taylor and Nolan counties — which together could top 1,000

MW of operational wind capacity by 2006.

The Trade Fair will feature an all-day conference at Trent’s new \$4.5 million school facility on Tuesday, July 12. Built in the shadow of Trent Mesa I & II, the new school opened in Jan. 2005 as tangible evidence of the fiscal value of wind to West Texas.

Wind ranch tours will be the focus of the Trade Fair’s second day, as participants visit operational and under-construction wind ranches south of Sweetwater on Wednesday morning, July 13.

Trent and Sweetwater are located within 15 minutes of one another along Interstate 20 west of Abilene.

Global perspective:

- *Germany*
- *Spain*
- *Denmark*
- *India*
- *West Texas*

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1st Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair July 12: Conference — Trent

More than 250 participants are expected to attend the 1st Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair when the event convenes Tuesday, July 12, at Trent High School.



Trent ISD's new facility has ample convention-friendly amenities — classrooms, food service, stage, and a gym that handles up to 600 with stadium-style seating.

Educational forums will include tracks developed specifically for such diverse stakeholders as landowners, county government, school district officials, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, attorneys, and job creation institutions.

“Wind Energy 101” will be another track of interest to many stakeholders, including the general public. Wind Energy 101 will feature diverse speakers discussing such topics as wind rights, development strategies, and electric marketplace realities.

In addition to the forums, the Trade Fair will include an exhibit hall and a job fair. Exhibitors will include wind developers, chambers

of commerce, and state agencies.

The job fair will provide an opportunity for regional wind site operators, Texas industries, and other employers to meet with West Texas workers seeking jobs in the diverse aspects of the wind energy industry.

Trade Fair activities:

Educational forums

Job fair

Youth leadership

Exhibits

Policy leaders

Wind ranch tours

July 13: Wind Ranch Tours Sweetwater



Nolan and Taylor counties are home to hundreds of operational wind turbines, and ongoing expansion is fast and furious, as developers strive to bring new wind ranches on line prior to the scheduled expiration of the Federal wind energy production tax credit.

The West Texas Wind Energy Consortium has obtained landowner permission for a group tour of active development sites south of Sweetwater. No place in North America features the level of current activity that is underway in the Rolling Plains region.

These tours will enable diverse stakeholders to gain a better appreciation for the various considerations in wind ranch development, construction, and operation. Topics to be explored include impact on farm and ranch operations (including agriculture and oil & gas), lease issues, magnitude of towers and overall projects, transmission access, road construction, topographic and meteorological considerations, ancillary operations (substations, offices, etc.), and other topics.

A special tour fee will be charged to cover the cost of group transportation for the tours. In order to minimize landowner impact and any inconvenience to ongoing wind ranch operations, no individual transportation will be permitted as part of the tour.

Registration fees:

Members \$25

Non-Members \$50

Students \$10

Speakers — Free

Job Fair applicants — Free





Wind Energy Spurs Texas Industrial Jobs

Industrial workers across Texas are building a Lone Star industry to supply the global wind energy industry. From Nacogdoches to El Paso, skilled Texas manufacturing jobs flourish as wind turbines sprout in North America and beyond.



Barr Fabrication's 60 workers are creating all of the steel components for 700 wind towers in 2005 in Brownwood's industrial park.

Irving, Fort Worth, Gainesville, Denison, Midland, San Angelo, Abilene, Brownwood, Coleman, El Paso, Nacogdoches . . . the list goes on and on. Texas communities are benefiting from heavy manufacturing dedicated to the wind energy industry.

The ABC's of industrial-strength Texas wind

Abilene — Zoltek

Earlier this year, Zoltek Companies Inc. entered into a long-term strategic supply arrangement with Denmark's Vestas Wind Systems AS, a major global wind turbine manufacturer.

Over the first three years of the agreement, Zoltek will provide \$80-\$100 million worth carbon fiber and carbon fiber material to Vestas for the manufacture of wind turbine rotor blades.

The Vestas-Zoltek strategic agreement enables Zoltek to start-up 5 installed lines at Zoltek's Abilene facility on Interstate 20.

Brownwood — Barr Fabrication

In Brownwood's industrial work, the 60 workers at Barr Fabrication turn raw steel into hundreds of different precise steel components for wind towers destined for North American and Asian installation.

Barr workers will prepare the steel components for at least 700 towers from the late 2004 extension of the Federal production tax credit through year-end 2005.

The Brownwood facility takes in raw steel, and then Barr workers cut, weld, and form such tower internals as safety platforms, handrails, and other primary components. Once formed by Barr, the steel elements are shipped to Fort Worth, where the steel is galvanized.

The galvanized parts are then returned to Brownwood, and Barr ships them on to WindClean in Coleman for tower installation.



Abilene's Zoltek factory will start up 5 production lines to supply carbon fiber to Vestas.

Coleman — Wind Clean Corporation

At a sprawling location adjacent to Coleman's airport, up to 130 workers at WindClean Corp. blast, paint, and install tower internals for Dallas-based Trinity Industries.

When Coleman industrial workers receive the raw steel towers from the Metroplex, their first task is to blast each of the massive tower sections in preparation for painting. Next each section is painted with specially developed coatings.

Coleman workers then install all manner of internal components — from Barr's steel platforms and handrails to aluminum ladders to electronics and a myriad of other parts.



Up to 130 workers in Coleman blast & paint towers and install electronics, and steel & aluminum internals at WindClean.

WindClean installs components from many other Texas manufacturing facilities — such as bolts from Irving and clamps from a Coleman machine shop. The Coleman machine shop earned a \$500,000 component contract when the original German supplier couldn't meet the pace of U.S. demand after extension of the Federal production tax credit.

WindClean ships its finished tower sections to sites all over the U.S., as well as to Canada and Asia. WindClean towers are sent to construction sites in regions such as California, Oregon, New York, Pennsylvania — as well as to nearby Taylor and Nolan counties.



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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 25 percent of U.S. wind energy capacity, and by 2006 only 4 foreign nations will 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 and regional wind energy coalitions in the Rolling Plains, Permian Basin, Texas Panhandle, and the Texas Mountains regions.



Texas Senate Advances Wind Energy — House Action Next

The Texas Senate on Friday, April 22, unanimously passed SB 533 by Sen. Troy Fraser (R-Marble Falls) to dramatically increase the state's targets for wind energy development over the next 20 years.

SB 533 would set the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal at 10,000 by 2025 — up from the current Texas RPS of 2,000, which has already been met 3 years ahead of schedule. SB 533's intermediate RPS goal is 5,880 MW by 2015.

SB 533 also directs the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to develop a proactive plan to expand transmission capacity so that West Texas can export more of its wind energy. At present, some regions of West Texas have seen a halt in wind energy development due solely to transmission constraints.

Senators, however, did not vote on an amendment by Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock) that would have essentially doubled the wind energy development (and transmission capacity) targets in SB 533.



Sens. Duncan and Fraser have committed to continue their efforts to reach the higher wind energy development targets,

as the bill proceeds through the Texas House of Representatives and to a possible House-Senate conference committee.

SB 533 now moves to the Texas House, where similar bills filed by Reps. Bob Hunter (R-Abilene) and David Swinford (R-Amarillo) are being considered in a Renewable Energy Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Hunter.

As this crucial legislation moves through the House, it is very important for wind energy businesses and communities throughout Texas to contact State Representatives and Speaker Tom Craddick (R-Midland) to support SB 533 and the higher wind energy development and transmission upgrade targets in the Duncan-Swinford bill.

