



West Texas Wind Wire



January 2007

West Texas wind projections rocket toward 5,000 MW by 2008

While world attention is focused on nations such as Canada and China — neither of which has as much wind generation as Nolan County alone — West Texas continues to roar past the “GigaWatt Barrier.”

1,000 kilowatts make 1 megawatt (MW), and 1,000 MW create one gigawatt (GW). Global attention is fixated on the concepts of 1 GW wind projects and anticipated international growth opportunities.

Canada, for example, is “projected” to develop 10,000 MW at some future date — but has roughly 1,000 MW installed. South American leader

Brazil is touted for a first-stage development target of 3,300 MW — but has 29 MW installed.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch . . . West Texas has roughly 2,750 MW operational at the beginning of 2007. Texas

grid operator ERCOT projects that West Texas will have 4,850 MW operational by year-end 2007. At that rate, the turbines that will push Texas past the 5 GW threshold will be under construction later this year.

India passed the 5 GW level in 2006. China — which has only about 2,000 MW installed — may reach the 5 GW club by 2010.

With FPL Energy’s Horse Hollow project already at roughly 750 MW, look for West Texas to break the GigaWatt Barrier first . . . again.



West Texas wind activity far outpaces other nations, such as China and Canada.

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2007

Global GigaWatt Pacesetters

- *Germany — 18 GW*
- *USA — 10 GW*
- *Spain — 10 GW*
- *India — 5 GW 2006*
- *West Texas — 5 GW 2008*
- *China — 5 GW 2010*

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Texas corrals 1st wind turbine factory

While a herd of Texas long-horns grazed outside the factory, Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams presided over the signing of a strategic alliance Nov. 27, 2006 between TECO-Westinghouse and Composite Technology Corporation that creates the first wind turbine production in the Lone Star State.

By Spring 2007, the first nacelles will be rolling off the assembly at the huge TECO-Westinghouse facility in Round Rock on the west side of I-35.

“Texas has been losing manufacturing opportunities for nacelles, turbines,

and blades to Pennsylvania, Oregon, and other states,” said WTWEC executive director Greg Wortham. “It was time to bring one of these home to Texas.”



Round Rock will be home to EU Energy’s 2.0 MW DeWind D8.2 turbines, which feature unique

technology enabling the turbines to connect directly to the grid without the need for a pad-mount transformer.

Representatives of TECO-Westinghouse and EU Energy first met at the inaugural Texas Wind Industrial Network Summit (Texas WINS I), organized by the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium in San Angelo in August.

“This is precisely why we organized the San Angelo conference,” Wortham said. “Bringing together opportunities and solutions is what sets Texas apart, and we are very pleased to have played a role in this milestone.”



POLICY MONITOR

USA, Texas governments gear up for wind action

President Bush backs wind energy, renewables

“It’s in our vital interest to diversify America’s energy supply



-- the way forward is through technology. We must continue changing the way America generates electric power, by even greater use of clean coal technology, solar and wind energy, and clean, safe nuclear power.”

President Bush — calling for greater investment in wind energy during his 2007 State of the Union message on Jan. 23. The President’s 2007 message reinforces his 2006 State of the Union emphasis on renewable energy and his 2002 State of the Union “Hydrogen Economy” commitment.

Texas Legislature convenes

Building on the wind energy momentum produced in the 2005 session and special sessions in the interim, the Texas Legislature has convened for its 2007 Regular Session.

Several wind energy and renewable energy matters will come before the Legislature, including the renewable portfolio standard, transmission expansion, and other topics.

Bush, Congress extend USA Production Tax Credit through 2008

The U.S. Congress in December 2006 passed a one-year extension of the wind energy production tax credit. President Bush has signed the legislation.

The new Democratic-controlled



Community Network, the day-long series of events will include meetings with regional legislators and state agency representatives. The purpose of Texas Midwest Day will be to demonstrate a strong voice for issues important to rural Texas, including wind energy development and the multiple economic benefits that flow from the industry.

Other regions in West Texas will also be sponsoring legislative events in Austin during the Legislature’s stay. The West Texas Wind Energy Consortium will endeavor to keep West Texans informed about these events, as well.

For more information about Texas Midwest Day, please contact Nicki Harle at tmcn@tmcn.org or at 325-676-0329.

West Texas Wind intervenes in Texas PUC CREZ case

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) has initiated its first contested case to designate Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (“CREZ”), and the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium has joined the fray.

WTWEC has intervened in PUC Case No. 33672, and the PUC is expected to set the first official CREZ map by July 2007.

Other West Texas intervenors include the City of Abilene, Briscoe County, Floyd County, Floydada EDC, and Lockney EDC. Other West Texas groups may seek late intervention.

Congress is expected to push for a multi-year extension of the PTC in 2007.

As amended, the PTC would now provide a federal investment of 1.9 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the first 10 years of commercial operation of any wind project brought on line on or before December 31, 2008.

Feb 14 — Texas Midwest Day at State Capitol

Wind energy will be a major focus of activities at the Texas Capitol when West Texans converge on Austin for Texas Midwest Day on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Sponsored by the Texas Midwest





Wind Watchers in the Green Zone

While thousands of West Texans are advancing America's energy independence through the aggressive development of wind energy, thousands of West Texans are also on the front lines defending American freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, on the banks of the Tigris River, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium has enrolled its first member deployed in military service. While his attention is focused on his mission in Iraq, Lt. Colonel Buddy Foster would rather be watching wind turbines rise on family land in Scurry and Mitchell counties.

Lt. Colonel Foster is shown with his unit — the Civil Military Operations Section — on mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Lt. Colonel Foster is assigned to the Quartermaster Corps.

In recognition of Lt. Colonel Foster's membership, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium has created a new, complimentary membership category for deployed military.

All together, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium has more than 200 institutional and individual members, representing more than one million West Texans in more than 100 counties in the northwest half of the state.



"The wind energy industry is creating immense new opportunities for communities, businesses, and landowners," said WTWEC executive director Greg Wortham.

"The region has come together through the Consortium to educate ourselves about this industry and its variety of opportunities — and to educate the industry about the land, the human resources, and the creativity that our region has to offer."

For more information on membership in the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium, please visit www.WestTexasWind.us, or call 325-236-9499.

WTWEC members are counties, school districts, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, cities, heavy industry, small business, ranchers, farmers, colleges, electric cooperatives, construction firms, wind developers, and others with a stake in the continued development of wind energy across West Texas.

Since its creation two years ago, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium has presented informational programs and intensive workshops across the region to thousands of West Texas landowners, community leaders, policy-makers, and other stakeholders.

Upcoming West Texas Wind Energy Consortium Events

Jan. 29 — Big Spring — Howard County Commissioners Court — 10 a.m.

Jan. 29 — Sweetwater — Rotary Club — 12 noon

Jan. 30 — Morton — Cochran County Commissioners Court — 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 1 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTWEC luncheon — 12 noon

Feb. 1 — Crosbyton — Crosby County — Community Meeting — 7 p.m.

Feb 5 — Texas A&M University — College Station — Conference on Global Energy Security & Economics of Climate Change — 1-8 p.m.

Feb. 12 — Benjamin ISD — Knox County — 7 p.m.

March 1 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTWEC luncheon — 12 noon

March 13 — Hereford — Deaf Smith County — Community Workshop — 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



TSTC launches

Wind Degree program

The first students are now officially enrolled in the Wind Turbine Technology degree program on the Sweetwater campus of Texas State Technical College.

Students — whether straight out of high school or seeking a mid-career upgrade — can earn an Associates Degree in Wind Turbine Technology in 20 months. The "turbine-view" campus is less than a mile from GE Wind's new operations center and offers a panorama of 1,500 MW . . . and counting.



Among its other activities, West Texas Wind Energy Consortium staff and Board members have also actively worked with community leaders across the region to recruit manufacturing jobs and corporate relocations, as well as to facilitate development of locally based entrepreneurial businesses through creation of networking opportunities for the start-ups.

January 2007



Representing America's
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 **3** 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 have formed the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium across the breadth of West Texas: the Rolling Plains, Permian Basin, Pecos Valley, Texas Panhandle, Texas Mountains, and the Red River Valley —

West Texas . . .

America's energy independence region.



Expanded summer wind seminar calendar set

With constant change and evolution in the West Texas wind industry and the region's magnitude as a global player, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium is teaming up with other regional leaders to upgrade our educational outreach program in 2007.

2007 Wind Law Institute — Sweetwater

West Texas Wind Energy Consortium is proud to team up with the Texas Tech University School of Law for the 2007 Wind Law Institute, which will be again held at the Sweetwater campus of Texas State Technical College West Texas.

"This is the only practical field law seminar in the nation that is held in the center of a wind region," said WTWEC Board chairman Homer Taylor. "The robust wind operations and construction pace of West Texas creates a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity for attorneys and others seeking

an up-to-date immersion in the latest wind energy legal issues."



Topics covered at the 2007 Wind Law Institute will include case law, wind rights transfers, legislative update, latest lease issues, interconnection processes, transmission expansion proceedings, and other timely topics. The June event will also include tours of active construction sites and some of the world's largest wind projects, as well as interaction with wind project operators in the field.

Wind Law Institute — Sweetwater
— June 14-15, 2007 —
Texas Tech Law School &
West Texas Wind

3rd Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair — Trent

In 2007, the Trent con-

ference will be expanded to two days of seminar and one day of wind project tours. The conference will feature dozens of seminars, vendor exhibits, private consultation rooms with major wind players, and casual networking opportunities.

3rd Annual
West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair
— Trent —
July 10 — Small Wind
July 11 — Mega Wind
July 12 — Wind Tours

Day One at Trent (July 10) will focus on small wind turbines for use at schools and for farm and ranch use. There is growing interest throughout the region in small turbines.

Day Two at Trent (July 11) will be an enhanced version of the traditional "MegaWind" seminars related to large-scale development.

Day Three (July 12) will feature half-day tours of wind projects from Sweetwater.