



West Texas Wind Wire



May 2007

West Texas hosts USA-Mexico renewable energy summit

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Abilene, Sweetwater, and rural Taylor and Nolan counties hosted representatives of the governors from USA and Mexican border states during a forum on wind energy April 24-26.

Coordinated by the Texas General Land Office and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, the three-day conference of state energy leaders is part of ongoing meetings

Judge, led the Texas delegation. Other U.S. states in the Border Governors Energy Forum include California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Border states from Mexico include Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas. Hardin-Simmons Univer-



Blackwell High School Mounted Honor Guard

The delegates met at Frontier Texas in Abilene, the Sweetwater offices of the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium, AES Wind's Buffalo Gap Project, Babcock & Brown's Sweetwater Wind Energy Center, and the Nolan County ranch of the late Senator Temple Dickson. Hardin-Simmons University hosted the group's business meeting.

The Summit also involved students from high schools throughout West Texas: Abilene High, Abilene Cooper, Sweetwater, Roscoe, Highland, Blackwell, Big Spring, and Clyde (Hardin-Simmons University).



Texas Railroad Commissioner Victor Carrillo joins Texas General Land Office reps Bob Blumberg and Soll Sussman at AES Wind's Buffalo Gap Wind Project during Summit.

of the Border Governors Energy Forum.

Texas Railroad Commissioner Victor Carrillo, former Taylor County

sity, AES Wind, and the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau provided Spanish-English interpreters for the conference.

Wind Potential Top 12

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POLICY MONITOR

Texas Legislature adjourns, Congress gears up

Texas Legislature fights off bureaucracy proposal

Despite the wind energy industry's demonstrated dramatic benefits to the Texas economy and to the global environment, critics made (unsuccessful) attempts to trim back on the strong pace of wind energy development and industrial activity across the Lone Star State during the 80th Legislature.

With active input from West Texans, wind energy consumers from across Texas, and wind component industrial manufacturers from across the state, the Legislature at least twice defeated efforts to impose a centralized siting bureaucracy on the Texas wind energy industry.

In March, the House Regulated Industries Committee stopped HB 2794 in subcommittee. In the final week of the session, Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) successfully led the effort to remove the siting bureaucracy from a bill in the Senate.

Legislature repeals controversial "Section m"

On the last day of the Session, the Legislature repealed a controversial but obscure provision — called "Subsection m" that could have significantly reduced the amount of wind energy generation installed across West Texas.

Rep. David Swinford (R-Dumas) was a key legislative leader on behalf of West Texas. Despite pivotal opposition, the repeal passed the Senate 26-4 and won in the House 139-4.

"Subsection m" is an obscure provi-

sion enacted into law in 2005 as part of Senate Bill 20. Intentionally or not, Subsection (m) would have allowed power generators to count consumers' voluntary purchases of green power towards the state's mandatory renewable energy goals.

Under the double-counting provision, businesses and households that sign up for wind energy purchases at Austin Energy or San Antonio's CPS Energy, for example, would have their purchases counted toward the Texas Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), as are actual installations of wind turbines. The result could have been 2,500 MW of new wind construction rather than the 5,000 MW that consumers and the wind region expected.

Congress takes on RPS, PTC, siting debate

Positive and negative actions are taking shape in Washington for wind energy. These pending Congressional decisions could have dramatic effects on West Texas.

West Virginia Congressman Nick Rahall has introduced an onerous proposal (HR 2337) to require federal approval of the siting of each individual wind turbine. HR 2337 is moving rapidly through the Congressional process, because Rahall is chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Operation of an "unapproved" turbine (home or commercial scale) would be a **criminal** offense.

Congress is also considering a multi-year extension of the Production Tax Credit, currently set to expire in 2008.



WTWind photo by Leticia Garcia

West Texas and these consumer groups are tightly connected in the marketplace. Austin customers buy from Babcock & Brown's Sweetwater 2 wind project. San Antonio customers buy from the Sweetwater 3 wind project (Cottonwood Creek).

There is Congressional momentum for a 5-year or even 10-year extension.

Congress is also evaluating a national Renewable Portfolio Standard, similar to targets set by Texas and more than 20 other states.





Summer of Seminars

WTWind photo by Leticia Garcia



Wind Law II

Where the Wind Meets the Blade

Wind Law Institute — Sweetwater — June 14-15

Working with the American Wind Energy Association and the Texas Tech University School of Law, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium once again presents the nation's premier hands-on legal seminar in the heart of the world's most active wind energy development region.

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.

The conference features 11.25 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. The event takes place on the Sweetwater campus of Texas State Technical College West Texas.

More information and registration is available online at www.law.ttu.edu/careerservices.

**Wind Law Institute — Sweetwater
— June 14-15, 2007 —
American Wind Energy Association
Texas Tech Law School &
West Texas Wind Energy Consortium**

Upcoming West Texas Wind Energy Consortium Events

May 29 — Knox County wind energy workshop — Benjamin

May 31 — Kent County wind energy workshop — Jayton

May 31-June 1 — Dedication of Airtricity's Forest Creek Wind Project — in Sterling, Howard & Glasscock Counties

June 3-6 — Windpower 2007 -- American Wind Energy Association — Los Angeles

June 11 — Garden City — Glasscock County Commissioners Court

June 14-15 — Wind Law Institute — TSTC Sweetwater

June 18 — Sterling County economic strategy workshop

June 22 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTWEC luncheon — 12 noon

July 10-12 — 3rd Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair — Trent

July 18 — Pampa wind energy workshop

August 1 — West Texas Wind Energy Consortium workshop event — Amarillo

September 5 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTWEC luncheon — 12 noon

October 3 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTWEC luncheon — 12 noon

November 8 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTWEC luncheon — 12 noon

November 11-13 — Renewables '07 Conference — Abilene — Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association

A Trade Fair grows in Trent

3rd Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

In 2007, the Trent conference will be expanded to two days of seminars and one day of wind project tours. The conference will feature dozens of seminars, exhibits, private consultation rooms with major wind players, and casual networking opportunities.

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. Topics covered will include turbines, interconnection, economics, and case studies.

Day Two at Trent (July 11) will be an enhanced version of the traditional "MegaWind" seminars related to large-scale development. Seminar tracks will include Wind Energy 101, wind operations, landowner considerations, county issues, school issues, industrial development, policy updates, emergency response, and CPR/First Aid Training.

Day Three (July 12) will feature half-day tours of wind projects from Sweetwater in Nolan County, which is home to almost 1,500 MW of operational wind projects.

**July 10 — Small Wind
July 11 — Mega Wind
July 12 — Wind Tours**



May 2007



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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, covering roughly 140,000 square miles from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande and Fort Worth to El Paso.

West Texas . . .

America's energy independence region.



West Texas continues to pace USA wind energy

More than 3,000 megawatts (MW) of new wind energy operations is expected to come on line across the USA in 2007, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Of that total, at least 2,000 MW will be in West Texas.

AWEA estimates that roughly 1,000 MW is poised to come into service in West Texas within weeks.

In Sterling, Glasscock, and Howard counties, for example, Airtricity is officially opening its Forest Creek project on May 31-June 1, with events in Midland and at the wind project site.

Forest Creek is roughly 125 MW and consists of more than 50 Siemens 2.3 MW turbines. Nearby, Airtricity is completing construction of the 90 MW Sand Bluff project, which will be powered by 45 Gamesa 2.0 MW turbines.

GE Energy Financial Services is investing in the Forest Creek wind project, and TXU Wholesale, a subsidiary of TXU

Corp., will purchase the output. TXU Wholesale is the largest purchaser of wind energy in Texas.

Airtricity has also officially announced that its largest project to date — the \$300 million, 30,000-acre Roscoe Wind Farm in Nolan, Mitchell, and Scurry counties will be operational in 2007. This 209 MW project will use Mitsubishi 1.0 MW machines in the heart of Texas cotton country.

The project will add greatly to farm income and to farm-region schools, and AWEA and the Texas Farm Bureau estimate that 95-98 percent of a farm's land remains available for cultivation throughout wind project operation.

TXU Wholesale will purchase the output from the Roscoe project over a five-year period.

GE Energy Financial Services and a subsidiary of Wachovia Corp. are each investing 50 percent of the structured

equity, alongside the equity of project developer and operator Airtricity

South of Roscoe, Airtricity's Champion Wind Farm will be 126 MW, and the Irish company expects Champion to be operational by 2008.

Horizon Wind's 400 MW Lone Star project in Shackelford and Callahan counties is nearing completion between Albany and Abilene, using Gamesa 2.0 MW turbines.

In Nolan County, Babcock & Brown has completed the 240 MW Phases 4A and 4B of the Sweetwater Wind Energy Center, using Mitsubishi 1.0 MW and Siemens 2.3 MW turbines. With Phase 5, the Sweetwater Wind Energy Center will approach 600 MW — making it the second largest wind energy project in the world.

Only FPL Energy's nearby Horse Hollow project—the world's largest at 735 MW — is grander.

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