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OHIO WIND weekly

Wind Power in Ohio. It's Real. It's Here. It's Working. Let's Make More!

Senate set to act on renewable utility plan

By Chris Baltimore

Wednesday, June 13, 2007; 6:05 PM

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The fate of a proposal in the Senate to require U.S. utilities to get 15 percent of electricity supply from renewable sources by 2020 could come down to which way the wind blows - literally.

The proposal by New Mexico Democrat Jeff Bingaman has drawn opposition from lawmakers from states that don't have the prevailing wind currents to justify building giant wind turbines, which will be key for utilities to meet the target.

Bingaman, chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, wants to add a "renewable portfolio standard" to pending energy legislation that would require utilities to produce electricity from sources like wind, solar or geothermal, or pay a penalty.

Environmentalists, officials from the wind and solar industries, and lawmakers from windy states in the Great Plains say the bill will spur cleaner power supply and reduce greenhouse gases attributed to global warming.

Lawmakers from states with low wind energy potential - notably the Southeast and Midwest - are up in arms, and say Bingaman's plan could cost state consumers billions of dollars in higher electricity prices.

"You can't impose the same wind requirement on states that have no wind," said Sen. Pete Domenici, New Mexico Republican. Even though his state's utilities could benefit from the plan, he has offered a competing amendment that would allow electricity from nuclear power plants, new hydropower dams and fuel cells to count toward the 20 percent requirement.

The Senate could vote on the measures as early as Thursday.

Domenici's alternative plan would allow states to opt out of the requirement, while Bingaman's plan would allow the Energy Department to waive the requirements if compliance is "beyond the reasonable control of the utility."

(Continued on next page)

Wind power to the people

By Christina Chalmers
Advocate Correspondent

GREENVILLE - "Produce energy in your own backyard" reads the front of the brochure for the Skystream 3.7, a utility-connected wind turbine. That's exactly what two brothers from Oakwood are doing with their own wind turbine that's installed on the 97-acre farm they grew up on off Stingley Rd.

Steve and Joe Jefferis, partners in Powerflo LLC, held a demonstration on a recent windy afternoon to show how the wind turbine operates. They are the first people in Ohio to install a residential power appliance that generates electricity.

"I am using electricity that will basically be free, so the message is "visualize free electricity," because that's what the wind brings us," said Joe Jefferis.

The Skystream 3.7 was developed over the last seven years with funding from a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that was used to research and perfect the product for residential electric use.

The virtually maintenance-free Skystream 3.7 is mounted on a 35 ft monopole with a small concrete foundation. A cable runs underground from the pole to a special meter installed by Dayton Power & Light's net metering program.

The net metering program is offered by DP&L for customers who install renewable energy systems to generate their own electricity that can be used to offset a portion of the electric energy provided by the company.

Last month the Jefferis' received a \$7.50 credit on their DP&L bill from electricity produced by the wind turbine.

"Every time I think about my windmill and how it's spinning, it makes me smile because of the freedom and independence that it represents, and it's real," stated Steve Jefferis during the demonstration.

The turbine costs approximately \$12-15,000 to install, one-half to one-fourth the cost of previous wind technologies and takes about six to eight weeks to set up.

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Proponents say the bill will cut emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases - which scientists say are causing the Earth's temperatures to rise dangerously -- by 400 million metric tons, the equivalent of taking 71 million automobiles off the road.

"It's cheap, it's clean, it's a solution to the climate change issue," said Sen. Jon Tester, Democrat from Montana, which is among over 20 U.S. states that have enacted their own renewable requirements for their incumbent utilities.

Opponents of the bill said 16 mostly Southeast states could see \$175 billion in extra costs by 2030, based on a study done by Global Energy Decisions on behalf of the Edison Electric Institute, which lobbies for big U.S. utilities.

"This is a massive wealth transfer" from the states to the federal government, which would collect fees from utilities and spend them on clean-energy research, said Sen. George Voinovich, Ohio Republican.

The federal Energy Information Administration said costs for electricity and natural gas will be \$18 billion higher than normal. Spending on electricity would rise by less than 1 percent if the plan is enacted, the EIA said.

Atlanta-based Southern Co., which provides power for more than 4 million customers in four Southeast states, said the plan could cost it an extra \$3.8 billion (in 2007 dollars) by 2030.

Southern could build about 900 megawatts worth of renewable capacity that turns biomass and methane from landfills into electricity, far short of the 6,000 megawatts of capacity needed to comply with the rules, a company spokesman said.

Wind Energy Coming to Michigan

House Democrats are touring the state today to promote plans for alternative energy development in Michigan.

Governor Granholm introduced partners in a project aimed at building a wind farm in Michigan's thumb.

The farm would have 32 wind turbines and would generate enough power for 15,000 homes. It could be operational by next year and construction has already begun.

Democratic lawmakers in the House also outlined a series of proposals aimed at lessening Michigan's dependence on foreign oil.

The plans include requiring that alternative energy sources account for 10% of the state's energy production by 2015. A key question will be whether Michigan can or should come up with enough incentive and tax credit money to boost the fledgling business.

The state continues to battle budget problems sparked by declining tax revenue in a stagnant economy.

Suzlon Signs up to Provide 400 Mw of Wind Energy to Ppm Energy

By Staff | June 2007

Suzlon Wind Energy Corp. (Pune, India) has agreed to produce 400 MW of wind turbine capacity for PPM Energy (Portland, Ore.), one of North America's largest wind power developers. The deal is Suzlon's single-largest contract for wind turbine capacity. Under the agreement, Suzlon will deliver 143 of its S88 2.1 MW turbines — with combined capacity of 300 MW turbine — in 2008. An additional 100 MW of capacity, from 48 turbines, will be installed in 2009. Suzlon also will handle operations, and provide maintenance and other services for the turbines for two years, with an option for five. PPM Energy is part of the Iberdrola group of companies, a wind power leader with more than 6,500 MW of combined wind power capacity worldwide.

Statement By The American Wind Energy Association On a National Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

AWEA urges Congress to enact strong Bingaman RPS, oppose weakening Domenici Amendment As the U.S. Congress takes up wide-ranging energy legislation, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) issued the following statement in support of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) proposed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Sen. Bingaman's RPS would require that 15% of the country's electricity come from wind, solar and other renewable energy sources by 2020.

"A strong RPS is an essential element of an effective national energy strategy: it can address the simultaneous challenges of growing electricity demand and climate change," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher.

"A strong RPS is an essential element of an effective national energy strategy: it can address the simultaneous challenges of growing electricity demand and climate change," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher.

"Wind energy technology is the single most cost-effective, zero-carbon energy option that we have available today. Our nation is also blessed with an abundance of solar and other renewable, zero-carbon energy sources. The Bingaman RPS provides the crucial long-term policy support that is needed for wind and all renewable energy technologies to become major contributors to electricity supply and solve the double challenge of global warming and growing electricity demand. Any attempts to weaken it should be opposed."

There is broad support for a strong national RPS. A coalition including Fortune 500 companies, the United Steelworkers, and major environmental groups has sent a letter to Members of Congress urging adoption of a strong RPS.

AWEA opposes a proposal by Senator Pete Domenici, Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, that would undermine the RPS and introduce several serious loopholes. AWEA has sent a letter to Senate leaders respectfully urging a vote against it. The Domenici standard would weaken the RPS and:

Authorize the Secretary of Energy to certify any form of energy as "clean;" Allow states to opt out of the bill's requirements; Would continue a long history of playing politics with the climate issue.



a list of owwg, and other wind related events of interest, is updated weekly

EVENTS

owwg quarterly meeting june 29
9:30-4:30

solar 2007 july 7-12
cleveland, oh

owwg quarterly meeting september 7
9:30-4:30

awea wind resource assessment workshop september 18-19
portland, or

**all owwg meetings are held at the riffe center
77 south high street, columbus, oh 31st floor**

Why Utilities Are Embracing Wind Power

by Stephen Lacey, Podcast Editor
Los Angeles, California [RenewableEnergyAccess.com]
Over the last decade, as fears over the reliability and cost of wind power have proven overblown or unfounded, utilities have begun to generate more electricity from wind in their service areas. In the last few years, some utilities have fully embraced the renewable resource because of customer demand for cleaner energy. Utility support for wind was clear at the WindPower 2007 conference where 42 electricity providers were present. We'll have a feature report from that conference on what utilities and system operators are saying about their commitment to the wind industry.

Also in the podcast: We've got more interviews from the exhibition hall at WindPower 2007. Listen in to learn about how companies maintain turbines, map out projects and pitch new ideas to the rest of the industry.

Inside Renewable Energy offers the latest in renewable energy news and information.

To listen to the podcast, follow the following link:
<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/podcast?id=48927>

IPL Expands Renewable Energy Portfolio

Cedar Rapids, Iowa [RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

Interstate Power and Light Co. (IPL) has partnered with developers of the Hardin-Hilltop Wind Project to purchase approximately 16 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generated by the wind turbines, located northwest of Jefferson, Iowa.

The Hardin-Hilltop Wind Project, which became commercially operable in May 2007, has eight investors, seven of whom are from Jefferson, including Wind Family Turbine, LLC. Edison Mission, a subsidiary of Southern Cal Edison, has also invested in the wind project. Each investor owns a single wind turbine, which can generate more than 2 MW each.

In 2006, IPL agreed to purchase the energy generated from the seven wind turbines. Given the size and ownership of the project, IPL is eligible to receive the Iowa small renewable tax credit. Earlier this year, IPL announced plans to construct an additional 100 megawatts of new wind generation in Guthrie and Audubon Counties in Iowa as part of its long-term generation growth strategy. Currently, IPL has approximately 260 MW of wind energy under contract in its energy portfolio.

"Tom Wind of Wind Family Turbine LLC has been instrumental in seeing this project through from start to finish and our company commends him for his efforts," said Tom Aller, president of IPL. "This is also a great day for the community of Jefferson as this project is a shining example of how our state provides continuous opportunities to be a leader in renewable energy and further Iowa's economic development potential."

Wind energy draft supported

Cleveland Township planners have recommended approval of a long-awaited zoning ordinance amendment outlining requirements for "wind energy systems" in the township.

Work on the amendment has been under way since last year. The draft amendment specifies requirements for structures used for anemometers or windmills that generate electrical power for individual residences, businesses or farms.

The maximum allowable height for such towers under the proposed zoning ordinance provision is 125 feet.

Following a public hearing at their regular monthly meeting June 6, Cleveland planners voted unanimously to send their draft to the Leelanau County Planning Commission for a review prior to sending it to the Cleveland Township Board for consideration of adoption.

In other business at last week's meeting, the Cleveland Township Planning Commission continued work on a series of changes to zoning ordinance language related to the township's residential districts, according to draft minutes of the meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion of proposed changes, commission chairman Tim Ewing agreed to incorporate commissioners suggestions into an updated draft, consult with professional staff, and bring a refined draft to next month's meeting.

(Cleveland Township is located in Michigan)

Markey Compromise on Energy Bill Gives Wind Industry Free Pass

Amendment offers no protections for wildlife; Provides no guidance or oversight for federal regulators.

Industrial Wind Action (IWA) Group responded today to legislative maneuverings by Congressman Markey (D-MA) that replaced provisions in the Rahall Energy Bill (H.R. 2337) pertaining to wind power - in Subtitle D.

According to Lisa Linowes, Executive Director for IWA, the draft wording^[1] proposed by Congressman Rahall would have established uniform standards for wind energy development to protect our wildlife heritage. IWA praised Congressman Rahall (D-WV) for all his hard work in recognizing and trying to prevent adverse environmental impacts of utility-scale wind power.

But Rahall's efforts were undermined by an aggressive campaign launched by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Sierra Club, and others. AWEA's unjustified claim that the Rahall provision would render wind energy illegal in the U.S. provoked a media frenzy and vicious public attacks on Rahall. "Most disappointing," Linowes said, "was the willingness of Representatives Markey (D-MA) and DeFazio (D-OR) to parrot the wind industry's alarmist assertions about the Rahall bill." She added that by voting to accept the Markey amendment, the House Natural Resource Committee members turned a blind eye to the expert testimony presented at the May 1 oversight hearing that detailed the current and growing cumulative impacts of wind turbines on bats and birds^[2].

At this hearing, an expert for Bat Conservation International testified that the estimated kill of bats may be from 400 to 750 bats per Megawatt (MW) over the 25-year lifespan of wind turbines installed along Appalachian ridges in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Given the projected wind energy development levels for this one small portion of the US - over 2,000 MW of wind turbines installed by 2020 - as many as 800,000 to 1.6-million bats could be killed over the operating lifetime of these machines. An expert with the American Bird Conservancy estimated that, at current mortality rates, from 900,000 to 1.8-million birds per year may be killed by wind turbines if sufficient numbers of towers are erected to provide 20% of the electricity consumed by our nation. Finally, Dale Hall, director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service stated "uncertainty and gaps in knowledge have resulted in the inability of scientists to draw definitive conclusions about the threat and cumulative impacts that wind power poses to wildlife."

IWA asserts the Committee "missed a very important opportunity to put standards in place that will better assess the impacts of the turbines before projects are sited. Ignoring the problem can lead to catastrophic environmental circumstances." Wealthy utilities are reaping billions annually in taxpayer subsidies and other public funds. It is reasonable for large-scale wind development to be subject to federal oversight regulations aimed at ensuring safe siting.

Markey's amendment,^[3] as written, accomplishes little that's meaningful despite the Massachusetts representative's claim that the compromise wording "would strike a balance between protecting wildlife and acting on the need for more renewable energy^[4]." IWA found Section 233 - Enforcement was so vague as to be pointless. "Simply saying that the Secretary of the Interior "shall enforce" all "relevant" laws to "address" impacts offers nothing to current law," Linowes said, adding that the Interior Department is already legally bound to enforce all "relevant" laws involving wildlife and wind projects. "It is simply inaccurate to describe this amendment as a "compromise" since it accomplishes nothing for wildlife advocates and imposes no new obligations on the wind industry or on federal regulators," Linowes said. But worse, IWA warned Markey's wording provides a convenient pretext for the wind industry to continue to avoid and/or defer reforms.

Industrial Wind Action Group seeks to promote knowledge and raise awareness of the risks and damaging environmental impacts of industrial wind energy development. Information and analysis on the subject is available through its website, www.windaction.org. To subscribe to the IWA weekly newsletter, visit <http://www.windaction.org/subscribe>.

judythpiazza@gmail.com

No tilting at windmills in Penn Forest Township, resident at work on zoning for electric-generating, air-powered turbines.

By Chris Parker Of The Morning Call

Penn Forest Township resident Paul Montemuro wants to harness wind energy to keep his beer cold and his home warm.

On Monday, Montemuro, who pays at least \$690 a month for power at his beverage store in Albrightsville, attended a township supervisors' workshop meeting on Monday to help craft changes to the zoning rules to regulate wind turbines.

The changes will take a while to develop and establish. Supervisors must hold public hearings and wait a certain length of time before adopting any changes.

Montemuro wants to build a 28-foot turbine to generate electricity for his store and for his home. He figures the turbine will cost about \$30,000, but he expects to recoup that through electricity savings and a reimbursement from a state incentive program, such as the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, which encourages the use of alternative energy sources.

With the turbine, "your electric bill is free," he said. He said he can sell any excess power to PPL Corp., which provides the electricity to his home and business.

The turbines may be the first ones in Carbon County, said zoning officer Joe Steber. He said he's had "several inquiries" from residents who are considering building them. Steber provided supervisors with a copy of neighboring Tunkhannock Township's zoning ordinance to use as a springboard for discussion. Tunkhannock Township in September 2006 built a 28-foot high wind turbine to power its maintenance building, said clerk Maria S. Wieand. The alternative energy source is helping to keep down electric costs, she said. Tunkhannock earlier this year amended its zoning ordinance to regulate wind turbines.

Penn Forest's zoning ordinance doesn't address the turbines. The rules would have to be changed to regulate how high the turbines can be and how far they must be from occupied buildings, and could require the turbines to be certified by a professional.

There would probably not be any zoning district in the township where they would not be allowed, said solicitor Tom Nanovic.

However, private developments could bar them, Steber said. He said Indian Mountain Lakes has already done that.

Zoning Board solicitor Chuck Smith said residential turbines could be classified as "special exceptions" or "conditional uses," allowing each application to be considered on an individual basis. Supervisors on Monday appeared to favor the turbines.

"I think it's a good idea," said chairman Harry Connolly.

State Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Charlie Young said the agency is developing a model zoning ordinance for all wind turbines, residential and commercial. The state now regulates commercial, but not residential, wind turbines.

Wind power is on the fast track for alternative energy in the state. Young said Pennsylvania's wind turbines now produce 179 megawatts of power. Within the next 12 months, he said, the state expects that to increase by an additional 214 megawatts.

DEP spokesman Mark Carmon said a major wind turbine manufacturer, Gamesa, and a wind farm developer, Iberdrola, are located in the state. Both companies are headquartered in Spain. Young said there are seven commercial wind farms with a total of 112 turbines in the state.

Offshore Wind Farm Plans Are Called Off in U.S. Gulf

(Accessed from www.renewableenergyaccess.com)

Houston, Texas [The Associated Press] Plans to build what would have been the nation's largest offshore wind farm in South Texas have been called off because the multibillion-dollar project didn't make economic sense, the developer said Monday [June 11]. John Calaway, chief development officer for Babcock & Brown Ltd., an Australian investment bank, said the company notified the state a month ago that it was giving up its 30-year lease on nearly 40,000 acres in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Padre Island.

Legendary Texas oil man and investor T. Boone Pickens wants to build a wind farm that would rival or even surpass a large nuclear plant in capacity.

Pickens' Mesa Power has begun courting about 250 landowners in the Texas panhandle in order to develop a 2,000-4,000-MW wind farm, according to local reports. The news comes at time when the Public Utility Commission of Texas is in the process of selecting its "Competitive Renewable Energy Zones" - the state's designation, for transmission planning purposes, for suitable land possessing a renewable resource. New transmission lines would be needed to connect such a project to load centers in the state.

Even with a capacity of 2,000 MW, Pickens' project would far surpass the largest wind facility in the world, FPL Energy's 735.5-MW Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center, which was completed in 2006 and is also located in Texas.

Mike Boswell of Mesa Power said the company is offering landowners \$4,500 per turbine, plus payments of 4-5% for electricity produced. He also said Mesa has begun talks with turbine manufacturers.

The wind farm would be located in the general area of Pampa, a town about 50 miles north-east of Amarillo.

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In his opening speech Joe Jefferis spoke of his company's enthusiasm for the product.

"This is a big economic development project that we hope will just take off within the next year," said Joe Jefferis

The demonstration continued with State and Federal officials offering their support of new sources of alternative energy.

A representative from John Boehner's office (8th Dist.) read a statement on behalf of the Congressman who was unable to attend.

"...Turbines like this one in Darke County help us find a solution to our dependency issues and help by spurring the local economy. We need to advance common sense and comprehensive energy solutions that increase American supplies of all forms. Congressman Boehner is proud to see companies in the 8th District embrace this innovative spirit and work to find solutions so that we can become energy independent."

Phil Mann spoke from the Ohio Department of Development, Economic Division. The Ohio Department of Development is an agency that provides grants for homeowners and small farms for wind electric through the Ohio Wind Production & Manufacturing Incentive Program.

"We're real excited about all the opportunities that the wind industry provides for the State of Ohio. We have been touring the companies in the State of Ohio and have identified about 50 companies that have already participated in the wind energy supply chain," said Mann.

Ohio State Senator Keith Faber spoke of how he came to the demonstration to learn more about the technology.

"As we go and learn more about this, we're all about reducing our dependency on foreign sources of energy and becoming more energy independent. This is just one of the many alternatives out there and certainly we'll continue to watch and follow this and encourage this as a way to keep us energy independent," said Senator Faber.

State Rep. Jim Zehringer (Dist. 77) commended the brothers for leading the way.

"...We're excited about the possibilities of jobs, putting these things up, servicing them and also decreasing our dependency on foreign oil is obviously our number one goal..." Rep. Zehringer said.

The Jefferis' brothers said that they have orders for three more wind turbines, one of which will be installed in Greene County. They state that the homeowners and farmers that have ordered the Skystream 3.7 are providing certainty to their future energy cost while at the same time supporting both the local economy and alternative energy.

Christina Chalmers is a correspondent for the Daily Advocate. She can be reached at editor@dailyadvocate.com.

PTC Legislation Markup Slated for June 19

On June 19 the Senate Finance Committee is slated to work on an energy tax package that-as it stands now-includes a full-value renewable energy production tax credit (PTC) extension through 2010. Key Senators including Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) are currently working on a longer-term PTC extension.

The package includes other components important to wind as well. One proposal would create a new 30% personal tax credit of \$500 per ½ kWh, not to exceed \$4,000, for small wind systems of 100 kW or less. Another piece of the package would authorize \$750 million in both 2008 and 2009 for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) to be issued in order to finance public power wind energy projects. The legislation also addresses the need for new transmission, providing for an immediate 50% depreciation on investments in transmission used solely to carry electricity from renewable generation facilities.

The tax package is intended to be grafted onto broader energy legislation currently being debated by the full Senate (see related story). The U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, meanwhile, is scheduled to act on, or "mark up," its energy legislation tax package on June 20.

In a June 15 letter, AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher thanked the Finance Committee for its long history of support for renewable energy but also underscored the need for a longer-term extension of the PTC. "While we are grateful for the gains in the full-value, two-year extension [that the current proposal] provides, this two-year extension is not a sufficient period of time to encourage investment in significant U.S.-based manufacturing," the letter stated. In the letter, Swisher also called for a higher cost cap on the credit for purchase of small turbines.

Edison Mission 630-MW turbine purchase a record for Suzlon

Suzlon Wind Energy Corp., signed a contract to supply a total of 300 units of its S88 2.1-MW wind turbine to Irvine, Calif.-based Edison Mission Group (EMG), a deal that is the largest in Suzlon's history and one that makes EMG Suzlon's biggest customer.

The two-phase, 630-MW contract calls for the delivery of 315 MW of turbine capacity in 2008 and another 315 MW in 2009, which along with previous purchases brings EMG's total committed Suzlon turbine capacity to over 1,000 MW.

"Suzlon has quickly become a major player in the U.S. market, and it is largely due to the renewed commitment we've received from EMG since 2003," said Suzlon Group CEO Andre Horbach.

The turbines will be sited at various yet-to-be-announced wind farm locations across the U.S., Suzlon said.

Whistle blown on Oliver's wind energy comments

Thursday, 14 June 2007, 5:00 pm
Press Release: NZ Wind Energy Association
15 June 2007
Media release

The Wind Energy Association says the public are unlikely to be swayed from supporting wind farms by the shrill attacks on wind energy from Anton Oliver.

Wind Energy Association (NZWEA) chief executive Fraser Clark said today that the public would not be impressed by Mr Oliver's contradictory statements, reliance on exaggeration, and lack of accurate information.

"Mr Oliver needs to get his line straight on this issue."

"As a man with a high profile in another part of public life, people expect a much better level of contribution from Mr Oliver. He has an obligation to debate the issue fairly and factually," Mr Clark said.

He said that given the media coverage accorded to Mr Oliver's broad attacks against wind energy as a resource, the Wind Energy Association urged examination of the accuracy of some of his comments. For example:

- Anton Oliver accuses wind farms of being fraudulent ("government-sanctioned corporate rort").

o The truth is that both SOE and private companies are building wind farms because they are cost-effective, efficient, and are certainly among the cleanest, ways to produce the electricity that each of us use. The rationale, economics and environmental benefits, are all well documented.

o He says carbon credits are being used to justify this project. The credits ceased being available in 2004. The truth is that this project and all others are going ahead because they produce electricity at a price comparable to all other forms of electricity generation.

- Anton Oliver contradictorily describes wind energy as a "pandemic", while also claiming that other countries are not adopting it.

o The truth is that the world has indeed embraced wind energy as a renewable and sustainable resource. Wind generation has grown internationally at a compounding rate of 24.4% for the last 5 years, with total capacity increasing by 32% last year alone. Turbine suppliers can't ship their products out the door fast enough.

o As an example, Denmark has the highest percentage of its power coming from wind - 20%. It is now aiming to double wind energy capacity to achieve 50% by 2025 and believes doing so will reduce electricity prices.

- Anton Oliver says the Germans now think that wind is too expensive.

o The truth is that Germany leads the world in wind energy capacity - more than 20,000 MW and increasing at more than 2,000 MW per year. Its official energy agency (dena) wants to increase Germany's renewable generation from around 10% today (5% wind) to 30%.

o Latest research in Germany actually shows that their increasing amount of wind energy has led to a net reduction in wholesale power prices.

"Wind makes up only 2% of our electricity generation, yet we have one of the worlds best wind resources. So there is clearly scope for wind energy to have a bigger role in our energy future," Mr Clark said.

Michigan Co-op, John Deere Enter PPA on Michigan's First Major Wind Farm

Wolverine Power Cooperative signed a 20-year power purchase agreement for electricity coming out of John Deere Wind Energy's Harvest Wind Farm located near Elkton and Pigeon, Mich.

Construction on the project is scheduled to begin this summer, while commercial operation is slated for early 2008, which would make the 52.8-MW facility (32 1.65-MW Vestas V82 turbines) the first commercial-scale wind farm operating in Michigan.

Wolverine is purchasing renewable energy from the Harvest Wind Farm for sale to its six member distribution utilities and their retail customers.

"Wolverine strongly supports the development of clean, renewable energy in Michigan and thus has chosen to make a long-term financial commitment to this project," said Wolverine President and CEO Eric Baker.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) hailed the Harvest project in a press release June 11, commenting, ""Projects like the Harvest Wind Farm, the first of its kind in Michigan, and investments in the alternative energy industry are key to our economic future. They create jobs and help diversify our economy-two top priorities for Michigan."

In addition to the Harvest Wind Farm project, Wolverine plans to explore other renewable energy projects in the state, including its own development of a wind farm near Rogers City, Mich., Wolverine said. "We plan to take what we have learned from the Harvest Wind Farm project and apply it to studying the potential for a wind project near Rogers City," said Baker. "Renewable power has an important role to play, along with other technologies available today, in the creation of more balanced and cleaner electric generation in Michigan."

In 2006, the co-op decided it would pursue greater portfolio diversity as a strategic objective and subsequently put out a request for proposals (RFP) for renewable energy. It did not restrict the RFP to wind or to in-state generation.

In addition to seeking energy source diversity, Wolverine is pursuing wind in anticipation of a renewable energy mandate in the state. Executive Vice President Craig Borr said Wolverine wanted to "get in ahead of the RPS," and take the opportunity to "learn as much as possible" about wind prior to any such mandate. In that respect, the deal with John Deere, he said, affords the co-op the opportunity to work with an established player in the wind energy industry and hopefully opens up the door for further collaboration as Wolverine looks to explore the possibility of new wind projects.

"To the extent [John Deere] wants to look at further development in Michigan, I would say we're interested," Borr told Wind Energy Weekly.

Acciona to Supply 300 MW in Turbines for Naturener U.S. Project

Acciona Windpower will supply Spanish renewables company Naturener with 200 of its AW 77/1500 class II wind turbines, totaling 300 MW in capacity.

The turbines will be installed in the McCormick Ranch wind farm that Naturener USA will construct in Montana in 2008. The contract is worth over \$399 million, Acciona said.

Acciona, which is both a developer and turbine manufacturer, announced in April that it will build a manufacturing facility in West Branch, Iowa. The company's U.S. strategy is for the majority of turbines coming out of the West Branch plant to be dedicated to its own projects, with any surplus units sold to other developers. Specifically regarding the sale to Naturener, Acciona emphasized it is first and foremost a developer. However, "For the right business opportunities, we will sell turbines to third parties," Acciona Energy North America CEO Peter Duprey told Wind Energy Weekly.

Part of the Naturener order is slated to be filled from the yet-to-be completed West Branch plant, but the majority of the units will come from Acciona's Spain production facility.

Within a year, once the U.S. plant begins production, Acciona will have an overall turbine production capacity of more than 2,000 MW per year. Naturener has wind power projects under development in Montana and Alberta, Canada, totaling around 1,800 MW.

Grand Opening for Knight & Carver South Dakota Facility

Coming June 22 Another wind energy manufacturing plant has opened its doors, and the company is celebrating its accomplishment. Knight & Carver Composites will hold a grand-opening celebration of its 26,000-square-foot blade production and repair facility in Howard, S.D., on June 22 from 2-6 p.m.

It is expected that more than 300 people will attend, including South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds (R).

"We are proud to call South Dakota and Howard our new home," said Knight & Carver President and CEO Sampson A. Brown. "Hosting this grand-opening party is one small way of showing our appreciation to the local, regional, and statewide officials as well as citizens who have been so cooperative and welcoming to our company along the way. We look forward to doing our part to help energize the South Dakota economy through the production/repair of wind blades that will accelerate the growth of wind energy at wind farms throughout the Upper Midwest and around the country."

The company is expected to employ as many as 50 full-time workers in 2007, with plans to expand to 100 employees within the first two years. The plant's Industrial Production Manager is Larry Person. Operations began at the facility in March.

Steel Winds Goes Online with First-to-be-Deployed Liberty Turbines

UPC Wind and its partner BQ Energy announced the start of full commercial operations at the Steel Winds Wind Farm, located on a former industrial site along the shores of Lake Erie.

Steel Winds marks the first commercial deployment of Clipper Windpower's 2.5-MW Liberty series wind turbines. Located just south of Buffalo, N.Y., in the suburb of Lackawanna, the 20-MW Steel Winds project represents a symbolic example of the economic impact wind power has on communities: it is situated on a 30-acre portion of the former Bethlehem Steel facility, which is being returned to productive use under the New York Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield Cleanup Program. Steel Winds will generate enough electricity to serve the needs of approximately 6,000 western New York homes, UPC Wind said. The project will be operated by UPC Wind, with turbine operation and maintenance services provided by Clipper Windpower for the first five years.

"Where Bethlehem Steel once supported an earlier industrial revolution, today the Steel Winds project is bringing new jobs and clean energy technology to the Lake Erie region," said Paul Gaynor, president and CEO of UPC Wind. "We are pleased to be operating at full capacity and introducing this newest generation of wind turbines to the market."

Manufactured in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the Clipper Liberty turbine is among the largest land-based wind turbines in the world, and the largest wind turbine manufactured in North America.

"We are delighted that our first production Liberty machines will bring to the local area a meaningful contribution toward the beautification, revitalization, and economic development of this brown-field site," said James G.P. Dehlsen, Chairman and CEO of Clipper Windpower. "Steel Winds is an exemplary project, and certainly a tribute to the local communities that recognized the benefits early on and enthusiastically supported the effort. We look forward to our continued role in this milestone project."

For the Steel Winds project, UPC Wind has partnered with BQ Energy to produce and sell clean energy, capacity, and renewable energy certificates to energy retailer Constellation NewEnergy through 2009.

Mitsubishi Announces 405-MW, 180-MW Orders

Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas, Inc., (MPS) finalized an agreement to supply 169 of its flagship MWT92/2.4 wind turbines to PPM Energy projects in the U.S. as well as another deal to supply 180 MW in turbines to Eurus Energy America Corp.

Under the 405-MW agreement, PPM Energy will specify either the 92m or the 95m version of the 2.4-MW design to meet individual site requirements and conditions. The agreement is for 2008 and 2009 delivery.

"We're pleased that PPM has embraced our state-of-the-art 2.4-MW wind technology," said Bob Rugh, vice president of Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas' Newport Beach, Calif.-based Wind Turbine Group. Mitsubishi has previously partnered with PPM on cutting-edge wind energy projects-and we welcome their desire to work with us to raise the technology bar even higher."

MPS also announced a deal with Eurus Energy America Corp. for the sale of 180 Mitsubishi MWT62/1.0 1-MW turbines for installation in Texas. MPS previously supplied 41 of the 1-MW turbines to Eu-