

January 21, 2008



**Wind Related News and Information from AWEA,
North American Windpower and more!**

U.S. Wind Power Surges 45%, Again Shatters Records

Shattering all of its previous records, the U.S. wind energy industry installed 5,244 MW in 2007, expanding the nation's total wind power generating capacity by 45% in a single calendar year and injecting an investment of over \$9 billion into the economy, AWEA announced January 17.

The new wind projects account for about 30% of the entire new power-producing capacity added nationally in 2007 and will power the equivalent of 1.5 million American households annually while strengthening U.S. energy supply with clean, homegrown electric power, the trade group said.

"This is the third consecutive year of record-setting growth, establishing wind power as one of the largest sources of new electricity supply for the country," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher. "This remarkable and accelerating growth is driven by strong demand, favorable economics, and a period of welcome relief from the on-again, off-again, boom-and-bust, cycle of the federal production tax credit (PTC) for wind power."

But, warned Swisher, "[T]he PTC and tax incentives for other renewable energy sources are now in danger of lapsing at the end of this year—and at the worst moment for the U.S. economy. The U.S. wind industry calls on Congress and the President to quickly extend the PTC—the only existing U.S. incentive for wind power—in order to sustain this remarkable growth along with the manufacturing jobs, fresh economic opportunities, and reduction of global-warming pollution that it provides."

The U.S. wind power fleet now numbers 16,818 MW and spans 34 states. American wind farms will generate an estimated 48 billion kWh of wind energy in 2008, just over 1% of U.S. electricity supply, powering the equivalent of over 4.5 million homes. AWEA noted that wind power installed thus far:

Helps protect consumers from increases in electricity costs due to volatile fuel prices and supply disruptions : by reducing the use of natural gas and other fuels used for electricity generation, and lowering the pressure on their price, wind can save consumers money, even in regions with low or no wind resources.

(continued on page 11)

LOOK INSIDE..

**Sebelius,
Parkinson Form
Kansas Wind Working
Group ...2**

**Babcock & Brown
Acquires Seven
Midwest Wind Projects
from Gamesa...4**

**Airtricity Announces
Sale to SSE...5**

**Competitive Wholesale
Markets Important for
Wind Power
Expansion...5**

**West, Midwest Need
Processes for
Transmission
Planning...6**

**Alternative energy
standards may mean
more Ohio jobs...6**

**Cape Wind Takes Step
Forward...8**

**Several offshore
projects are waiting in
the wings...9**

Sebelius, Parkinson Form Kansas Wind Working Group

in News Departments > Policy Watch
by NAW Staff on Tuesday 08 January 2008

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, D-Kan., and Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson, D-Kan., have formed the Kansas Wind Working Group to promote the state's potential to produce wind energy.

"Opportunities for increased wind energy within this state are plentiful, affordable and obtainable," says Sebelius. "A wind working group can help attract new wind energy projects to the state and promote better use of this abundant natural resource."

The group, formed through Executive Order 08-01, will educate stakeholder groups with the current information on wind energy markets, technologies, economics, policies, prospects and issues.

In 2007, Sebelius named Parkinson co-chair of the Kansas Energy Council (KEC). Since that time, he has been involved with renewable energy research and the creation of a sound energy policy for the state. Parkinson serves as chair of the Kansas Wind Working Group.

The group will be supported by the Energy Programs Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission and the lieutenant governor's office. Funding will be provided by Wind Powering America. The first meeting of the Kansas Wind Working Group will be Jan. 18 at Wichita State University.

©North American Wind Power
www.nawindpower.com

First U.S.-Bound Nordex Wind Turbines Going to Everpower

Nordex USA entered into an agreement with developer Everpower Renewables for the delivery this summer of 25 N90 2.5-MW wind turbines for the Krayn wind farm in Pennsylvania.

The project is scheduled for completion in December. "For Nordex, this contract marks a further key step in its return to the U.S. market, for which we are offering the N90, a proven product in the large-scale segment," said Carsten Pedersen, COO of sales and marketing at Nordex AG. "Given its huge project pipeline, Everpower is an important partner for us in our efforts to open up the United States."

The deal joins together two companies that are in the midst of augmenting their U.S. businesses. Everpower has described itself as a growing development company, now active in as many as seven states and boasting about 1,500 MW in development. In October, Kevin Sheen, manager of Everpower's Howard Wind Project, told Wind Energy Weekly that his company was in "the final stages" of securing Nordex turbines for the 62.5-MW project (see Wind Energy Weekly#1263).

Nordex, meanwhile, which had stopped selling into the U.S. market for some time, continues to reestablish roots here. In November the turbine manufacturer signed a contract with BP Alternative Energy North America, Inc., for the delivery of 60 N90, 2.5-MW turbines to the U.S., but those turbines are for 2009 delivery (see Wind Energy Weekly#1265). At the time, the company said that it is making preparations to build up its own production facilities in the U.S. during the next two years in order to be ready for further supplies to North America.

GE Financial Makes Big Horizon Wind Investment, Ups Renewables Target

GE Energy Financial Services (GEFS) announced a \$300 million investment in Horizon Wind Energy, LLC, projects that span four states, a deal that GEFS said is its single largest to date. In addition, deciding to pump more capital into its "fast-growing business," GEFS used the occasion to announce it has raised its 2010 renewable energy investment target by 50% to \$6 billion.

The target represents a major acceleration in investment, up from the previously announced \$4 billion by 2010. The deal with Horizon caused GEFS to top \$3 billion in current renewable energy investments. As for the Horizon deal, GEFS is investing equity in the developer's 600-MW portfolio of wind farms in Oregon, Minnesota, Illinois, and Texas.

"Thanks to our strong customer relationships, our expertise, GE's technical capabilities, high fossil-fuel prices, and popular support for cleaner power, renewable energy has become our fastest-growing business," said GEFS President and CEO Alex Urquhart. "With our broad capabilities to invest equity and debt within and outside the United States—not only in wind but in solar, biomass, hydro and geothermal power—we have become a major player in a \$60 billion annual renewable energy market."

GEFS closed more than \$2 billion of renewable energy transactions last year, and by 2010 expects such transactions will grow to 20%-25% of its overall energy and water portfolio, up from about 10% in 2006. Wind energy is GEFS's most active renewable energy investing area. With the Horizon transaction, the firm has invested or committed to invest equity in 85 wind farms and increased the total capacity of its global wind equity holdings to more than 3,600 MW.

The Horizon portfolio consists of Elkhorn Valley (101 MW), in Union County, Ore.; High Prairie II (101 MW) in Mower County, Minn.; Lone Star II (200 MW) in Shackelford County, Texas; and Twin Groves II (198 MW) in eastern McLean County, Ill.

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS

a list of owwg, and other wind related events of interest!

wind power finance and investment summit
feb 6-8 **san diego, ca**

<http://www.infocastinc.com/index.php/conference/wind08>

awea wind project siting workshop
feb 14-15 **austin, tx**

owwg quarterly meeting
march 7, 9:00-4:00 **columbus, oh**
www.ohiowind.org

Acciona Kicks Off U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing Operations

With the state's governor and other dignitaries joining the celebration in West Branch, Iowa, developer and turbine manufacturer Acciona marked the opening of its first U.S. wind turbine production plant on January 17.

The \$23 million project was constructed in seven months. The plant will provide more than 100 new jobs and will produce 200 wind turbines in 2008, with plans to increase to 400 turbines per year in the future. The facility will supply turbines primarily for Acciona Energy wind farms throughout North America and will utilize proprietary technology from its wind turbine manufacturing subsidiary, Acciona Windpower, to produce its AWP 1.5-77 models.

Joining company executives and guests for the facility's official dedication were Iowa Governor Chet Culver (D), West Branch Mayor Sandy Hatfield, and University of Iowa President Sally Mason. Senior executives from Acciona's management team in Spain joined the festivities to commemorate the company milestone.

Acciona also announced a \$15,000 gift to the city of West Branch in recognition of its support for the project. The money will go toward the city's downtown enhancement effort. The Acciona project was aided by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, City of West Branch, Iowa City Area Development Group, and Cedar County Economic Development Commission.

Acciona's West Branch plant will increase the company's total production capacity to 2,280 MW a year.

RES Americas Begins Construction on 165-MW Hackberry Wind Project

Renewable Energy Systems Americas, Inc. (RES Americas) announced on January 16 the start of construction on its \$350 million Hackberry Wind Project in Abilene, Texas.

The 165-MW facility will produce clean, sustainable, wind energy to be used by residents of the City of Austin and surrounding communities. The project, targeted for completion in December, will be built, owned, and operated by RES Americas through its wholly owned affiliate Hackberry Wind, LLC.

"RES Americas looks forward to creating a sustainable energy future for Texas. We aim to be a responsible contributor in both the wind community and the communities that we operate in," said Craig Mataczynski, president of RES Americas. "RES Americas has been involved in West Texas wind projects since the first sites were developed in the McCamey area and expects to be involved in the Texas wind industry as long as the wind keeps blowing."

Babcock & Brown Acquires Seven Midwest Wind Projects from Gamesa

Babcock & Brown announced it has acquired seven wind energy projects under various stages of development in the Midwest from Gamesa Energy USA, LLC, and Gamesa subsidiary Navitas Energy, Inc.

The seven projects, totaling more than 750 MW, are located across five states, including three in Illinois (Woodford and Stephenson counties). The other four projects are located in Manitowoc, Wisconsin; Brookings, S.D.; Pocahontas, Iowa; and Logan, Ohio. The Logan project was acquired from Gamesa, while the remaining six projects were acquired from Navitas.

"These future wind farms are ideal additions to Babcock & Brown's near-term development pipeline because they are located in markets in which we are focused, and they are also located near areas where we have existing wind farms," said Hunter Armistead, head of Babcock & Brown's North American Energy Development Group. "We look forward to developing these projects and bringing them online in the near future, further adding to the production of clean and renewable wind energy in the Midwest."

None of the projects sold to Babcock & Brown include Gamesa turbines, said Gamesa spokesperson Michael Peck. Speaking to Wind Energy Weekly, Peck explained that the company continues to pursue both a "build and sell" or—more specifically—a "manufacture, erect, and sell" approach, under which turbines are part of project sales, and a "develop and sell" approach employed in this latest Babcock & Brown deal, in which turbines are not a part of the sale.

"Certainly, our mid- and long-term strategies include selling fully developed and fully constructed projects with Gamesa turbines," said Peck. "Gamesa Energy USA, as a fully competitive developer, is always prepared to sell projects independent of turbines depending on the current market environment at time of potential sale."

Australian concern Babcock & Brown currently operates 20 U.S. wind farms across nine states, totaling more than 1,500 MW of installed capacity, and has more than 18 additional wind farms under development across the country. In the Midwest, Babcock & Brown owns operational wind farms in Illinois's Lee and Bureau counties.

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission Recommends Approval of 132-MW Project

Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) voted unanimously to direct its staff to prepare a decision document approving the zoning change and preliminary development plan sought by TransCanada Corp. for the 132-MW Kibby Wind Power Project in Kibby and Skinner Townships in Franklin County, located in the northwestern part of the state.

TransCanada presented its testimony to LURC in October based on two years of studying the environmental and engineering characteristics of the project and communicating with local communities, state agencies, and stakeholders, the company said. "We are very pleased that LURC recognizes the benefits of this project," said Hal Kvisle, TransCanada president and chief executive officer. "Our team put a lot of effort into site selection, environmental review, and working with the community and stakeholders to minimize any potential adverse impacts."

The Kibby Wind Power Project would support Maine's twin goals of energy independence and greenhouse gas reduction, while helping to stabilize regional electricity costs, TransCanada noted. The completed project would also contribute to Franklin County's economic development and would be a significant contributor to nearby communities.

TransCanada said it looks forward to the final zoning change and project approval and expects to commission the project in the 2009-2010 time-frame. Before construction can proceed, other approvals are required, including one from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as the final design permit from LURC.

New York PSC OK's Invenergy's 112-MW Sheldon project

The New York State Public Service Commission (NYPSC) authorized the construction and operation of Invenergy Wind, LLC's proposed 112.5-MW wind facility in Sheldon, N.Y.

The project will sell its output into the wholesale markets administered by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) or adjacent control areas.

The company will participate in renewable energy programs with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, green marketers, and other buyers. In addition, the project will offer capacity, voltage support, and ancillary services to the NYISO markets, the NYPSC noted.

According to Invenergy subsidiary Sheldon Energy, LLC, which proposed the project, the estimated economic benefits to the area surrounding the facility will be \$2.1 million annually. Noting that finding, the town of Sheldon determined that a large-scale wind facility will result in significant economic benefits to the area.

"Among commonly expressed commission goals are the needs to increase energy diversity and promote a cleaner, healthier environment by generating electricity from renewable energy sources," said NYPSC Chairman Garry Brown. "The Sheldon Energy project will generate electricity utilizing renewable resource technology to provide clean and renewable supplies of electricity to the wholesale market."

Sheldon Energy plans to build 75 wind turbines, each rated at 1.5 MW, and 20 miles of access roads, overhead and underground electrical lines, a 2-acre interconnection substation, construction staging areas, and a centrally located operations and maintenance facility.

Minnesota, Wisconsin Governors Join Forces on Renewables

Meeting to discuss the next steps their states will take to make the Midwest a renewable energy leader, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty (R) and Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle (D) announced that the Midwest Governors Association (MGA) will convene "Energy Transition 2050" (ET2050) to build on the work begun at the 2007 MGA Summit in Milwaukee, Wis.

ET2050 will bring together leaders from government, non-profit organizations, and business to develop an energy security and climate stewardship roadmap and action plan, the governors said. The meeting will take place in Chicago on February 11 and 12.

In November Pawlenty, chair of the National Governors Association, and Doyle, Chair of MGA, along with governors from across the Midwest signed the MGA Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Platform and the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Accord—together, a regional strategy to achieve energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Our regional agreement is an important milestone toward achieving a cleaner, more secure energy future," Pawlenty said. "The Midwest is well-positioned to help lead the energy revolution that our nation needs to stay competitive and strong. Working together, states can build a de-facto national energy policy that will create good jobs and build a cleaner and safer world."

"Together, we are charting a new energy course for our region and our nation," Doyle said. "We must seize opportunities to reduce our dependence on foreign [energy], cut emissions that cause global warming, and develop renewable technologies of the future. In doing so, we will create high-paying jobs for our citizens and build a cleaner and safer world for generations to come."

The governors also announced they will co-lead efforts to implement the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Accord and the MGA Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Platform when Doyle's term as MGA Chair expires this spring. The governors will work to develop strategies, timelines and the infrastructure necessary to implement the regional agreements. Full implementation of the accord is to be completed within 30 months of its signing date.

Competitive Wholesale Markets Important for Wind Power Expansion

With its board of directors taking quick action to underscore the importance of competitive wholesale electricity markets to wind power, AWEA responded to a recent statement by the American Public Power Association that questioned the role of such markets in renewable energy development.

AWEA's board approved on January 9 a resolution supporting the preservation and expansion of competitive regional wholesale electricity markets. AWEA in turn issued a statement on the topic, "given the need for accurate information on this important issue."

In its statement, AWEA noted that in a February 26, 2007 letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Joseph Kelliher, AWEA and a number of organizations stated: "Independently run regional grid operations can foster renewable energy and demand response development by:

- eliminating "pancaked" transmission rates that are assessed across every utility area;
- providing energy markets where variable or intermittent resources can sell excess energy or purchase shortages at a transparent and fair price;

- minimizing operational impacts of variable resources by netting out aggregate load and generation over a wide region;

- facilitating regional transmission planning to access generating resources as well as address reliability, congestion, and load growth in the most efficient overall manner;

- providing a mechanism to pursue regional cost allocation policies;

and

- providing for flexible transmission tariffs that allow rates to be paid on an as-used basis as opposed to a capacity reservation basis."

Airtricity Announces Sale to SSE

Dublin, Ireland [RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

The board of Airtricity Holdings Limited announced that an agreement has been reached to sell Airtricity to Scottish and Southern Energy Plc (SSE). The board believes that this transaction will offer value to all shareholders and ensures continued investment in the growth and development of the company under the custodianship of SSE.

The sale represents an equity value of approximately €1.1 billion. As part of the transaction SSE will assume liabilities of €375 million. The purchase price will include payment for the proceeds from the recent Airtricity North America divestiture of approximately €0.8 billion. The combined purchase price, including the North American transaction net of transaction costs and other adjustments is approximately €1.8 billion. Shareholders representing in excess of 80% of the voting shares of Airtricity have approved the transaction.

"Investment opportunities in renewable energy will become increasingly important as the world becomes more carbon constrained and the EU becomes more concerned about energy security," said Ian Marchant, CEO of SSE. "I believe the combination of SSE's and Airtricity's interests in renewable energy will provide an excellent platform for future growth, which will be made much more achievable by combining SSE's financial strength with Airtricity's outstanding ability in project development."

Enel's Snyder Wind Facility in Texas Completed; GE Invests in Another Project

Enel SpA, through its subsidiary Enel North America, Inc., announced the completion of the Snyder Wind project in Texas as well as another investment by affiliates of GE Energy Financial Services (GEFS) in one of Enel's wind projects.

The Snyder Wind facility in Scurry County, Texas, between Abilene and Lubbock, includes 21 Vestas V90 3.0-MW turbines mounted on towers measuring what Enel calls "a record-breaking" 345 feet. Construction was completed in December.

"The Snyder project takes both wind and Enel to new heights," said Toni Volpe, Enel North America CEO. "The project represents the first of several wind farms slated to come online in the next 12 months which will more than triple Enel North America's wind capacity by the end of 2008. Enel is pleased to add this innovative project to its global renewable energy portfolio."

GEFS affiliates also intend to help Enel bolster its U.S. wind efforts by investing in a 101-MW project in Smoky Hills, Kan. "Enel is a global leader, and we're very enthusiastic about the opportunity to help it grow in the U.S. market," said Kevin Walsh, managing director and leader of renewable energy at GEFS.

The Snyder project will be operated and maintained by Enel North America, Inc., and power will be sold into the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Snyder and Fortis Energy Marketing & Trading, a division of Fortis Merchant Banking, have entered into an approximately 1.1 million-MWh, ten-year, fixed-price hedge agreement that will provide revenue stability and accommodate wind seasonality, Enel said. Enel purchased the interest and rights to Snyder in October 2006 from turnkey developer Windkraft Nord USA, Inc.

The Smoky Hills project, in Ellsworth and Lincoln counties 140 miles west of Topeka, will employ 56 Vestas V80 1.8-MW wind turbines. The project, developed by TradeWind Energy, LLC, and purchased by Enel in 2007, is expected to be completed early this year. Electricity generated by Smoky Hills will be sold through power purchase agreements with Sunflower Electric Power Corp., Kansas City Board of Public Utilities, and Midwest Energy, Inc.

West, Midwest Need Processes for Transmission Planning

Concerned with the inadequacy of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) filings from Western and Midwestern transmission providers, AWEA joined with regional wind advocacy groups to file comments in a number of dockets, urging greater regional coordination in transmission planning.

Submitting the comments with AWEA were its regional partners including, from the West, Renewable Northwest Project, West Wind Wires, and Interwest Energy Alliance, and, from the Midwest, Wind on the Wires. FERC's Order 890 requires transmission providers to detail in an attachment (known as "Attachment K") to their open access transmission tariffs a process for local, sub-regional, and regional transmission planning. AWEA found that the Attachment K filings, which the utilities submitted to FERC on December 7, were generally lacking in terms of not establishing a formal process for regional or subregional planning and coordination.

AWEA and its regional partners are urging that FERC require transmission providers in the West and Midwest to provide more detail in their Attachment Ks regarding how they will coordinate transmission planning with other regional or subregional groups. For example, AWEA wants to see a coordinated approach to cost allocation for large regional transmission projects in the West. Coordination among utilities and agreed-upon cost allocation methodologies will be necessary to get needed new transmission capacity built.

With respect to the Midwest specifically, the AWEA filing stressed the need for a formal joint transmission planning process between Midwest Independent System Operator utilities and those from the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool. There is significant overlap in the service territories of the two groups and, absent a single regional transmission plan for the area, strong coordination is necessary.

Similarly, in the West, Northwest sub-regional organizations ColumbiaGrid, Northern Tier Transmission Group, and the Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee have service territories in many of the same states; thus, AWEA and its Western regional partners requested that utilities work to develop a coordinated planning process. In addition, AWEA's filings requested that utilities in the West work together to develop a regional cost-allocation mechanism for large transmission projects that cross sub-regional boundaries. AWEA also suggested that Western utilities should consider how they can facilitate large regional transmission projects with rolled-in rate treatment, such as is being used in Texas, Colorado, and California. Rolled in rate treatment allows the costs of new transmission lines to be rolled into the transmission rates paid by all customers, rather

GE, RES Partner on Wind Facility in Texas Oil Drilling Area

GE Energy Financial Services (GEFS) is investing in a \$350 million, 166-MW wind generation project to supply Austin, Texas with renewable, clean power from an area traditionally better known for oil, ranching, and farming.

The project's developer, Renewable Energy Systems Americas, Inc., is beginning construction of the Hackberry wind farm in Shackelford County this month; the project is scheduled to be completed by December. The facility, which will employ 72 Siemens MK II 2.3-MW wind turbines, will produce power for the city of Austin under a 15-year power purchase agreement with the city through Austin Energy. The project will be constructed, owned, and operated by affiliates of RES Americas, including Austin-based affiliate Hackberry Wind, LLC.

Senator: Alternative energy standards may mean more Ohio jobs; Brown, others pushing for tougher limits, redirection of state resources

The Gazette staff

Saying Ohio is in "exactly the right place," U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and U.S. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones joined a group of union, corporate and clean energy representatives Wednesday in pushing for tougher alternative energy standards that eventually could mean tens of thousands of jobs for Ohio residents.

"We have entered an era where the solutions to global warming will be the greatest economic development program," said Dave Foster, executive director of the Blue Green Alliance, a partnership of the United Steel Workers and the Sierra Club.

The representatives involved in a conference call Wednesday were responding to the release of a new report addressing how alternative energy manufacturing could pave the way for Ohio's future. Brown said the report explodes the myth environmental health and economic development have to be at odds.

Ohio is in perfect position to take advantage of a manufacturing shift to components of alternative energy sources such as solar panels and parts for wind turbines, Brown said. It already has a qualified manufacturing work force, has excellent rail, water and interstate transportation infrastructure in place and has higher education programs widely available in the state. It also has a work force that is being laid off from traditional manufacturing jobs that can be re-trained for alternative energy production.

For that to happen, Foster said, two policy changes need to take place. First, both federal and state legislative bodies must pass stricter renewable energy standards that would require companies to make greater use of renewable energy in their operations - thus increasing demands for renewable energy production and parts.

Second, the state must redirect economic development resources and training into renewable energy areas.

"We just need to step up and seize the times," Foster said.

Some of this is being addressed in present legislation under discussion, but the language needs to be strengthened, according to Richard Steubi, spokesperson for the Cleveland Foundation that is already working on this transition.

For instance, legislation now in the works requires a 25 percent increase in advanced energy use by 2025, but doesn't set any interim benchmarks that would require progress being made between now and then.

It also carries no enforcement provisions that would penalize companies that don't live up to the standards.

Some Ohio companies are already involved in alternative energy component production, such as Honeywell in Urbana, which produces wind turbine components, and First Solar in Toledo, which produces solar panels.

Because domestic demand is so poor, however, many of those products are shipped overseas.

RFP: Western Area Power Administration Solicitation Includes Renewables

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) issued a request for proposals (RFP) for purchase power in order for its Upper Great Plains Region to meet its firm power commitments.

WAPA intends to award one or more power purchase agreements for capacity and energy of up to 200 MW in total. WAPA seeks delivery of the power as soon as contracts are in place; however, proposals offering a delayed start date will be considered. Although WAPA is seeking continuously available power, the RFP will consider power supplied from renewable resources. Energy from wind, solar, geothermal, or biomass must be offered with renewable energy certificates.

In issuing the RFP, WAPA cited the extended drought, which the hydro-heavy federal power marketer said has severely impacted its ability to produce power. The deadline for proposals is Jan. 15.

"WAPA's RFP recognizes what everybody knows—drought has limited hydro power output," said Beth Soholt, director of Wind on the Wires. "We're pleased that the RFP includes references to renewable energy, but the conditions on the RFP for five-year contracts and dispatch make it hard for wind to compete. We'd like to see WAPA acquire large amounts of wind from diverse resources in its enormous service area over the long term because long-term drought could be one manifestation of long-term climate change."

For more information, contact the power marketing manager for the Upper Great Plains Region, email UGPFirmRFP@wapa.gov, phone 406-247-7404 or 1-800-358-3415. The RFP is available at <http://www.wapa.gov/ugp/PowerMarketing/WesternRFP/Default.htm>.

Cape Wind Takes Step Forward

Boston, Massachusetts
[RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

Cape Wind has passed a milestone at the start of its final year of permitting with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) from the lead Federal permitting agency, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the Department of Interior.

According to the report, Cape Wind will not have major impacts on birds, fish, marine mammals, fishing, tourism, or on sea or air navigation as was contended by some opposed to the project. The report also found that Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound is environmentally and economically superior to the alternative sites that were studied and that Cape Wind will provide a needed supply of electricity and improve electric diversification and reliability.

This MMS DEIS comes three years after the former Federal lead reviewing agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers issued their comprehensive review of Cape Wind that also found significant public benefits and few negative impacts. In 2005, the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board approved Cape Wind's application after a 33-month review, finding the project would provide needed power, reduce energy costs by \$25 million dollars per year and provide significant air quality benefits for New England.

"With news of \$100 / barrel oil, urgent calls from scientists to take action on climate change and with the public's desire for greater energy independence and new jobs, this report couldn't come at a more important moment. The release of this report will move Cape Wind forward and help establish Massachusetts as a world leader in offshore renewable energy," said Cape Wind President Jim Gordon.

Xantrex Receives Order From North American Wind Turbine Manufacturer

in News Departments > Products & Technologies
by NAW Staff on Wednesday 16 January 2008

Vancouver, British Columbia-based Xantrex Technology Inc., a producer of equipment that converts and controls variable power from wind turbine generators into alternating current power for the utility grid, has received a purchase order valued at \$25 million from a North American wind turbine manufacturer to supply multi-megawatt power converters. Xantrex expects to ship most of the wind converters this year, beginning in the second quarter.

"Wind products are an integral part of our renewable power portfolio," says Mos-sadiq S. Umedaly, Xantrex chairman, "and the fast-growing North American wind market is clearly a strategic target."

©North American Wind Power

www.nawindpower.com

EPURON to Develop 1-GW Wind Project

Sydney, Australia [RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

The Australian subsidiary of EPURON GmbH and Macquarie Capital Group have signed a joint framework agreement to develop one of Australia's largest wind farms. The project will contain between 400 and 500 turbines and will have a peak capacity of 1 GW.

The project is currently being planned by EPURON and initial applications will be made in the approval procedure as early as next year. The project has the potential to supply 4.5 percent of the annual energy needs of New South Wales. Macquarie Capital Group will provide work on the financing.

"This joint venture brings together Macquarie Capital's strength in financing with EPURON's long-standing expertise in wind power. Substantial growth in renewable energy has recently begun to pick up in Australia. Our cooperation with Macquarie Capital puts us in a great position to cover a large part of this increasing demand," said Joachim Muller, managing director at EPURON.

Distributed Energy Receives Orders For Wind Turbines

in News Departments > Products & Technologies
by NAW Staff on Thursday 10 January 2008

Wind technology group Distributed Energy Systems Corp. has received orders for seven Northwind 100 wind turbines for use in Alaska and the northeastern U.S.

Four of the advanced 100 kW wind systems were sold to the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC), a utility responsible for providing power to 53 villages in Alaska. The other three wind turbines were ordered by Sustainable Energy Developments Inc. (SED), an Ontario, N.Y.-based company currently developing wind projects with businesses, municipalities, residences, schools and farms in the Northeast.

AVEC's Northwind 100 units are expected to be installed in its remote village diesel systems in Mekoryuk and Savoonga, which border the Bering Sea. According to Distributed Energy, the Northwind 100 was designed for use in wind-diesel applications, and more recently has been released as an alternative power generator for small businesses, commercial farms, small communities, schools and universities, and small corporate and industrial sites.

The turbine uses gearless design and direct-drive architecture to deliver high-energy capture and low-maintenance requirements to a mainstream wind energy marketplace.

Several offshore projects are waiting in the wings

Jan 15, 2008 04:30 AM
Tyler Hamilton
Energy Reporter

Ontario is preparing to lift a controversial moratorium on the development of offshore wind projects in the Great Lakes that has been in place for nearly 14 months, the Toronto Star has learned.

A Ministry of Natural Resources official says the department is "getting ready" to make an announcement and that new minister Donna Cansfield is "anxious to demonstrate leadership in the area."

Jamie Rilett, a spokesperson in Cansfield's office, confirmed that the ministry is currently revisiting the moratorium. He said a decision would be made "shortly."

Industry sources also confirmed the moratorium's end is imminent.

Offshore wind energy, while typically associated with ocean projects, offers significant opportunities in the Great Lakes. According to one study by Helimax Energy Inc., the strong and consistent winds typically over the lakes could generate up to 47,000 megawatts of clean electricity – nearly double Ontario's existing power capacity.

The ministry put a halt to all offshore development in November 2006 to give the government more time to study the potential environmental impact of such projects on bats, butterflies, aquatic species and bird migration routes.

But the moratorium caught some wind developers off guard, particularly those trying to raise money for their proposed projects. The wisdom of halting development was also called into question when it was discovered that some U.S. states, such as Ohio, were actively moving forward with offshore projects in Lake Erie despite the Ontario policy.

The moratorium followed a protest against an offshore wind project near Leamington, Ont., in September 2006. Nearly 300 residents showed up to a council meeting to protest a 119-turbine project planned by developer Southpoint Wind Power. Council unanimously rejected Southpoint's proposal and urged the ministry to come up with guidelines that would help small communities evaluate offshore projects.

"There were a number of serious concerns," said deputy mayor Robert Schmidt, explaining that many residents saw negative impacts on lake navigation, bird and butterfly migration, recreational boating and fishing.

"The biggest issue to most residents was how it affected their view of the lake, which is really only the last natural view we have in our area."

Schmidt said a number of offshore proposals still wait in the wings.

"The majority of people aren't against the idea, as long as it's located in an area where it doesn't cause problems."

Energy consultant Paul Bradley, manager of PJB Energy Solutions and former vice-president of generation at the Ontario Power Authority, said offshore projects hold great potential but are also a huge technical challenge.

"They're all-or-nothing projects," he said. "You've got to collect all that power from each turbine, aggregate it, and then bring it in efficiently through an underwater cable."

The best wind resources tend to be far from where power is consumed.

One of the biggest challenges is to bring wind-generated energy to communities in southern Ontario without breaking the bank on building high voltage transmission lines, which cost about \$3 million a kilometre to construct.

Toronto Hydro Corp. has considered an offshore wind project in Lake Ontario near the Scarborough Bluffs. That wind farm would have a capacity of up to 200 megawatts.

"In the general context of developing wind power in the province, (lifting the moratorium) would be a great step forward," said Joyce McLean, chair of the Canadian Wind Energy Association and Toronto Hydro's manager of green energy services.

A more ambitious project by Trillium Power Energy Corp. would involve 140 turbines erected along a shallow stretch of Lake Ontario, about 15 kilometres offshore from Prince Edward County. The wind farm would have a capacity of 710 megawatts, the largest in Ontario. Wind energy is a major part of the McGuinty government's plan to double by 2025 the amount of electricity that comes from renewable resources.

The Ministry of Energy announced last August it had directed the Ontario Power Authority to procure another 2,000 megawatts of renewable power, a large portion of which is expected to be generated from wind.

General Cable Announces Offshore Wind Contract

Nordenham, Germany
[RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

General Cable Corporation has announced that its subsidiary, Norddeutsche Seekablewerke GmbH (NSW), has been awarded its first submarine power contract by BARD Engineering GmbH. The contract is for more than \$30 million and is related to the construction of BARD Offshore 1. BARD Offshore 1 is a 400-megawatt wind farm made up of 80 wind turbines that will be located north-west of the Isle of Borkum in the North Sea.

BARD Offshore 1 is the first commercial wind farm to be located in the North Sea and is expected to be completed in 2010. NSW will produce approximately 66 miles of power cable for the infield infrastructure portion of the project which will harness the electricity generated by the turbines for transmission back to shore. The field will be located in water 75 miles offshore with a depth of approximately 130 feet.

"We believe that the North Sea will be an area of high growth for wind power generation due to its ideal conditions of high sustainability of wind and shallow waters, key factors allowing for efficient use of the turbines and for anchoring the windmill towers. With its long history and experience in submarine cabling systems, NSW is ideally positioned to take advantage of this high growth opportunity," said Valentin Jug, Chairman of NSW.

Hendrix Offering Cable Applications To Wind Industry

in News Departments > Products & Technologies
by NAW Staff on Thursday 10 January 2008

Milford, N.H.-based Hendrix Wire & Cable, a provider of overhead and underground power distribution products, is offering its 34.5 kV TRXLP-insulated medium-voltage cable for applications in the wind power industry.

The 34.5 kV cable is available in a variety of options, including aluminum or copper conductor and full and reduced neutral. Hendrix offers various supply solutions for 34.5 kV cable based on various delivery cycles.

According to the company, a traditional contractual agreement is available for long-term clients offering a variety of supply options including, but not limited to, a capacity-plan cycle, which allows customers to schedule delivery of varying amounts of cable during each month of the year to match demand; a vendor-managed inventory option, in which Hendrix makes recommendations based on the customer's forecast usage and on an inventory turnover target or a maximum inventory value; and a rapid-cycle delivery option, which is available for high-volume products, allowing clients to place orders on an as-needed basis for delivery within two weeks time.

©North American Wind Power
www.nawindpower.com

GE, RES Partner On New Wind Farm In Texas

in News Departments > Projects & Contracts
by NAW Staff on Wednesday 09 January 2008

GE Energy Financial Services is investing in a \$350 million, 166 MW wind generation project to supply Austin, Texas, with renewable power.

Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (RES Americas), a subsidiary of U.K.-based Renewable Energy Systems, is beginning construction of the Hackberry wind farm in Shackelford County, 30 miles northeast of Abilene this month, and is scheduled to complete it by December.

The Hackberry wind project will employ 72 Siemens MK II 2.3 MW wind turbines. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

The project interconnects with Oncor Electric Delivery Co. and includes a 15-year power purchase agreement with the city of Austin through Austin Energy, a community-owned electric utility.

The project will be constructed, owned and operated by affiliates of RES Americas, including Austin-based affiliate Hackberry Wind LLC.

©North American Wind Power
www.nawindpower.com

(continued from page one)

Reduces global warming emissions : to generate the same amount of electricity using the average U.S. power plant fuel mix would cause over 28 million tons of carbon dioxide to be emitted annually, equivalent to taking more than 4.8 million cars off the road.

Conserves precious water resources : wind farms don't need water for steam or for cooling, a benefit that is increasingly valuable in arid areas and in times of drought.

Wind power's strong performance is expected to continue this year, with AWEA's initial estimates indicating that 2008 could equal 2007 in new capacity installed. Developers report that with strong demand for wind energy across the country, wind turbines are sold out for the year. However, AWEA projects that with more companies entering the market, more turbines will become available. The pace of growth in 2008 and beyond is expected to largely depend, not on turbine availability, but on the timing and duration of an extension of the federal production tax credit, AWEA said.

The numbers are part of AWEA's 2007 industry market report. Highlights of the report include:

Red-hot fourth quarter. Installations in the last quarter of 2007 alone (2,930 MW) surpassed the amount installed in all of 2006 (2,454 MW).

Lone Star State still leads. Texas consolidated its lead among states in capacity; wind power also expanded at a strong pace in the Midwest and Northwest. The states with the most cumulative wind power capacity installed are Texas (4,356 MW), California (2,439 MW), Minnesota (1,299 MW), Iowa (1,273 MW), and Washington (1,163 MW).

Investment flowing into the supply chain. At least 14 new manufacturing facilities opened or were announced in 2007, according to initial AWEA estimates. Companies are opening new manufacturing plants and expanding existing ones, creating new jobs and business opportunities across the country, even in states that do not have a large wind resource.

GE, FPL Energy top lists. GE Energy continued to lead in wind turbine sales, with 45% of the market in terms of new capacity installed. FPL Energy remained atop the list of wind project developers, with 956 MW of new development in 2007 alone.

The full annual report is available on the AWEA Web site at www.awea.org/Market_Report_Jan08.pdf, and a state-by-state listing of existing and proposed wind energy projects is available at <http://www.awea.org/projects>.