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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins market intelligence publication

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California group calls for less litigation, more productive discussion of solar energy

Public News Service - Feb 9

Clean energy advocacy group the California Desert and Renewable Energy Working Group has released recommendations for solar energy project development in the state that seek compromise between the goals of the environmental and solar energy lobbies. "It's not everything that the environmental community wanted, and it's not everything that the solar industry wanted, but it is a good middle ground for which we can build and move forward on," said group member and environmental advocate Kim Delfino. The coalition is hoping to convince the Department of the Interior to adopt the guidelines as a means of avoiding the frequent litigation between the groups that has stalled solar projects throughout the state.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

California GHG law hits legal snags

California Watch - Feb 9

A proposed California Air Resources Board law on controlling greenhouse gas emissions and instituting a state cap-and-trade system is facing opposition from a Superior Court judge, as well as a lawsuit filed by groups who say the law does not adequately take the health of people in lower-income communities into consideration. The lawsuit, filed by the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, alleges the Air Board's law violates the state Environmental Quality Act because it does not present any alternative plans among other stipulations of the law. Judge Ernest Goldsmith issued a tentative statement of decision that halts the law until the Air Board reworks it to comply with CEQA regulations.

Related News:

<u>California judge halts cap-and-trade law</u> <u>Judge stalls GHG law</u>

DOE announces \$27 million in funding for cheap solar power initiative

Department of Energy - Feb 5

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced it will grant \$27 million to projects related to the agency's initiative to reduce the cost of solar energy by 75% over the next decade. The SunShot program aims to lower the cost of solar-generated energy to about \$1 per watt over 10 years through improvements in solar technology, component manufacturing efficiency, and upgrades in installation, design, and permitting techniques. The agency says it plans to disburse the grant money to public and private sector researchers and innovators in order to achieve the goal.

<u>California energy law proposal puts state on track for 21%</u> renewable energy in 2011

Sustainable Business - Feb 7

California is expected to pass a clean energy bill submitted by Democratic lawmakers that would mandate utilities to acquire one third of their energy



Past issues

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Upcoming Events

Fortune Brainstorm Green Laguna Niguel, CA April 4-6, 2011

American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Windpower 2011

Anaheim, CA *May 22-25, 2011*

RETECH 2011: The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition

Washington, DC September 20-22, 2011

Solar Power International 2011
Dallas, TX

from renewable sources and speed up the permitting process for renewable energy projects. The bill would also use some utility ratepayer funds to guarantee loans for residential and small-business energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. A spokesman for Governor Jerry Brown said the law is in step with state administration priorities.

California safety officials warn of solar PV installation dangers

OH&S - Feb 7

The accidental deaths of three solar PV installation workers in separate incidents have led the California Department of Public Health's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program to conduct investigations concerning dangers related to the trade. The program has issued fact sheets and a worker fatality alert regarding on-the-job falls and elecrocution hazards in repsonse to the incidents. FACE recommends that workers exercise caution and observe fall protection guidelines when installing solar PV panels.

Solar energy cheaper than natural gas in 250MW SCE deal

Renewable Energy World - Feb 8

Southern California Edison's (SCE) recent request to the California Public Utilities Commission to approve 250MW worth of small- to mid-sized solar projects values the cost of solar power at less than the current price of natural gas, according to Stephen Lacey in Renewble Energy World. The low price of solar power in the deal indicates that solar power is a vital part of California's energy market. Industry experts predict that similar successes with solar power can be attained by other states as well.

<u>California solar company gains final approval for 150MW</u> <u>Arizona project</u>

Business Wire - Feb 7

San Diego-based solar project developer SolarReserve has received final approval from Arizona regulators to build a planned 150MW solar power facility near Gila Bend, Arizona. The approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission includes permission for the facility to connect to the Arizona Public Service's transmission grid. The plant is anticipated to employ 45 permanent staff when completed and will have an annual operating budget of \$10 million, much of which will be spent locally.

Orange County firm offers NABCEP-compliant solar PV training

PR Log - Jan 28

Eco-Hut Academy is offering an entry level solar PV design and installation course in Orange County, California. The 40-hour course provides students with basic knowledge of solar PV components and installation techniques, and conforms to the standards of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP). Eco-Hut Academy states that it is offering the program in response to the statewide boom in commercial and residential solar PV installations and a perceived shortage of installers in the face of upcoming demand.

Berkeley company produces portable solar generator

Contra Costa Times - Feb 2

Berkeley, California-based Coyle Industries has developed a portable solar generator capable of producing 2KW hours of power daily with a 5KW-hour storage capacity. The generator is roughly the size of a backyard gas grill and produces no sound because it has no moving parts. Company president Jeff

October 17-20, 2011

Recent Opportunities

February 16, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon Supplemental Bidders' Conference! PG&E Photovoltaic Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers

City of San Mateo Main Library Photovoltaic Generating System Request for Proposals

Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Release 2011 Photovoltaic Program Power Purchse Agreement Request for Offers

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects



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Lipton says the device could be used for recreation, camping, pumping water in remote areas, disaster relief, rural developments in the Third World, and also for military applications. The generator, called the CM4, retails for \$8,500; Lipton says the high price is the device's primary stumbling block to widespread commercial availability.

DOE to award \$50.5M in offshore wind energy R&D funding

Department of Energy - Feb 7

The Department of Energy (DOE) plans to launch a strategic offshore wind development program that includes up to \$50.5 million in grants for research and development and involves plans for expedited installation of offshore wind farms at a number of high-priority sites in the mid-Atlantic. DOE is offering up to \$25 million over five years for technology development, as much as \$18 million over three years for projects related to removing market barriers, and up to \$7.5 million over three years for the development and refinement of a next-generation wind turbine drivetrain. The agency has identified the high priority offshore sites as being located in Delaware, Rhode Island, Maryland, and New Jersey with additional sites expected to be identified in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Officials seek public comment on Solano County wind farm conservation plan

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Feb 7

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has asked for public comment on a habitat conservation plan developed to protect an endangered salamander species on the grounds of the proposed 59-turbine Shiloh III Wind Plant Project near Collinsville, California. The conservation plan aims to protect 50.5 acres of habitat for the endangered California tiger salamander. The wind energy project would result in the permanent loss of 15 acres of the animal's habitat, claims the report, with another 70 acres temporarily lost then restored.

Abundant geothermal could jumpstart Imperial Valley economy: study

KPBS - Feb 7

The area with the highest unemployment rate in the nation could receive a boost from geothermal energy plants, according to a <u>study</u> by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). California's Imperial Valley has a 28% unemployment rate, a number that could be mitigated by exploitation of the area's abundant geothermal resources says Carl Stills, the area's assistant energy manager for geothermal development. Stills says geothermal projects in the area could generate 5,000 to 6,000 long-term jobs in the area, based on the IID's report.

Related News:

Transmission line could bring jobs to Imperial Valley

DOE agency upgrades IT security guidelines for smart grid

ExecutiveGov - Feb 4

The Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (DOE) has retooled its smart grid cybersecurity guidelines for improved interoperability and integration. DOE says the security improvement initiative will involve contributions from IT experts in the public and private sectors. The agency says national grid IT security is fragmented, and requires a universal push from the energy sector to decide guidelines and develop technology that allow for true interoperability.

Marin Energy Authority plans rate cuts to woo customers from PG&E

Mill Valley Patch - Feb 9

The recently established alternative energy arm of Marin Energy Authority, Marin Clean Energy (MCE), is considering lowering customer rates by 14% in a bid to stay competitive with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The rate cut is not likely to realize savings for its customers though, as PG&E plans to boost its transmission and distribution rates pending approval by the state Public Utilities Commission. As MCE only competes with PG&E on power generation costs, the price reduction will likely be reduced or negated for large-volume customers. MCE is also making it cheaper for customers to join its premium clean energy program.

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

First Solar to build 250MW Nevada solar plant; SCE to purchase output

Reuters - Feb 9

California-based solar developer First Solar has announced plans to build a 250MW solar power facility on 2,500 acres of public land near Primm, Nevada. The project, called Silver State South, is planned to come online in 2014 and be fully operational by 2017. Southern California Edison (SCE) has agreed to buy the power the facility produces. The project has yet to receive approval from the California Public Utilities Commission.

Wells Fargo, Chinese company complete \$100M financing arrangement for solar PV deal

Clean Energy Authority - Feb 4

Wells Fargo Bank and Chinese polysilicon producer GCL-Ply Energy Holdings have completed financing arrangements for 6MW of solar PV installations in California. Under the terms of the \$100 million deal, a GCL subsidiary will contract construction of solar installations at the University of San Diego (USD) and five Antelope Valley high schools. The USD project will be the tenth largest solar system on a college campus in the nation. Wells Fargo has invested nearly \$500 million in solar projects nationwide to date.

Sullivan Solar Power opens Irvine branch

OC Metro - Feb 7

San Diego's leading installer of residential solar PV systems, Sullivan Solar Power, is opening an office in Irvine, California, in response to the boom in demand for solar power in regions served by Southern California Edison. The branch office will create as many as 20 full-time jobs and serve up to 100 homeowners in its first year of operation. Sullivan representatives say the company can provide solar PV installations to homeowners for no out-of-pocket expense; they can also benefit from generous rebates and tax credits courtesy of the California Solar Initiative and the federal government.

Related News:

Sullivan Solar developer talks RECs

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