

June 1, 2010

[Recession crimps summer power demand](#)

Reuters - May 26

The U.S. and Canada should have more than enough power to keep homes and businesses cool during the peak summer air-conditioning season as a slow economy depresses electricity demand for the second year in a row, according to a reliability assessment report. The North American Electric Reliability Corp. said in its report that the weak economy would result in reductions of 2.2% in peak demand this summer from last year and of 3.9% from 2008. Projected peak summer demand has declined more than 10 gigawatts per year for two consecutive years, 2009 and 2010, NERC said. Meanwhile, growth in wind generation continued to increase as power companies invest in renewable projects to meet state requirements and prepare for possible federal taxes on carbon emissions to fight global warming.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Climate bill feeling push from Deepwater spill](#)

New York Times - May 28

Washington is wondering whether the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has affected chances for passage of the energy and climate change legislation – and if so, how. President Obama said the crisis highlights the need to find alternatives to the deadly and dirty fossil fuels oil and coal. Obama noted the House had already passed a broad bill putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions and providing large incentives for conservation and new forms of energy. Senators John Kerry and Joseph Lieberman have used the last several weeks to begin rounding up support quietly for their measure from corporations that have been supportive of climate legislation and from environmental groups that are financing advertising and grass-roots efforts. As part of that campaign, 60 corporations sent Obama and senators a letter urging them to act quickly on legislation.

[DOE initiative to speed innovative ideas into the market](#)

EERE - May 27

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a funding opportunity designed to accelerate the movement of innovative energy technologies from university laboratories into the market. The Innovation Ecosystem Development Initiative seeks applications proposing approaches to accelerate the commercialization of clean energy technologies developed at universities. Applications should propose a strategy to foster an entrepreneurial environment, provide a description of the proposed innovation ecosystem, and describe a specific implementation plan.

[National Institute for Renewable Energy formed](#)

North American Windpower - May 24

The Texas Tech University System, the Innovate Texas Foundation and The Wind Alliance [announced](#) they have formed the [National Institute for Renewable Energy](#) (NIRE), an independent public-private collaboration that aims to work to solve scientific and technology challenges facing the wind

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Upcoming Events

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)
San Francisco, CA
September 29-30, 2010

power industry. NIRE says it will operate a for-profit business component that will design, construct and operate research wind farms, selling the power generated in the commercial marketplace to fund a non-profit research center. NIRE also will provide services to industry partners and offer an industry consortium, which will be managed by The Wind Alliance.

[DOE to invest \\$6M in midsize wind turbine technology development](#)

EERE - May 25

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) the availability of up to \$6 million to advance midsize wind turbine technology in order to boost the speed and scale of midsize turbine deployment. DOE will provide the funding over two years to accelerate the development, testing, and commercialization of domestically manufactured, midsize wind turbines with rated generating capacities between 100 kilowatts and 1 megawatt. DOE says this funding will help address two major reasons for the slow growth in the midsize turbine market by supporting the development of innovative technologies that lower the installed costs and improve the productivity of midsize turbines. In addition, this funding opportunity will promote the utilization of U.S. manufacturers and supply chain vendors.

[U.S. wind growth likely to drop in 2010: study](#)

Renewable Energy World - May 28

Following a big year of capacity additions in 2009 -- with 9.8 GW of wind projects installed -- the U.S. wind market is confronting a growth-constrained 2010 and a near-term market landscape of increased competition, according to a new market [study](#). However, with favorable state and federal policies, the industry is on track to add more than 165 GW of new capacity through 2025, resulting in a total installed base of 200 GW, according to the study's projections. The study notes one factor contributing to decline in wind growth in early 2010 is the drop in overall electricity consumption taking place in the U.S. over the last two years.

[Small wind turbines add megawatts to U.S. grid](#)

CNET - May 25

The annual [small wind report](#) from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) shows that small-wind turbines installations have grown rapidly over the past three years and U.S. manufacturers are getting a foothold in the global market. The installed capacity of the U.S. for small wind turbines -- defined as under 100 kilowatts of capacity -- grew by 15% last year compared to the year before, representing \$82.4 million in sales and almost 10,000 new units capable of 20 megawatts of generation, according to the report. Consumer demand and improved technology are helping fuel sales, but the most important factor was the passage in October 2008 of a 30% tax credit for renewable energy systems.

[Report predicts rise in use of solar energy over the next 25 years](#)

Sunpluggers - May 26

According to a new report, the federal Energy Information Administration expects rapid worldwide growth of renewable energies in the next 25 years, including solar. The report, titled International Energy Outlook 2010, offers scenarios that vary according to expected rates of economic growth, oil prices and other factors. Its reference case projection is that total energy use worldwide will grow 49 percent between 2007, the starting year for its estimates, and 2035. The report projects that electricity production from coal would go from 7.92 trillion kilowatt-hours to 15.02 trillion kwh; natural gas

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)
Scottsdale, AZ
October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)
Los Angeles, CA
October 12-14, 2010

Recent Opportunities

[Solar Energy Projects at Various Kern County Waste Management Properties](#)

[Southern California Edison 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program's Request For Proposals From Independent Power Producers](#)

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

from 3.86 trillion kwh to 6.85 trillion kwh; and nuclear from 2.59 trillion kwh to 4.51 trillion kwh.

[SEPA annual survey touts nationwide strength in solar portfolios](#)

SEPA - May 20

The [Solar Electric Power Association](#) (SEPA) released its third-annual [Top Ten Utility Solar Rankings](#). Pacific Gas & Electric Company of California (PG&E) topped the list of utilities with the most solar megawatts (MW) added to the grid for the second straight year with 85.2 MW, but new additions to the list and overall growth in solar integration by utilities defined 2009, according to the report. The Top Ten utilities' solar megawatts added to the grid grew from 169 MW in 2008 to 279 in 2009, a growth of 66% in a year when electricity demand as a whole declined as the result of an economic downturn.

[Geothermal energy widens its reach to 52 million people: report](#)

International Business Times - May 21

Geothermal power is widening its reach with more than 10,000 MW already installed and reaching more than 52 million people now, according to [a report](#) by the [Geothermal Energy Association](#) (GEA). Nearly 24 countries increased power online by 20% in the last five years and 94 countries are currently developing geothermal energy, the report said. Seventy nations currently have projects underway, a 52% increase from the last report that was compiled by GEA in 2007. Nearly 24 countries in Europe and 11 countries in Africa account for most of the projects. The US leads in geothermal energy with 3,000 MW capacity from 77 plants.

[Most Americans have never heard of the smart grid](#)

GreenBiz - May 26

Nearly 70% of Americans have never heard the phrase "smart grid," according to a survey, but as they learn more, they come to expect it to save them money. The survey from EcoAlign defined smart grid as the "larger network of interconnected devices in homes, businesses and communities that will allow service providers to offer new applications, including new billing and payment options." The survey found that the ability to review energy consumption appealed to half of respondents, but they expect the smart grid to reduce energy bills, so utilities face the challenge of delivering on this expectation despite potential increases in other costs that may offset the savings.

[Texas makes new 'map' to decipher grid's growing complexities](#)

ClimateWire - May 27

Michael Legatt has developed the "Macomber Map," a new monitoring and visualization system for control room operators at the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, based in Austin, which manages the power grid in most of the state. Grid operators are in a race to create control room systems that can cope with the tide of information; at the same time the grid must be reconfigured to maintain control of generation and transmission lines if key parts of the network are disabled by cyber attack or geomagnetic storms, according to industry participants in a task force study conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corp., or NERC. The Macomber Map gives grid operators a statewide, satellite-level view of the Texas grid, color-coding transmission lines and other equipment that are under stress or operating outside their normal ranges.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Roseville's Solar Power reports \\$7M loss but projects bright future](#)

Sacramento Bee - May 25

Roseville-based [Solar Power Inc.](#) is still losing millions of dollars each quarter, but it still predicts a bright future. The firm [reported](#) that it lost \$7 million for 2009, compared with a loss of \$8.7 million in 2008. While acknowledging the losses, the five-year-old company, which makes and sells solar power systems and panels, also pointed to past sales increases and robust revenue projections in the future. The company's sales increased nearly 11% in 2009 – to \$52.6 million, compared with \$47.4 million in 2008. Sales in the first three months of this year totaled \$5.8 million, up slightly from \$5.7 million in the year-ago period. The local company has announced a string of contract awards over the past few months, and projects that it will collect between \$80 million and \$90 million in revenue this year.

[San Jose company may invest in Oregon solar plant](#)

The Associated Press - May 22

Oregon officials worked clandestinely for the past three years to land a California company willing to invest more than \$200 million building a Portland-area solar factory. Using the code-name Project Ready, state investment recruiters persuaded [Solexant Corp.](#) to list Oregon as first choice for a plant that could eventually employ hundreds. The San Jose company is pioneering a new thin film technology designed to drive down costs of solar cells and panels. It's applying for state loans and subsidies to help build the plant, likely near Wilsonville or Gresham.

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