

May 25, 2010

[Interior Department to break up offshore energy agency](#)

Reuters - May 19

The U.S. Interior Department said its Minerals Management Service will be broken up into three separate divisions, as part of an effort to restructure the way the department handles offshore energy production. The three new agencies will separately oversee energy leasing, revenue collection, and safety enforcement. The newly created agencies are:

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management: Will be responsible for leasing areas of the Outer Continental Shelf for conventional and renewable energy resources.
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement: Will be responsible for ensuring comprehensive oversight, safety, and environmental protection in all offshore energy activities.
- Office of Natural Resources Revenue: Will be responsible for royalty and revenue management, including collection and distribution of revenue, auditing and compliance, and asset management.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[REAT announces agreement to aid RE projects in California deserts](#)

Solar Industry Mag - May 21

The joint federal and state Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) has announced the signing of an agreement to enable renewable energy projects proposed in the California deserts. The agreement will address mitigation requirements through the use of a deposit account rather than having to individually undertake mitigation for each project. The amount of funds to mitigate a project's impacts to wildlife and habitat will be determined project by project. This process will expedite the projects and ensure that a wider range of mitigation measures can be used to address environmental impacts, according to the California Energy Commission (CEC).

[Utility-scale energy storage projected to reach 150GW](#)

Renew Grid Mag - May 20

More than 128,000 MW of energy storage are currently attached to the power grid worldwide, and more will be needed if renewable energy sources are to be integrated into the modern electrical grid, according to a recent report from ABI Research. The company forecasts that utility-scale energy storage worldwide will increase to nearly 150 GW by 2015, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 2.6% through the 2010-2015 forecast period.

[Batteries would store wind power](#)

New York Times - May 20

Mountaintop wind turbines produce most of their energy at night, when electricity demand and prices are low. That limits revenue and makes it hard for utility companies to meet state goals for high percentages of renewable energy. Now Grid Storage Technologies of Newark plans to install two batteries on the grid late this year that would store bulk amounts of energy.

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Upcoming Events

[AWEA Windpower 2010
Conference and Expo](#)
Dallas, TX
May 23 26, 2010

[NREL study: Grid can accommodate large increase in wind, solar generation](#)

NREL - May 20

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) released an [initial study](#) assessing the operational impacts and economics of increased contributions from wind and solar energy producers on the power grid. The Western Wind and Solar Integration Study examines the benefits and challenges of integrating enough wind and solar energy capacity into the grid to produce 35% of its electricity by 2017. The study finds that this target is technically feasible and does not necessitate extensive additional infrastructure, but does require key changes to current operational practice.

[BioSolar uses castor beans to squeeze more savings from solar panels](#)

CleanTechnica - May 19

California-based [BioSolar](#) has come up with a high-performance protective backsheet for solar panels made partly from a castor bean resin. The product is cheaper than conventional backsheets, helping to lower the cost of photovoltaic installations. BioSolar's product, called [BioBacksheet](#), is made from a biobased polyamide resin made from castor beans. The company claims that in addition to being less expensive and more sustainable, its single-layer construction avoids the delamination problem conventional petroleum-based backsheets may have.

[FERC, California sign agreement to coordinate hydrokinetic project development](#)

FERC - May 18

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the State of California have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate procedures and schedules for review of hydrokinetic energy projects off the California coast. This marks the fourth hydrokinetics MOU that FERC has signed with other states, following agreements signed last year with Washington and Maine, and with Oregon in 2008.

[California 2010 summer power supply adequate: grid operator](#)

Dow Jones Newswires - May 17

California will likely have an adequate supply of electricity this summer, thanks to new power plants and renewable energy facilities built since last year, the state's grid operator said. Nearly 1,800 megawatts of new power generation is expected to be online this summer, while the average snow-water content for California hydroelectric dams is 150% of the historical average, the California Independent Operator said in its 2010 summer assessment.

[Study: Smart meters need better user interface](#)

CNET - May 19

Consumers need better operating instructions for the smart grid, a survey shows. A Boston Consulting Group [study found](#) the majority of consumers surveyed are willing to tap into the information from smart meters to conserve energy. But utilities haven't done a good enough job of enabling people to use their two-way meters constructively. Seventy-five percent of respondents said they were interested in finding easy ways to save power and two-thirds said that getting a daily information would help them better manage their bills.

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA
September 29-30, 2010

[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

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

[UC Regents' University of Irvine Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Project Request For Proposals](#)

[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](#)

[Company plans manufacturing plant for solar cells](#)

Associated Press - May 17

A California company is planning to build a \$20 million manufacturing plant for solar power cells in the Las Vegas area. The operation will employ about 278 workers, according to officials at Amonix Inc., which is based in Seal Beach. Amonix CEO Brian Robertson said workers will make concentrated photovoltaic solar equipment -- the same type of solar cells used to power satellites. The panels convert sunlight into electricity. Amonix got \$9.5 million in investment tax credits this year from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

[Solar products maker to set up HQ, plant in Georgia](#)

The Associated Press - May 18

A company that manufactures solar energy products says it will put its North American headquarters and a solar panel manufacturing plant in Dublin, Ga. MAGE SOLAR, based in Ravensburg, Germany, [said](#) it will build the facility, spending \$30 million and creating 350 jobs over five years. The company says it also plans to build an academy for solar education.

[National Geothermal Institute Established in Nevada](#)

Renewable Energy World - May 18

The Department of Energy has awarded the University of Nevada, Reno a \$1.2 million grant to develop and operate the National Geothermal Institute, a consortium of top geothermal schools, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Stanford University, the Oregon Institute of Technology, the University of Utah and possibly others as the program expands.

[Smart-grid center snags SARTA executive](#)

Sacramento Business Journal - May 14

[The California Smart Grid Center](#) is using a \$2 million grant to ramp up hiring, including bringing on a veteran energy executive as administrator. The California Energy Commission unanimously approved the grant for the smart-grid center, which hopes to help California transition to a smart-grid system.

[\\$19.7M in bonds to fund solar arrays in Brea](#)

SYLLC - May 19

The City of Brea is to install 1.8 megawatts of solar photovoltaic systems across three of its buildings. The project has been financed with \$19.7 million in bonds, structured by San Francisco-based underwriter Stone & Youngberg. The city-owned buildings will also be fitted out with more efficient heating and cooling systems, helping cut energy demand by 40%.