

May 26, 2009

[Energy and Commerce Departments announce steps in smart grid development](#)

Department of Commerce - May 18

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu have announced the allocation of \$10 million in Recovery Act funds by the Energy Department to the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology to support the development of the first set of standards for the interoperability and security of the [Smart Grid](#). The maximum award available under the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program will be increased from \$20 million to \$200 million, and the maximum award available for Smart Grid Demonstration Projects will be increased from \$40 million to \$100 million. In making awards, DOE will ensure that funding is provided to a diversity of applications, including small projects as well as end-to-end larger projects.

Renewable Energy Focus

[House panel clears plan to cut greenhouse gases](#)

Mercury News - May 22

A [proposal](#) to curb U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions cleared a congressional panel, boosting prospects that the government will put a price on carbon for the first time. The U.S. proposal aims to cut emissions roughly 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and roughly 80 percent by 2050. The [bill](#), sponsored by Representatives Henry Waxman (D., Calif.) and Edward Markey (D., Mass.), proposes a cap-and-trade system, in which the government would set caps on emissions, issue permits allowing companies to emit pollutants consistent with those limits, and let companies trade the permits among themselves. The legislation would also require utilities to obtain six percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2012 and 20 percent by 2020.

Related News:

[Climate bill clears hurdle, others remain](#)[House panel passes limit on greenhouse gas emissions](#)[Duke Energy, Alcoa, GE win in climate legislation by signing on](#)

[Renewable energy industries ask Obama to speed loan guarantees](#)

New York Times, Green Inc. - May 20

Concerned that a loan-guarantee program has ground to a standstill, renewable energy industry associations have sent a letter to President Obama, urging him to speed the program along. The signers represented various sectors of clean energy — wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, nuclear, combined heat and power, and biomass — and reflected the industry's concern that a loan guarantee program for clean energy projects approved in the stimulus package was stuck in the federal bureaucracy, as has been a similar loan program that predates the stimulus. The letter cited "disagreements" between the Department of Energy and the Office of Management and Budget over regulations to carry out the loan guarantees.

[Continuing current U.S. energy policy called 'perilous'](#)

Green Biz - May 18

As the politicians wrangled details of the Waxman-Markey climate change bill, a new report from a dozen retired U.S. military leaders warns

Subscribe

Have a suggestion?
[Tell us what you think.](#)

Editors

[William R. Devine](#)[Patrick A. Perry](#)[Emily Murray](#)

Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended the following events in 2009.
A [summary can be found here.](#)

[VerdeXchange Green Marketmakers Conference](#)

Los Angeles, CA

[Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition](#)

Las Vegas, NV

[Renewable Energy World North America Conference & Exposition](#)

Austin, TX

[Green Cities Conference and Expo](#)

Portland, OR

[Financing Renewable Energy Conference](#)

San Francisco, CA

[Windpower 2009 Conference and Exhibition](#)

Chicago, IL

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on [Renewable Energy Project Finance](#).

For a copy of the program materials, [click here.](#)

Upcoming Events

[South Coast Air Quality Management District "Green Tech Connect Forum"](#)

Pasadena, CA

August 3-4

Recent Opportunities

[Inland Empire Utilities Agency Extends](#)

maintaining the country's current energy stance poses significant risks to its national security. Dependence on fossil fuels and the vulnerable energy grid threaten the country and its military, according to <http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?6-82c6-753b9ea4585f> "Powering America's Defense: Energy and the Risks to National Security," from the Military Advisory Board of nonprofit research firm CNA. The report focuses on how current energy policies intersect with climate change and national security, and calls the country's present trajectory "perilous."

[Geothermal, the 'undervalued' renewable resource, sees surging interest](#)

New York Times, Greenwire - May 21

Nearly 200 million acres of public lands, mostly in the West, could become prime generators of emissions-free electricity by extracting steam heat from the earth's core to drive electric turbines. But despite a \$400-million allocation in the stimulus bill to spur geothermal energy production in the U.S., the industry and energy experts say the technology remains a distant third behind wind and solar with respect to combined public and private investment in renewable resources. That may change as efforts by Congress and the Obama administration to fast-track renewable energy development nationwide has the geothermal industry on the verge of an unprecedented expansion, the groundwork for which is being established by the Departments of Energy and Interior.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[Energy officials face questions on Northern California transmission line plan](#)

Sacramento Bee - May 18

A \$1.5-billion plan to build 600 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines from Lassen County to serve Sacramento and the Bay Area has ignited outrage among property owners and prompted a call for a longer comment period. The project is proposed by a consortium of municipal power providers to increase the region's power-grid capacity and improve its reliability, but its most important role would be as a conduit for electricity from alternative energy sources to power-thirsty urban areas.

[NASA bags algae, wastewater in bid for aviation fuel](#)

New York Times, Greenwire - May 12

NASA is applying space technology to a decidedly down-to-earth effort that links the production of algae-based fuel with an inexpensive method of sewage treatment. The space agency is growing algae for biofuel in plastic bags of sewage floating in the ocean. Jonathan Trent, the lead researcher on the project at NASA's [Ames Research Center](#) in California, said the effort has three goals: Produce biofuels with few resources in a confined area, help cleanse municipal wastewater, and sequester emissions of carbon dioxide that are produced along the way.

[Deadline for Fuel Cell Power Generation Systems Design-Build RFP](#)

[New RFP's - LADWP: Navy and Marine Corps: Marin Energy Authority](#)

[California Energy Commission issues Addendum #5 for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program](#)

[Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#)

About Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)



Allen Matkins
#1 Real Estate Law Firm in California
Chambers and Partners
 2002 - 2008

© 2009 Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP. All rights reserved. This email is intended for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinions on any specific facts or circumstances. This email was sent by: Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, 515 S. Figueroa Street, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071. To stop receiving this publication, just reply and enter "unsubscribe" in the subject line.