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Renewable Energy Focus

Latest legislation fails to extend section 1603 cash-grant program

North American Windpower - Dec 27

New legislation agreed upon by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, which focuses on payroll tax extension, unemployment insurance benefits and Medicare, does not include extension of the Treasury's Section 1603 cash-grant program, which is scheduled to expire at the end of 2011. Renewable energy stakeholders had vigorously lobbied for the continuation of this program in recent months.

AWEA: Wind energy achieves many milestones in U.S. in 2011

AWEA - Dec 27

The American Wind Energy Association posted the top 10 wind energy stories of 2011, mentioning that the industry achieved many milestones through the year. California made the list at number four with its landmark RES that will up the state's renewable electricity standard from its current 20% to an historic 33% by 2020. The list also mentions that wind power hit 20% overall in Iowa and South Dakota, while it contributed a record 50% for a period of time in Colorado. Another top-10 story was the cost drop of 33% for wind turbines.

EPA moves on U.S. power plant emissions rules

Voice of America - Dec 23

The EPA plans to regulate coal- and oil-fired power plant emissions. The new rules -- 20 years in the making -- will affect 1300 power plants, half of which lack modern air-pollution controls. The new EPA rules require the dirtiest power plants to reduce emissions of mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel and acid gases by more than 90% within the next three to four years or be shut down.

California low carbon rules halted

Wall Street Journal - Dec 30

A federal judge halted enforcement of California's low-carbon fuel rules saying they discriminated against crude oil and ethanol imported into the state. The decision puts on hold a major portion of California's effort to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. The ruling means that refiners and ethanol producers won't have to buy credits when importing oil and ethanol into California, as the regulations would have required in certain cases.

First Solar outspent BP in California while cultivating political support

Bloomberg - Dec 27

First Solar has won government aid while cultivating political relationships from California to the White House. The company is eliminating 60 jobs at a California research center after receiving \$3.43 million in state sales-tax credits. The federal government provided \$3 billion in loan guarantees to the Tempe, Ariz.-based company, the most of any recipient. First Solar

AWEA WindPower 2012
Atlanta, GA
June 3-6, 2012

Recent Opportunities

Southern California Public Power Authority Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Projects

About Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP is a California law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in Orange County, Los Angeles, Century City, San Diego, Del Mar Heights, San Francisco and Walnut Creek. The firm's broad-based areas of focus include intellectual property, real estate, construction, land use, environmental, corporate, finance, business litigation, tax, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, and labor and employment. [More...](#)



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spent \$2.2 million on lobbying in Washington since 2007 and representatives met Obama administration officials before winning the aid, government records show. In California, the company gave \$150,000 to campaigns in 2010, more than triple the \$38,750 donated by BP's North America unit.

Centinela solar project receives approval in California

Solar Industry - Dec 27

LS Power has received approval from the El Centro, Calif. board of supervisors for a conditional-use permit to build the \$600 million, 175MW Centinela solar project. The 175MW initial project is scheduled for construction in the second quarter of 2012. An additional 100MW may be added later.

San Diego's Sempra begins construction on solar plant in Nevada

Sign On San Diego - Dec 23

San Diego-based Sempra Generation has begun construction on a solar power plant in Nevada. Northern California utility PG&E will buy the electricity under a 25-year power purchase agreement approved by the CPUC. The 150MW plant, called Copper Mountain 2, will stand next to an existing 50MW facility at Boulder City. The project is likely to receive significant federal and state subsidies, but it will also provide a steady revenue stream to Boulder City, which leases the site.

Related News:

[Sempra brings 42MW of solar capacity online in Arizona](#)

Verengo Solar becomes leading PV installer in California in November

SolarServer - Dec 26

Verengo Solar announced that it has become the leading residential solar photovoltaic installer by both total installations and total sales volumes in California in November, citing data released by the California Solar Initiative. The company replaces Solar City Corporation, which previously held the position.

California Supreme Court denies Chino Hills petition to review power line project

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin - Dec 22

Chino Hill's attorney was informed that California's Supreme Court declined to review a Court of Appeal's decision on the efforts to fight the route on which Southern California Edison has plans to build 200-foot transmission towers through the city.

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

NextEra gets \$234M for Oklahoma, California wind farms

Bloomberg - Dec 23

A NextEra Energy unit has raised \$234 million in financing for wind energy projects in Oklahoma and California. The term loan for 237MW of projects has a variable rate and matures in December 2029.

SunPower buys Total's Tenesol for \$165.4M

SunPower - Dec 23

California's SunPower will acquire Tenesol, a solar provider headquartered in La Tour de Salvagny, France, for \$165.4 million in cash. Tenesol, a subsidiary of Total, has operations in 18 countries and solar panel manufacturing facilities in France and South Africa. Furthermore, Total has agreed to purchase 18.6 million shares of SunPower common stock in a private placement at \$8.80 per share, giving Total approximately 66% of SunPower's common shares.

