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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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[Solar installations planned for five California prisons](#)

SF Gate / Associated Press - May 6

Five prisons in California will be outfitted with a combined 83,000 solar panels in an initiative that is anticipated to save the state \$55 million each year. The five prisons scheduled for the solar PV systems are Chuckawalla Valley, Ironwood, California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, North Kern and Los Angeles County.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[DOE winding down renewable energy loan guarantee program](#)

Wall Street Journal - May 11

DOE has stopped accepting applications for loan guarantees for renewable energy projects as the legislation that mandates the program is set to expire in autumn 2011. The agency announced it will most likely grant the program's remaining \$800 million in loan guarantees to companies that are furthest along in the application process and whose projects stand the best chance of starting construction by the program's Sept. 30 deadline.

Related News:

[DOE issues \\$90.6 million loan guarantee for Colorado solar project](#)

[FERC seeks more authority to improve grid security](#)

Infosecurity - May 10

FERC has [asked](#) the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to grant the agency more power to protect the electricity grid from physical and cyber attacks, according to Infosecurity. Joseph McClelland, director of FERC's Office of Electric Reliability, presented five legislative changes the agency claims are needed to ensure the security of the nation's power grid.

[DOE launches online smart grid resource](#)

Renew Grid - May 9

DOE has launched an online resource intended to provide information about the smart grid and government-funded smart grid projects.

[SmartGrid.gov](#) includes FAQs about the smart grid, as well as information on electric vehicles, renewable energy, grid operations and distribution intelligence. The website also features a section for utilities containing information on federal incentives and current government initiatives related to the smart grid.

[California solar scammer gets 10-year jail term](#)

Clean Energy Authority - May 10

Peter Davidson of Sausalito, Calif. has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay \$195,456.54 in restitution to homeowners he victimized in a solar installation scam, according to Clean Energy Authority. The solar systems Davidson sold were either never installed, installed improperly, or resulted in homeowners having a lien placed on their homes due to payment improprieties on Davidson's part. A CSLB spokesperson said the number of

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Upcoming Events

[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

October 17-20, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

complaints received by the organization related to solar installers has risen sharply in recent years.

[PG&E continues realignment with appointment of Geisha Williams to executive VP position](#)

Reuters - May 10

PG&E has named Geisha Williams as its next Executive Vice President of Electric Operations; Williams will officially take the position on June 1. Williams, who previously served as VP of Power Systems at Florida Light and Power Company, has worked for PG&E since 2007 as Senior VP of Energy Delivery. The appointment underscores the utility's stated intention to realign itself, which has included the recent appointment of Nick Stavropoulos as Executive VP of Gas Operations.

[San Francisco to sell 100% renewable energy by 2012](#)

The Bay Citizen - May 6

San Francisco city officials plan to sell 100% renewable energy to 75,000 former PG&E customers using California's community choice aggregation legislation starting in the summer of 2012. The city plans to market the CleanPowerSF program to consumers who are willing to pay more for renewable energy. Under the terms of the state's CCA law, the city could enroll customers in the program, who would then have the option of bowing out of the program and returning to PG&E.

[SoCal utilities add Utah windpower to renewables portfolio](#)

Southern California Public Radio - May 10

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Glendale Water and Power will start receiving 100MW of electricity from the Milford 2 wind farm in Utah when it connects to the grid in mid-May, 2011. Combined with the Milford 1 wind farm, which started generating power in 2010, Milford 2 will generate enough electricity to power 64,000 homes in southern California.

[CPUC supports removal of dams, hydroelectric plants from Klamath River](#)

HydroWorld - May 10

CPUC has endorsed the removal of four dams and hydro plants on the Klamath River in Oregon and California by granting PacifiCorp, owner of the 161.4MW hydropower system, a 2% rate increase for the firm's 45,000 customers in California. The surcharge is expected to raise almost \$14 million, which would be placed in trust to help fund the removal of the dams, plants and related infrastructure.

[California native communities lead nation in renewable energy development, but challenges remain](#)

ChinaDialogue - May 11

While as many as 15% of the nation's renewable energy resources are located on tribal lands, significant cultural and business barriers prevent them from being successfully exploited, writes Jusitn Gerdes in ChinaDialogue. Gerdes notes that a growing number of tribes have solar, wind, and other renewable energy projects in development and that the current administration is taking steps to include more tribal input in decision-making regarding renewable energy.



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NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Solar Trust of America, SolarHybrid form joint venture for large solar projects](#)

PV Magazine - May 9

Oakland, Calif.-based Solar Trust of America and German solar developer SolarHybrid have formed a joint venture to develop utility-scale solar projects in North America, according to PV Magazine. The new company will be called SolarHybrid of America and will specialize both in stand-alone PV installations and projects employing concentrating photovoltaic technology.

[SunPower to build 1.7MW of solar systems for California water district](#)

SunPower - May 10

San Jose, Calif.-based solar developer SunPower has signed an agreement to design and build two solar systems totaling 1.7MW for the Rancho California Water District (RCWD). The installations, the second and third projects for which RCWD has hired SunPower, are anticipated to save the water district \$8.5 million over 25 years.

[DOE moving forward on loan guarantees for three First Solar projects](#)

Bloomberg - May 12

Solar energy developer First Solar has received letters from the DOE indicating that the company's applications for loan guarantees for three large solar projects in California are moving forward. The DOE letters were sent regarding First Solar's [Antelope Valley](#), [Topaz](#), and [Desert Sunlight](#) solar farms in southern California.

Related News:

[First Solar pins hopes on DOE loan guarantees](#)

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