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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
attorneys at law

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[Experts concerned about California's impact on Northwest wind power industry](#)

KATU - Dec 21

California's share of the Northwest's wind energy industry stands at roughly 60% and is about to get larger as the state claims ownership to 100% of the power produced by Oregon's upcoming Sheperds Flats wind project, the largest in the world. The state uses the wind energy it buys from the Northwest to obtain green credits that allow it to comply with environmental laws, but does not actually feed much of the power into its grid. Oregon officials worry the excess energy in their grid will cause a variety of economic and environmental problems.

Related News:[DOE approves \\$1.3B for Oregon wind farm](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Mojave Desert region attracting big solar energy investments](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Dec 19

The Antelope Valley in southern California is attracting solar energy construction projects worth billions of dollars, and with good reason, say industry experts. The area gets 300 sunny days per year on average and features tiered electricity prices that increase sharply with increased usage. Recent investors in area solar projects include Semptra Generation, First Solar, and SolarCity. The valley is situated in northern Los Angeles County on the southwestern fringe of the Mojave Desert.

[Wind energy industry gets extension on \\$3B grant program](#)

Wall Street Journal - Dec 20

The wind industry received a needed boost in the form of a one-year extension of a federal grant program for wind projects that will pump \$3 billion into the industry in 2011. The American Wind Energy Association has expressed relief regarding the extension, saying that 20,000 jobs could have been lost if the extension had failed to go through. Wind industry officials are also pushing for a federal renewable energy standard that would require utilities to pay for green energy regardless of price.

Related News:[T. Boone Pickens bows out of wind energy industry](#)

[Tribe's lawsuit results in court-ordered delay of 709 MW SoCal solar farm](#)

Brighter Energy - Dec 21

A U.S. district court has ordered a halt to a large Imperial County solar project as per a request that is part of a lawsuit filed against the federal government by the Quechan Tribe. The tribe claims it was not consulted sufficiently on ways to reduce cultural and environmental impact during the project's development. Representatives of the Imperial Valley Solar Project expressed disappointment in the ruling, saying they have spent ample time and money on permitting and consultation for the project.

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Upcoming Events[7th Annual Clean-tech Investor Summit](#)Palm Springs, CA
January 19-20, 2011[2011 VerdeExchange](#)Los Angeles, CA
January 23-25, 2011[RETECH 2011: The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition](#)Washington, DC
September 20-22, 2011

[Judge orders solar project delay](#)

[DOE announces \\$74M in fuel cell R&D funding](#)

Department of Energy - Dec 22

The Department of Energy is accepting applications for research and development projects related to clean, reliable fuel cells for stationary and transportation applications. The DOE has committed \$74 million in grants for the solicitations, \$65 million of which is earmarked for use over three years toward the development of more efficient fuel cell components. The remaining \$9 million is to be used for cost analyses of the projects.

[California cap-and-trade program under fire from environmental group](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Dec 18

An environmental group [claims](#) that loopholes in cap-and-trade legislation enacted by the California Air Resources Board would promote forest clear-cutting. The Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity says that the law would allow companies that engage in clear-cutting to purchase offset credits so they can continue the practice. The group says clear-cutting is counterproductive to the state's mandate of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[California utilities commission approves 500MW solar PV program](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Dec 19

Utility company Pacific Gas & Electric has received approval from the California Public Utilities Commission to proceed with a five-year program to develop 500MW of solar photovoltaic projects. The projects, which will provide energy to northern and central California, will range in size from one to 20 MW each. Pacific Gas & Electric will own half of the facilities, with the other 250MW to be obtained through contracts with independent power producers.

[DOE guarantees \\$1.45B loan for proposed Arizona solar generation plant](#)

Department of Energy - Dec 21

Department of Energy head Steven Chu has announced the finalization of \$1.45 billion loan guarantee for Abengoa Solar's Solana Project, a planned 250MW solar generation plant to be built in Gila Bend, Arizona. The plant will be the world's largest parabolic trough concentrating solar plant when completed. Abengoa Solar representatives say the plant will create about 1,600 jobs.

Recent Opportunities

[Southern California Public Power Authority Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Projects](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

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



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