



Crain Hill Vineyard

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"We knew we were onto something when many of the other mounting companies were stopping to admire and take photos of our product."

Paul Lang, Director of Marketing,
Patriot Solar Group

Watt's New? *Michigan Energy News*

Gas Generating Plant Certificate of Necessity Sought

On July 12 Consumers Energy filed testimony with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to support its application for approval of a Certificate of Necessity for 700 MW of generation at the Thetford Generating Station in Thetford Township, Genesee County. The case has been designated U-17429 by the MPSC. The first hearing date has yet to be set. This filing follows closely on the closing of public comments (June 18) for the draft air permit being sought by Consumers Energy at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The project has been described there as including:

- Four natural gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbines rated at 211 to 230 MW;
- Each coupled to a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) equipped with a natural gas-fired duct burner;
- Configured into two blocks, each with two turbines and one HRSG;
- Two natural gas-fired simple-cycle black start/peaking combustion turbine generators; and
- Two natural gas-fired auxiliary boilers.

The generating station under the draft permit is designed to produce up to a nominal 1400 MW.

Natural Gas Generation to Cut Need for Coal

The Lansing Board of Water & Light has started up its new 100 MW natural gas-fired power plant across the street from its existing Moore's Park and Eckert coal-fired generators with their iconic triple exhaust stacks. The facility will also supply steam to the Board's municipal steam loop. The new generation will allow the shutdown of the three oldest coal-fired units at the site.

S.S. Badger Saves Diesel Fuel by Carrying Wind Towers

Broadwind Towers & Heavy Industries has a manufacturing plant in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It has elected to ship 280 oversized truckloads of wind tower sections (4 tower sections for each of 70 towers) via the Lake Michigan Carferry Service to Ludington and then through to the Thumb area of Michigan. About 300 miles of highway driving (through the U.P. and across the Mackinac Bridge) is saved by using the S.S. Badger in this way. [Transport trucks get about five miles per gallon.] Four sections can be shipped each day, so shipments will continue until late July or early August. The S.S. Badger was originally built to carry 30 railway cars.

Albion Solar Company Growing

Patriot Solar Group of Albion has doubled its staff over the past year to 30 employees. It has also opened new offices in Florida and California. The company markets a full line of solar mounting products, including fixed ground mounts, pole mounts, single and dual-axis tracking mounts, and rooftop racking. In addition, it engages in commercial installation services, including racking assembly, installation of post driven and ballasted ground mounts, solar panel installation, and off grid solutions. Patriot Solar recently unveiled its new Spider ST roof mount at the 2013 InterSolar Show in San Francisco. It is a light weight, tool-less assembly racking system with an integrated grounding system designed by Cascade Engineering under a Department of Energy 2012 Sun Shot award.

"We are finding a lot of rock star technical founders here."

Tim Streit, Managing Director,
Huron River Ventures

"Our goal is to serve as a springboard for the entire solar industry in Michigan."

Paul Wasek,
Williams Township Supervisor

Venture Capital Firm Looking for Energy Investments

Huron River Ventures (HRV) of Ann Arbor is a early stage venture capital firm. It recently announced that it has closed the final round of its first fund, Huron River Ventures 1, at \$11 Million. The fund is interested in investing in companies looking to change the way energy is consumed. Since 2010 the firm has made seven seed-stage investments in energy efficient companies. In addition to renewable energy companies, HRV is searching for startup companies with a novel approach to energy consumption and use.

Getting Ready for Solar

Clean Energy Coalition of Ann Arbor has been working with Williams Charter Township, the City of Midland, the City of Saginaw, and Thomas Township to streamline local permitting, planning and zoning processes for solar installations. This is part of an effort to make the Great Lakes Bay Region one of the first "solar-ready" communities in Michigan. Meetings in April and May reviewed the best national practices for solar permitting and discussed adopting a region-wide approach. This effort is part of the Renewable Energy Tools Program, a statewide project funded by the Michigan Energy Office. Clean Energy Coalition is dedicated to promoting clean energy technologies to create healthier, energy-independent communities.

Solar Project has Dual Axis Tracking

Crain Hill Vineyard, north of Traverse City, is Michigan's first 100 percent solar powered winery. Dual axis, "All Sun Trackers," have been used in the installation performed by Leelanau Solar of Northport. Each of the three tracking arrays consists of twenty-four 260 watt solar photovoltaic modules for a total peak output of 18.72 kW. The project benefits from the 30 percent federal investment tax credit and has been awarded a 25 percent REAP grant from the USDA. The annual electric output will be approximately 30,000 kWh.

Michigan Shorts

⚡ Consumers Energy has signed a contract with GE to supply 62 of its 1.7 MW wind turbines for the Cross Wind Energy Park in Tuscola County and expects to begin operations in 2014 ⚡ Sally Talberg, most recently at Public Sector Consultants, has been appointed to the Michigan Public Service Commission to replace outgoing Commissioner Orjiakor N. Isiogu ⚡ Consumers Energy has installed an upwelling system in the reservoir behind Tippy Dam to provide cooler water flows downstream for improved fish habitat ⚡ City of Rochester Hills is the third Michigan community to have created a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) district ⚡ The next round of applications for the residential portion of Consumer Energy's Experimental Advanced Renewables Program (EARP) are due August 7, 2013 ⚡ The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved the merger between ITC Holdings Corp and Entergy Corp and the integration of Entergy's transmission assets into MISO ⚡ Consumers Energy customers may now opt out of smart metering for a \$69.39 charge plus a monthly fee of \$11.12 ⚡

Biomass Opportunities Abound in Michigan

Michigan State University has created a biomass inventory for the state that identifies biomass and land that can produce high energy value biomass. It estimates the net energy theoretically available from the biomass, and identifies constraints that limit the utility of biomass conversion technologies. One of the goals of the online tool is to bring farmers and investors together for projects with the greatest potential for success in creating renewable energy, profit, and jobs. See mibiomass.rsgjis.msu.edu. Biodigesters on Michigan dairy farms are producing nearly 17,000 MWh annually. Michigan dairies could produce 246,000 MWh of biodigester energy, which would put it into the top ten nationally. Michigan currently leads the Midwestern states in biomass utilization for thermal enerav. As demonstrated by the inventory, there is potentially significant electric generation capacity obtainable from Michigan agriculture.

Michigan Energy Venues

- West Michigan Energy Conference; Renewables, Efficiency and Policy, Michigan Alternative & Renewable Energy Center, Muskegon, July 25, 8:30 AM. <http://westmichenergy.eventbrite.com/>
- Ford Energy Lecture: Business Opportunities in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Gerald R. Ford Museum, Grand Rapids, July 30, 7:30 PM. www.varnumlaw.com/news-events/
- West Michigan Bio-Energy Consortium Site Visit, Fremont Community Digester, Fremont, August 1, TBD. Email: chapla@rightplace.org.
- West Michigan Wind Manufacturing Network Site Visit, Dubois Production Services, Inc., Comstock Park, August 8, 9 AM. Email: chapla@rightplace.org.
- West Michigan Solar Supply Chain Site Visit, PiSat Solar (Koinonia Foundation), Grand Rapids, August 15, 9 AM. Email: chapla@rightplace.org.
- Pelastar™ Deep-water Wind Turbine Foundations Technology Briefing, Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, Muskegon, August 15, 1:30 PM. <http://www.gvsu.edu/marec/module-event-index.htm>

