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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication**Allen Matkins**
attorneys at law

September 28, 2010

[A bipartisan bill on renewable energy](#)

New York Times/Green Blog - Sep 21

A group of Democratic and Republican senators have introduced legislation that would require utilities nationwide to generate at least 15% of their electricity from renewable sources like wind, solar and biomass by 2021. The bill was introduced by Jeff Bingaman, Democrat of New Mexico, and Sam Brownback, Republican of Kansas. The bill counts two other Republicans as co-sponsors: Susan Collins of Maine and John Ensign of Nevada. The bill may need several more Republicans on board to clear the 60- vote hurdle to end debate in the Senate, however, as some Southeastern and Midwestern Democrats may be likely to oppose the measure.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[California wants third of its power renewable by 2020](#)

The Associated Press - Sep 23

California regulators approved new regulations requiring utilities to draw a third of their power from alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal in 10 years. The state already is pushing utilities to reach a 20% renewable standard by next year, which has been a struggle to accomplish. Toughening the rules could prompt regulators across the country to do the same, but some want California to dial back, not bolster, its air pollution rules. A November ballot measure bankrolled by Texas oil companies would delay the state's 2006 global warming law until the unemployment rate falls dramatically.

Related News:

[California agency sets 33% renewable energy standard](#)

[Allen Matkins at Solar Power International](#)

Solar Power International - October 12 - 14, 2010

We will be at the Solar Power International Conference October 12-14, 2010, at Los Angeles Convention Center and would like to connect with you. [Please click here to email us if you are going to be there too.](#)

[A threat to California's climate change progress](#)

New York Times/Green - Sep 19

California's ambitious climate change agenda could evaporate in a vote in November that pits renewable energy advocates and allies against oil companies and manufacturers. The U.S. Senate has scuttled President Barack Obama's goal of putting a price on carbon, leaving state and regional efforts the key drivers in the effort to move the country past coal and oil. California is the clear U.S. leader on addressing climate change, unless California voters kill state law known as AB32, which was intended to cut carbon dioxide emission to 1990 levels by 2020. On Nov. 2, Californians will vote on Proposition 23, which would put AB32 on hold. The law would go back into effect when unemployment, now more than 12%, has remained at or below 5.5% for four quarters, which is not expected to happen for years.

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Upcoming Events

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum
\(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA

September 29-30, 2010

[California Utilities Commission opposes anti-renewables ballot measure](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 24

The California Public Utilities Commission has voted to oppose Proposition 23, saying its passage would indefinitely suspend Assembly Bill 32, the state's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, and would significantly impair the state's ability to carry out policies aimed at combating climate change. The proposition, which has received most of its financial support from three companies in the oil-refining industry, would suspend AB 32 until the state unemployment rate dropped to 5.5 percent or less for a year, which has happened only rarely in recent decades. The commission outlines the reasons it has voted to oppose Proposition 23, which is on the Nov. 2 ballot, [here](#).

[California state agencies band together to promote a cleaner-energy future](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 22

Four major agencies and the statewide electricity grid's primary overseer have announced an unprecedented cooperation plan called "California's Clean Energy Future," which they said "outlines how California's energy agencies will achieve the ambitious environmental and energy policy goals established by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger." The report was produced jointly by the California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, California Environmental Protection Agency and California Independent System Operator Corp.

[California creates website to inform on green energy jobs](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 21

The California Energy Commission has established a new [website](#) to provide information about job training programs involving solar and other renewable energy sources, plug-in vehicles and energy efficiency. The website describes about 50 training programs throughout the state that are offered by local workforce investment boards, community colleges, labor and trade organizations, and private industry. The programs provide training for such jobs as installing solar panels and wind turbines, maintaining electric vehicles, installing water-conserving and energy-saving devices, and researching fuel cell technologies.

[Electricity prices dip in June; solar power production surges](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 18

The average U.S. residential retail price of electricity dipped in June to 11.92 cents per kilowatt-hour (KWh) from 11.96 cents per KWh in May, according to the monthly electricity report compiled by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The price was 0.6% higher in June 2010 than in June 2009, when the average was 11.85 cents per KWh. The June 2010 average commercial retail price was 10.46 cents per KWh, a decline of 0.5% from June 2009, but an increase of 2.6% from May 2010. Net U.S. generation from solar power plants was about 143,000 megawatt-hours in June 2010, compared with about 97,000 megawatt-hours in June 2009. The increase was 47.9%, according to the report. In California, solar power plant generation totaled 104,000 megawatt-hours in June 2010, up from about 77,000 megawatt-hours in June 2009.

[Global wind capacity to surge past 200GW this year: GWEC](#)

ReCharge News - Sep 23

With 40GW of new wind capacity expected to be put in the ground this year, the world will blow past the 200GW cumulative mark by the time the calendar page turns to 2011, according to the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC). The wind

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)
Scottsdale, AZ
October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)
Los Angeles, CA
October 12-14, 2010

[FutureBuildLA 2010](#)
Los Angeles, CA
October 19, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)
Los Angeles, CA
January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[*NEW* Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Request for Proposals for Development of CleanTech Manufacturing Center](#)

[Southern California Edison Company's Renewables Standard Contracts Program Request for Offers from Generating Facilities Not Greater than 20 MW](#)

[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](#)

sector has been plagued with short-term concerns, particularly focused on the sagging U.S. market, which has been hit by a lack of stronger federal support. Just 1.24GW of capacity was added in the U.S. during the first half of 2010 – less than half of what was installed during the same six-month period during the two previous years. Global wind capacity will more than double over the next four years, exceeding 400GW by 2014, according to GWEC forecasts.

[Global solar cell production climbs to another record in 2009: California leads U.S.](#)

Renewable Energy World - Sep 24

Solar photovoltaic (PV) cell manufacturers produced a record 10,700 MW of PV cells globally in 2009—a 51% increase from the year before. While growth in 2009 slowed from the 89% expansion in 2008, it continued the rapid rise of an industry that first reached 1,000 MW of production in 2004. By the end of 2009, nearly 23,000 MW of PV had been installed worldwide, enough to power 4.6 million U.S. homes. Solar PV, the world's fastest-growing power technology, now generates electricity in more than 100 countries. The U.S., where total PV connected to the grid is doubling every two years, has no national feed-in policy. Instead, federal tax credits along with various state and local programs, including renewable portfolio standards (RPS) that require utilities to get a certain percentage of the electricity they sell from renewables, have been the main drivers of U.S. PV growth. With an RPS mandating 33% renewable electricity by 2020, California has 60% of the total 1,260 MW of grid-tied PV in the nation.

[California grid can handle 20% renewables, study affirms](#)

BrighterEnergy - Sep 17

A new study from the California Independent System Operator (ISO) Corporation has affirmed the ability for the state's electricity system to handle a 20% proportion of power from renewable sources. The study, carried out with partner GE Energy Consulting, found that clean energy supplies in the state can vary by several thousand megawatts in as little as 20 minutes. But, it suggested to a certain extent wind power resources can balance solar power generating plants and vice versa. Wind farms generate much of their energy at night, and in the early morning, it said, when solar power plants are not producing power, while solar facilities can provide energy in the middle of the day when wind farms can be less productive.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[California may host both largest solar and wind projects in the world](#)

Reuters/Matter Network - Sep 23

After nearly a decade of delays, the largest wind farm in the U.S. is moving forward in one of California's remaining premium wind resource regions, a spot where the Tehachapi Mountains meet the Mojave Desert. Developed by New York-based Terra-Gen Power, the project is expected to grow to 3 GW over the next eight years, and features turbines manufactured by General Electric and Vestas. Not only will this first-phase 1,550 MW wind project be the largest wind project in the entire U.S., but the transmission system designed to bring this clean electricity to market is also the largest new transmission development to date in the U.S.

[Sharp buys San Francisco solar developer Recurrent Energy for \\$305M](#)

Green Energy Reporter - Sep 22

Japanese conglomerate Sharp boosted its renewable energy portfolio by agreeing to pay \$305 million for California solar developer [Recurrent Energy](#) and its 2 GW project pipeline. The purchase provides Sharp, which

already makes solar panels, an outlet to monetize its PV production. Of Recurrent's 2 GW pipeline, 330 MW are under construction and backed by long-term power purchase agreements. They include, 170 MW secured by the Ontario Power Authority, 60 MW to be sold to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and 50 MW for Southern California Edison.

[Ormat receives \\$108.2m for California geothermal project](#)

BrighterEnergy - Sep 20

Geothermal power company Ormat Technologies has received \$108.2 million in tax credits for its North Brawley power plant. Federal stimulus funding covers 30% of the project costs for the facility placed in service in January. Ormat, headquartered in Reno, Nevada, said the funds would go toward expanding its geothermal developments and building new projects. The company had plans to start building more than 100 MW of projects by the end of 2010, which would mean they also qualify for federal tax credits through the Recovery Act. The plant has slowly increased its output over the year to exceed a net output of 25 MW this month.

[SoCal Edison asks regulators to up price for AES wind-power pact](#)

Dow Jones Newswires - Sep 21

SoCal Edison asked California regulators for permission to increase the price of a wind-power contract it signed with a unit of AES Corp. AES unit, Mountain View Power Partners LLC, has been developing a 49 MW wind farm near Palm Springs, California, under a power purchase agreement it signed with Southern California Edison in 2005, but the project has run into delays due to permitting, transmission "and other studies," SoCal Edison wrote in a filing with the California Public Utilities Commission. Mountain View asked to change the price in the contract, to cover rising costs and changes to the project online date, Edison said. The two companies have revised their agreement to include a new power price. Although Edison is keeping the price confidential, the company said it is below the CPUC's 2008 benchmark price for such contracts, about 12.13 cents a kilowatt-hour, but above the CPUC's 2009 benchmark price of 10.5 cents a kilowatt-hour.

[Commission approves license for Ivanpah solar plant off I-15](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 22

The Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, which would be the highest-visibility solar power plant complex in the U.S., has been [approved](#) for licensing by the California Energy Commission. The solar thermal power installation, to be constructed on public property, must also be approved for a right of way by the federal Bureau of Land Management before work on the land can begin. The 370 MW Ivanpah power project is planned for a site just off Interstate 15 in the Mojave Desert near the Nevada state line and the gambling resort of Primm, Nev. The developer of the project is Oakland, California-based Brightsource Energy.

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