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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

Allen Matkins
attorneys at law

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[EPA finalizes three-year deferral of GHG regs for biomass](#)

Platts - Jul 21

The EPA will officially defer for three years regulations to limit carbon dioxide from the use of biomass as a fuel for electric utilities. The agency's action grants a three-year reprieve to electric utilities and other stationary sources that emit biogenic carbon dioxide from greenhouse gas permitting requirements under the Clean Air Act's Title V and its "prevention of significant deterioration" provisions.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[The pressure to add clean power in California](#)

Reuters - Jul 21

Setting renewable energy mandates for utilities has been the big policy hammer that forces the use of wind, solar and other sources of cleaner power in the U.S. The pressure has intensified in California now that utilities are required to meet a 33% mandate by 2020.

[How California ISO uses Google Maps, big data to manage power](#)

GigaOm - Jul 19

The California Independent System Operator Corporation has installed an 80-foot by 6.5-foot screen in its control room to display real-time power-grid data from thousands of endpoints. Its new system is powered by software from Space-Time Insight, whose software melds real-time geospatial data with Google Maps to give ISO employees access to the data they need in a format that's very useful. It might be the most-cutting edge ISO control room in the world.

[Four major U.S. projects get federal approval, including two utility-scale solar developments in California](#)

Renewable Energy World - Jul 21

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently announced the approval of four new projects on public lands, the launch of environmental reviews on three others, and the next step in a comprehensive environmental analysis to identify solar energy zones on public lands in six western states. The four renewable energy projects include two utility-scale solar developments in California, a wind energy project in Oregon, and a transmission line in Southern California. Together, they will create more than 1,300 construction jobs and provide a combined 550MW of electricity.

[Wind power wants U.S. oil tax break](#)

San Francisco Chronicle / Bloomberg - Jul 19

Wind-power companies want to follow KKR & Co. and Blackstone Group LP in tapping a Reagan-era tax break for oil and gas companies when U.S. renewable energy tax credits start expiring at the end of this year. Developers of wind farms and solar power plants have begun lobbying for legislation that would let them form master limited partnerships, a financial structure used by pipeline operators, drillers and mine operators, as well as private-equity companies such as KKR and Blackstone. The publicly traded equities pay no corporate taxes, passing tax liability directly to investors.

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Upcoming Events

[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

[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)

[California governor to name official to lead clean energy jobs portfolio](#)

AOL Energy - Jul 15

California Governor Jerry Brown is expected soon to appoint a "clean energy jobs" czar to his cabinet. The governor's shortlist had been narrowed to three candidates but that the scope of the role had been widened beyond clean energy alone to encompass the broader unemployment crisis.

[National geothermal summit set for mid-August in Reno](#)

Lahontan Valley News - Jul 21

For the first time, the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) will bring together industry and government leaders from both the state and national level for the GEA National Geothermal Summit to talk about geothermal energy and some of the key opportunities and challenges to its success and growth. The summit will take place on Aug. 16-17 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

[California overwhelmed by 71GW of renewable project applications](#)

Clean Technica - Jul 21

Since putting itself on the market for renewables with its 33% renewable energy requirement, California has become a very popular place for project proposals offering what Energy Prospects is calling a glut of renewable projects to meet the need. Three times more would-be renewable energy projects are queueing to be added to the grid than would be needed, totaling 71 GW. Cal-ISO is having trouble fielding a truly staggering number of applications for renewable energy projects, enough to supply more than 100% of California's energy needs.

[Musco Family Olive Co. awarded Game Changer of the Year for converting olive pits into energy](#)

PR Newswire / Musco Family Olive Co - Jul 21

Musco Family Olive Co., the nation's leading supplier of table olives, has received Grow-California's "Game Changer of the Year" Award in the category of Innovation in Energy and Agriculture. The company earned the recognition specifically for its most recent initiative – the Renewable Energy and Wastewater System (RENEWS). More than 15 tons of olive pits, previously considered waste, are converted to carbon-neutral heat energy each day through RENEWS.

[California's West Chocolate Mountains eyed for large-scale solar, geothermal expansions](#)

New York Times - Jul 21

A 59,000-acre strip of public and private land near Southern California's Salton Sea could accommodate enough solar and geothermal energy to power millions of homes and businesses, according to federal officials who are reviewing a plan for what could become a major new renewable energy zone in the United States. The West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area, currently under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management includes nearly 21,000 acres of BLM land.

[CEOs say California worst state in which to do business, cite renewable energy targets as one reason why](#)



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven offices throughout California. Some of the areas of focus at Allen Matkins include green and sustainable construction, construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

California Independent Voter Network - Jul 18

California ranked last in a poll of 556 CEOs asking which state is the best place to do business. While CEOs are certainly not an unbiased lot, they also have considerable say in where to open new facilities. Among other things, CEOs are leery of the 2020 mandate for 33% renewable energy because it will raise their costs.

[San Francisco launches group solar purchase program for businesses](#)

Solar Server - Jul 16

On July 13, the City of San Francisco launched a new program that offers group purchase and financing options for businesses to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, which it says is the first program of its kind in the U.S. The city expects to assist in the installation of more than 2MW of PV plants through its Solar@Work program by the end of 2011.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[LS9, HCL CleanTech sign \\$9M grant from DOE to convert biomass feedstock](#)

Pehub / LS9 - Jul 19

LS9 and HCL CleanTech have sealed a \$9-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The money is aimed at helping the companies demonstrate an integrated process to convert biomass feedstock into fermentable sugars and then into diesel and other fuel and chemical products.

[North American Development Bank lends \\$77.4M to California solar farm](#)

New Energy World Network - Jul 21

The North American Development Bank has signed a \$77.4-million loan for Imperial Valley Solar Company 1, a subsidiary of SunPeak Solar, for the construction of a 23MW photovoltaics plant in Niland, California. The power produced at the 123-acre site will be sold to utility Imperial Irrigation District and will provide around 1.2% of the company's demand.

[China's Clenergy establishes American branch office in California](#)

AlterEnergyMag.com / Clenergy - Jul 17

China-based Clenergy International, a provider of renewable energy products for the solar photovoltaic market, has opened its American branch office in California. Clenergy America is a key part of strategic expansion to strategy, allowing Clenergy to build on the service to existing customers and new business relationships in North America.

[Pittsburg Power Co. launches SoCal initiative](#)

Contra Costa Times - Jul 21

Pittsburg, California's public power company is joining forces with Lancaster in Los Angeles County to build power lines that will transport electricity from solar power to the statewide grid. The project is the latest in a series of Pittsburg Power Co. initiatives that have included the construction of a pair of power plants now operated by Calpine, and laying an underwater cable that transports power from Pittsburg to San Francisco.

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