# **Renewable Energy Update**

an Allen Matkins market intelligence publication

## October 4, 2011

## Report: Wyoming wind would save California money

## Star Tribune - Sep 27

California could save about \$600 million a year if it purchases a fifth of its renewable energy from Wyoming, according to analysis contained in a Western Electricity Coordinating Council report. Wyoming's projects are destined to compete with projects in California, which is hoping to provide its own renewable energy, and other states that are also eying California as a buyer for their wind, hydropower and solar electricity.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS**

## U.S. government's \$1.6B loan to Oakland-based Brightsource scrutinized after Solyndra collapse

## LA Observed - Sep 26

In the wake of Solyndra's Sept. 6 bankruptcy filing, the U.S. government's \$1.6billion loan to Oakland-based BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah solar power farm in the Mojave Desert has put the company under close scrutiny. BrightSource's initial public offering (IPO) statement lists a number of risk factors, and notes that negative public reaction to construction of its plant could create costly delays. LA Times reported that Rep. Darrell Issa, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, plans to investigate government loan programs in light of the Solyndra debacle.

## Solar Power International 2011

## Dallas, Texas - Oct 17-20

<u>Bill Devine</u> is attending Solar Power International 2011 in Dallas, Texas, on October 17-20. If you would like to arrange an introduction or a meeting while at the conference, please <u>contact us</u>.

## U.S. latest federal guidelines fail to make wind power birdsmart

## BYM Marine Environment News - Sep 21

The Department of the Interior released a revised version of its voluntary wind development siting and operational guidelines that fails to ensure that bird deaths at wind farms are minimized, says American Bird Conservancy's wind campaign coordinator Kelly Fuller. Fuller adds that the latest draft offers assurances that wind companies won't be prosecuted for killing federally protected birds, setting a dangerous precedent for other energy industries.

## Amyris chief sees Renmatix as path to cheaper sugars, biofuels

## Bloomberg - Sep 28

In an effort to make cheaper renewable fuel, Amyris, a biotechnology company based in Emeryville, California, is evaluating a process developed by Renmatix, a startup that produces sugars from wood waste. The Renmatix process is unlike most biofuel production because it doesn't require chemicals to extract sugars from hardwoods and other biomass feedstocks. Renmatix aims to form partnerships with companies such as DuPont and Amyris to help it build its first full-scale plant in 2012.



attorneys at law

#### Past issues

Have a suggestion? Tell us what you think

Allen Matkins

Editors William R. Devine Patrick A. Perry Emily Murray

#### FOLLOW US





#### **Upcoming Events**

Solar Power International 2011 Dallas, TX October 17-20, 2011

AWEA WindPower 2012 Atlanta, GA June 3-6, 2012

#### **Recent Opportunities**

Pacific Gas & Electric Issues its Renewable Auction Mechanism Program Request for Offers

<u>City of Atwater's Request for</u> <u>Qualifications for Solar</u> <u>Photovoltaic System</u>

Request for Offers for Development of Sacramento Solar Highways

Ventura County Water Works' Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant Photovoltaic Electrical Generation System Request for Design-Build Qualifications

## <u>SolarCity: DOE loan in jeopardy due to Solyndra investigation</u>

## RenewableEnergyWorld.com - Sep 24

SolarCity said its contract to install solar panels on military bases in 33 states could be derailed because of the federal investigation of the Solyndra bankruptcy. SolarCity recently announced its \$1-billion SolarStrong project, backed by a \$275 million DOE loan guarantee. According to the company, the required paperwork was submitted to finalize the loan before the Sept. 30 deadline, but the DOE said its focus was on the Solyndra investigation. The company has requested an extension of the deadline.

## <u>Oltmans Solar completes construction of largest rooftop solar</u> <u>installation in North America</u>

## PRNewswire / Comtex - Sep 27

Oltmans Construction, an industrial and commercial general contractor, completed construction of the largest rooftop solar installation in North America, totaling 8.6 megawatts (MW). "With the completion of this project, Oltmans has constructed a total of 13 solar installations totaling 26 MW and covering 5.5 million sq. ft. with a value of more than \$68 million," said Mike Englhard, VP of Oltmans Solar. The installation in Rialto, California, covers 1.2 million sq. ft. and is part of Southern California Edison's renewable energy program.

## Geothermal power plants could help produce lithium for

## <u>electric cars</u>

## Scientific American - Sep 29

An industrial add-on to geothermal power plants near the Salton Sea in California could one day produce the lithium required for electric car batteries. Already, Simbol Materials, the company behind the process, has begun purifying lithium from conventional mining operations in Argentina, Chile, and elsewhere for the global battery market at a demonstration facility in Brawley, California. The company plans to expand its initial lithium purification facility in 2012.

## Arizona power lines could be cut off from \$3.25B

## Cronkite News - Sep 26

The Centennial West Clean Line and Sonoran-Mojave Renewable Transmission projects in Arizona could lose access to hundreds of millions of dollars in federal loans in the fallout after the government's support for now-bankrupt solar energy firm, Solyndra. A House bill would stop the Western Area Power Administration from borrowing any more of the \$3.25 billion available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## Gov. Jerry Brown urges PUC to replace public goods fee for energy

## San Francisco Chronicle - Sep 26

Gov. Jerry Brown urges PUC to replace public goods fee for energy Gov. Jerry Brown urged the CPUC to take steps to replace a program that generates \$356 million a year for energy efficiency and renewable energy research. The program — which has been used to provide rebates to customers who buy energyefficient appliances and to contribute to renewable energy research — is set to expire at the end of 2011, after 14 years, because state lawmakers failed to renew it this summer.



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. <u>More...</u>

## Citi Aims to close \$1.8B loan guarantee for solar farm

#### Dow Jones - Sep 29

A group of lenders led by Citigroup and Goldman Sachs expects to close a DOE loan guarantee for \$1.8 billion in loans they plan to make to First Solar to build a 550-MW solar farm in the Calif. Desert. Citi and other lenders hope to close the deal before the DOE must close all pending renewable-energy loan guarantees. First Solar expects to hire 500 construction workers to build the farm, which is expected to generate enough electricity to serve as many as 111,000 homes.

## <u>Google invests \$75M into Clean Power Finance solar fund</u> GigaOM - Sep 27

Google's director of Green Business Operations announced that the company will invest \$75 million into a solar fund for startup Clean Power Finance, who will use the money to support solar rooftop projects. Google announced its first investment into residential and distributed solar energy this summer via a \$280-million fund for solar installer SolarCity.

© 2008-10 Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP. All rights reserved. This email is intended for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinions on any specific facts or circumstances. This email was sent by: Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, 515 S. Figueroa Street, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071. To stop receiving this publication, click on the "unsubscribe" button.