

2011 Wind, Solar and Renewables Institute
February 22*, 23-24, 2011 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX

Wednesday Morning, Feb. 23, 2011

Presiding Officer:

Richard Gruber, SCHOTT Solar CSP, Inc. - Albuquerque, NM

8:00 am	<p>Registration Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:45 am	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p>
	<p>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION</p>
9:00 am 1.00 hr	<p>Energy Economics in 2011: Where Are We?</p> <p>A discussion of the economics, trends, technologies and cost curves of competing energy sources.</p> <p>Todd Filsinger, Filsinger Energy Partners - Denver, CO</p>
10:00 am 1.00 hr	<p>Wind and Solar: Comparing, PPAs, Rates of Return, Viability and Project Economics in Today's Market</p> <p>An outline and discussion of current project economics including PPAs and market structures; engineering, procurement and construction costs (EPC); financing and cost of capital; policy considerations; and technology options and efficiencies.</p> <p>Moderator: Stephen Krebs, Baker Botts L.L.P. - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Reed Armstrong, Iberdrola Renewables - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Richard Gruber, SCHOTT Solar CSP, Inc. - Albuquerque, NM</p> <p>Panelists: Ann A. Hawkins, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP - Houston, TX</p>
11:00 am	<p>Break</p>
11:15 am 0.33 hr	<p>Valuation of Renewable Projects at Each Stage of Project Development</p> <p>This presentation explores the role of project completion risk, and how the risk may be estimated at each stage of development, and how project valuation rises as risk is reduced at each completion milestone.</p> <p>Tim N. Libson, Trintek Energy Consulting, Inc. - Austin, TX</p>

11:35 am
0.83 hr

Renewable Energy: Integration Costs, Project Risks and New Regulatory Requirements

A survey of approaches in Texas, the Southwest and the nation focusing on the effect of reliability standards that may be imposed by NERC, ERCOT and FERC. What is the effect on renewable projects? Who bears the risk of facility upgrades to comply?

William H. Holmes, Stoel Rives LLP - Portland, OR
Diana M. Liebmann, Haynes and Boone, LLP - San Antonio, TX
Bill L. Magness, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) - Austin, TX
Commentator:
Patrick Woodson, E.ON Climate & Renewables - Austin, TX

12:25 pm

Break for Lunch

Included in conference registration.

Wednesday Afternoon, Feb. 23, 2011

Presiding Officer:

Brent Stahl, Stahl, Bernal & Davies, LLP - Austin, TX

Keynote Luncheon Presentation

SunPower
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12:45 pm
0.00 hr ethics

Introduction of FERC Commissioner John Norris

Barry T. Smitherman, Public Utility Commission of Texas - Austin, TX

12:50 pm
0.67 hr

The View from FERC

An update on transmission initiatives and proposals that affect wind, solar and other renewable energy from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

John R. Norris, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - Washington, DC

1:30 pm

Break

<p>1:45 pm 1.50 hrs</p>	<p>Renewable Energy Transmission Plays: Plains & Eastern Clean Line, Southern Cross and Tres Amigas</p> <p>The opportunity to develop a large amount of wind energy generation is highly dependent upon the ability to deliver to large load centers. Transmission responding to this need is required to cross long distances, often crossing more than one transmission region. These conditions are leading to merchant transmission projects by independent developers. The panelists discuss a variety of market and regulatory issues that enhance and challenge the deployment of these projects.</p> <p>Moderator: John Moore, Stratus Energy Group, LLC - Austin, TX Panelists: Kathryn L. Patton, Clean Line Energy Partners - Houston, TX Panelists: Chris Shugart, Pattern Energy - Houston, TX Panelists: Patrick L. Wilkins, Tres Amigas LLC - Santa Fe, NM</p>
<p>3:15 pm</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>3:30 pm 0.50 hr</p>	<p>An Update and Report Card on the Federal Renewable Stimulus Program: One Year Later</p> <p>A review of the Treasury Cash Grant Program and the Department of Energy Loan Guaranty Program—two key elements of the stimulus package. How effective have they been in supporting renewable energy projects and what, if any, are the prospects for extension of these programs?</p> <p>Adam S. Umanoff, Chadbourne & Parke LLP - Los Angeles, CA</p>
<p>4:00 pm 0.50 hr</p>	<p>What's Happening with Wind Laws and Transmission Development in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Other SPP States?</p> <p>A timely update on wind energy legislation and rules in Southwest Power Pool states from the former Missouri Speaker of the House and Missouri Public Service Commission Chair. Materials detail wind energy laws and incentives in all nine SPP states, as well as several other active wind states. The written materials include a discussion of state laws affecting wind energy project development and recent new rules impacting the industry.</p> <p>Materials By: Lisa Chavarria, Stahl, Bernal & Davies, LLP - Austin, TX Steve Gaw, The Wind Coalition - Holts Summit, MO Materials By: Brent Stahl, Stahl, Bernal & Davies, LLP - Austin, TX</p>
<p>4:30 pm 1.00 hr</p>	<p>Current Legal Issues Related to Wind Lease and Easement Agreements</p> <p>The maturation of the wind industry has led to the emergence of new issues related to wind lease and easement agreements. The panel discusses wind lease drafting and negotiation challenges with a focus on essential lease provisions including those needed for a financeable lease. This session also takes a look at the growing conflicts between oil and gas operators and wind developers, the types and validity of wind severance rights, and zoning ordinance requirements in leases. The panel includes two wind developers who provide their perspectives on wind lease issues.</p> <p>Moderator: Roderick E. Wetsel, Wetsel & Carmichael, LLP - Sweetwater, TX Panelists: Kimberlee Smith Centera, AES Wind Generation - San Diego, CA Panelists: Jason Du Terroil, Iberdrola Renewables - San Antonio, TX Panelists: Bonnie McMurtry, Andrews Kurth LLP - Houston, TX</p>

5:30 pm

Adjourn to Reception

Thursday Morning, Feb. 24, 2011

Presiding Officer:

Andrew Kever, EnochKever PLLC - Austin, TX

7:45 am

Conference Room Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 am
0.50 hr

What Happens When the Texas Regulatory Law Doesn't Fit Renewables: Wind, Solar, Geothermal, Biomass and Storage

The role and potential of renewable generation and related new technologies has changed dramatically since the Texas electric market was restructured more than a decade ago. This presentation addresses ways in which market structures, definitions and rules designed for conventional electric facilities may raise unintended obstacles to full and efficient use of these new technologies. Some examples include distributed generation, net metering, ancillary service definitions, and the effect of ownership restrictions on storage.

Commentator:

Mark Bruce, Stratus Energy Group, LLC - Austin, TX

Elizabeth Drews, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. - Austin, TX

9:00 am
1.00 hr

The Business, Economics and Regulatory Issues of Storage

A panel discussion on the latest trends in storage deployment, including CAES, batteries and thermal storage. Regulatory and market conditions which encourage or impede storage deployment issues are also addressed.

Moderator:

Pat Wood III, Wood3 Resources - Houston, TX

Commentator:

Elizabeth Drews, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. - Austin, TX

Panelists:

Darrell Hayslip, Xtreme Power - Kyle, TX

Panelists:

Robert E. Hebner, Center for Electromechanics/Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering, The University of Texas - Austin, TX

Panelists:

Praveen H. Kathpal, The AES Corporation - Arlington, VA

Panelists:

Alissa Oppenheimer, Chamisa Energy, LLC - Santa Fe, NM

10:00 am
0.50 hr

Selected Case Law Developments

This presentation reviews recent case law developments of interest in the area of renewable energy.

Steven Baron, Consulting and Legal Services - Austin, TX

10:30 am

Break

10:45 am
0.83 hr

Turbine Technology: The Impact of New Turbine Technologies and Suppliers in Meeting Regulatory Requirements and Improving Project Economics

Wind turbine costs typically make up about 70% of project development costs. Over the last decade, new features have been added to turbines to address VAR and other grid integration issues, while at the same time, technology improvements have resulted in greater turbine efficiencies and, consequently, revenue streams. This session addresses how the emergence of new companies and sources for turbines (e.g. Chinese manufacturers offering turbines at lower prices), combined with greater turbine efficiencies, has affected project economics and development opportunities.

Moderator:

Walter Hornaday, Cielo Wind Services, Inc. - Austin, TX

Panelists:

Chad Burk, Siemens Energy, Inc. - Houston, TX

Panelists:

Tai-Yeon (Terry) Cho, Samsung Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. - Gyeongsangnam-Do, 658-710 Korea, Republic of Korea

Panelists:

Jan C. Paulin, Cielo Wind Services, Inc. - San Diego, CA

11:35 am
0.83 hr

Mineral Issues' Impact on Solar Energy Development in Texas and Other States

This topic examines title insurance, the accommodation doctrine, non-interference agreements, waiver of surface rights and other ways to mitigate the risk that mineral estate rights could adversely affect the operations of a solar energy project site.

Moderator:

Randy Sowell, Fremantle Energy, LLC - McCamey, TX

Panelists:

James L. Gosdin, Stewart Title Guaranty Company - Houston, TX

Panelists:

Dennis L. Harper, Richmond, CA

Panelists:

Mark Kane Leaverton, Rash Chapman Schreiber Leaverton & Morrison LLP - Austin, TX

Panelists:

Brent Stahl, Stahl, Bernal & Davies, LLP - Austin, TX

12:25 pm

Break for Lunch

Lunch included in conference registration.

Thursday Afternoon, Feb. 24, 2011

Presiding Officer:

Elizabeth Drews, Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. - Austin, TX

Luncheon Presentation

Xtreme Power

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<p>12:45 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p>Texas Renewable Energy Policy: An Inside View</p> <p>In recent years, Texas has been lauded for its innovative and successful policies to attract wind energy development, and the state's Renewable Energy Credit program and Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) concept have been applied in other jurisdictions. For non-wind technologies such as solar and biomass, however, many observers contend Texas lags far behind California, New Jersey and others. Will the Texas Legislature follow up on the success of its wind energy initiatives with new policies for solar and other technologies? Or will the looming budget crisis and weak economic conditions force the state to scale back its vision for renewable energy growth? This panel examines the role of public policy in fostering development of emerging technologies and discusses current legislative initiatives affecting the renewable energy industry.</p> <p>Mark Bruce, Stratus Energy Group, LLC - Austin, TX Mark Strama, Texas House of Representatives - Austin, TX</p>
<p>1:30 pm</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>1:45 pm 0.50 hr</p>	<p>CREZ Transmission Build-Out</p> <p>The 2,300 mile Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) transmission effort is evolving as the 2013 completion deadline nears. This session covers the changing landscape as CREZ moves from a purely regulatory arena into land acquisition, construction and other realms that create new challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Michael G. Grable, Lone Star Transmission, LLC - Austin, TX</p>
<p>2:15 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p>Decision Points: How Are Co-Ops and Munis Making Use of Renewables in Their Resource Mix</p> <p>A panel discussion with key Texas market participants.</p> <p>Moderator: Laura R. Doll, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: John Bonnin, CPS Energy - San Antonio, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Declan Ronan O'Cleirigh, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) - Austin, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Mark W. Schwirtz, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative - Amarillo, TX</p>
<p>3:00 pm 0.50 hr</p>	<p>Geothermal in Texas: What's Happening and What Are the Key Legal Issues?</p> <p>Topics covered include the nature of geothermal energy, the current state of U.S. and Texas geothermal power production and potential, the methods of production of electric power using geothermal resources, the advantages and disadvantages of this means of power production, what facilities are required, the nature of the relevant property rights involved, and the relevant federal and state statutory backdrop.</p> <p>Robert P. Wright, Baker Botts L.L.P. - Houston, TX</p>
<p>3:30 pm</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>