

# WIND ENERGY WEEKLY

THE LEADING E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY



WWW.AWEA.ORG

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## Top Story

### Almost to the Finish Line: Tax Bill Includes Renewable Credits

In a dramatic turn of events late Thursday evening, the Senate introduced a revised tax package that includes a one-year extension of the Section 1603 investment tax credit for renewable energy, paving the way for a new wave of wind power development next year. The next action is expected to be a cloture vote in the Senate on the tax bill, scheduled for Monday afternoon at 3 p.m., before it moves back to the House.

As the start-construction expiration date of December 31 drew perilously closer, renewable energy industries came together to underscore the value of the tax credit program as both an economic stimulator and job creator. Renewable groups joined forces on urgent statements and press events, while still dozens more trade groups, conservation organizations, and consumer advocacy groups worked to ensure that Congress understood the importance of the issue as well as the consequences of the provision not being included.

Wind Energy Weekly is a publication of the American Wind Energy Association and a service to its Members.



## Upcoming AWEA Events:

**AWEA Project Performance & Reliability Workshop**  
January 12 - 13, 2011  
San Diego, CA

**AWEA Wind & Transmission Workshop**  
February 9 - 10, 2011  
Omaha, NE

**AWEA Wind Power on Capitol Hill**  
February 15 - 16, 2011  
Washington, DC

**AWEA Wind Power Project Siting Workshop**  
March 1 - 2, 2011  
Kansas City, MO

**AWEA Wind Power Supply Chain Workshop**  
March 23 - 24, 2011  
Little Rock, AR

**AWEA Wind Power Finance & Investment Workshop**  
April 7 - 8, 2011  
New York, NY

**WINDPOWERÂ® 2011 Conference & Exhibition**  
May 22nd - 25th, 2011  
Anaheim, CA

[www.awea.org/events](http://www.awea.org/events)

## Executive Leadership

Denise Bode  
Chief Executive Officer

After months of lobbying and grassroots mobilization, the frenetic week drew to a close—days before the 111th Congress is scheduled to leave Washington—with what to some was a surprising shift toward the tax credit extension's inclusion in the giant \$858 billion tax bill being crafted.

The bill has yet to come to a vote, of course, but the tax credit extension's inclusion was a crucial victory and bodes well for the one-year extension to become a reality, said industry advocates.

"This is a great day for American workers," said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. "We have a lot of work to do to ensure that this victory is upheld in the House and Senate, and signed by the President, but we saw an outpouring of support this week that was truly inspiring."

Support in the Senate was led by Senators Maria Cantwell (Wash.) and Diane Feinstein (Calif.), who distributed a "Dear Colleague" letter encouraging other Senators to show their support for extension of the renewable energy tax credits. Also speaking up to Senate leadership and the White House on the issue were Senators Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Mark Udall (D-Colo.), Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Ben Nelson (D-Neb.), Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), Kristen Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Michael Bennett (D-Colo.), Robert Casey (D-Pa.) and several others.

In the House, Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), Mike Thompson (D-Calif.), Rush Holt (D-N.J.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.), Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas), Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) and many others signed on to a letter that garnered 81 signatures, affirming support for the extension of the 1603 program.

The 1603 tax credit has already helped create a \$20 billion American wind energy industry with 85,000 jobs and over 400 manufacturing facilities. Wind now generates 20% of the electricity in Iowa, and has generated an average of 5% and as much as 25% of the electricity in Texas, on the record-setting windy morning of Oct. 28, 2010.

"That is only a fraction of what's possible if this tax credit is extended. Factories across the country will restart production lines, recall workers, and avoid layoffs that would have followed the loss of this key incentive for wind energy," Bode said.

"With consistent policies like this one, wind energy can generate 20 percent of America's electricity within 20 years, and employ half a million Americans. That's good for all the workers and communities that benefit from wind farms, and it's good for America."

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[Solicitations](#)

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## RFP: Minnesota Power Seeks Wind Power

Minnesota Power is seeking proposals from outside entities to provide up to 100 MW of wind generation capacity deliverable to the utility's service territory prior to the expiration of the federal production tax credit on December 31, 2012.

Minnesota Power, a division of investor-owned utility Allete, Inc., also intends to consider building its own renewable resources. Proposals are due January 5. A copy of the request for proposal is available on the [utility's Web site](#).

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### Mergers & Acquisitions

## It's Official: With Deere Acquisition Complete, Exelon is in the Wind Business

Another major utility has entered the wind business.

Exelon Corp. completed its previously announced \$860 million acquisition of John Deere Renewables, which owns and develops wind farms, the investor-owned utility announced today.

The acquisition gives "Exelon Wind," as the division of Exelon Power will be known, an instant portfolio of 36 wind projects in eight states and 735 MW of operating wind energy capacity. Exelon Power is a unit of Exelon Generation, which operates under the corporate umbrella as a non-regulated subsidiary.

The acquisition "is an economically sound transaction that adds value for shareholders while advancing our clean energy leadership as part of *Exelon 2020*," said John Rowe, Exelon's chairman and CEO. Exelon 2020 is the company's business and environmental strategy to eliminate the equivalent of its 2001 carbon footprint. Exelon is now halfway to that goal, the company said.

"The addition of these wind assets increases our zero-emissions generation capacity to nearly 19,000 MW, helping us achieve our goal of a clean, low-carbon energy supply at the lowest cost to the communities and customers we serve," said Rowe.

Former employees of Deere are now staff of Exelon Wind. In addition to the \$860 million price tag for John Deere Renewables, Exelon will pay an additional \$40 million upon commencement of construction of the wind projects that are in the advanced stages of development.

When the [deal was first announced](#) in late summer, spokesperson Judy Rader commented on whether Exelon planned to get heavily involved in wind power development via Deere's project pipeline that is less mature in the development process than those that are part of the \$40 million arrangement.

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[About AWEA](#)

“We made this acquisition because of the existing assets,” she told *Wind Energy Weekly*. “We’ll continue to evaluate developing additional projects.”

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### Offshore

## Deepwater Wind Plans 1-Gigawatt Project Off Rhode Island

Plans for a giant “second-generation” offshore wind facility are in the works even before construction has started on the first U.S. offshore project.

Deepwater Wind announced plans this week to construct a 1,000-MW regional offshore facility that would serve multiple states. The Deepwater Wind Energy Center (DWECC) would be sited in the deep ocean waters of southern Rhode Island Sound, where it would be barely visible from the shore. Construction on the facility is planned to begin in 2014, with the first wind turbines in operation by the end of 2015.

Deepwater Wind is calling DWECC a “second-generation” offshore project because it will be larger and farther from shore than other proposed projects. It will also incorporate more advanced technology, the company said. With as many as 200 wind turbines, DWECC will be the largest offshore wind farm ever planned in the U.S. Because of the economies of scale gained by building a large facility and also because of the continuing maturity of the offshore wind industry, DWECC’s power price will be lower than earlier offshore wind projects proposed in the U.S., according to Deepwater. Along those lines, a goal of DWECC that would benefit the offshore segment of the wind industry as a whole: it seeks to demonstrate that as the offshore wind industry continues to mature, its energy prices will become increasingly competitive with plants that burn fossil fuels—but without the environmental problems that plague fossil fuel plants.

Deepwater Wind recently filed an unsolicited nomination to the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) to lease the ocean site where it plans to locate DWECC. BOEMRE is currently reviewing Deepwater Wind’s lease request in consultation with taskforces organized at the state level in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Deepwater Wind’s submission will be subject to federal and state review, and if a lease is awarded, the project will be subject to extensive permitting reviews and public comment opportunities.

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### Project Finance

## Horizon Secures \$99 Million Financing for Washington Wind Farm

EDP Renováveis SA (EDPR), through its U.S. subsidiary Horizon Wind Energy LLC, has signed an agreement to secure \$99 million of financing through Banc



of America Public Capital Corp. (BAPC) in exchange for a partial interest in its 101-MW Kittitas Valley wind farm that is currently being commissioned in Kittitas County, Wash., the developer said.

The investment will provide BAPC with access to the tax benefits associated with the wind farm and to the cash reimbursement that can be awarded in lieu of the federal production tax credit for renewable energy. Horizon said it will apply for the reimbursement, which is part of the U.S. Treasury's clean energy incentive program.

The Kittitas Valley transaction is EDPR's fourth to incorporate the cash reimbursement in lieu of production tax credits. Through that mechanism, EDPR said, the company will improve the project's economics and will enable an efficient utilization of tax benefits. As for other U.S. projects, EDPR said it will continue to choose the best financial structure available under the current regulatory framework.

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### Supply Chain

#### Wind Power Gears to be Produced in U.S. by Startup

Startup manufacturer Vela Gear Systems, LLC, has chosen Marion, Ind., as the location for its first manufacturing facility, where it will produce gears for wind turbines, the company announced.

Exemplifying the continued growth of the domestic wind power supply chain, the facility will be among the only U.S. manufacturers of large-scale gears for wind turbines, Vela said. Construction on the plant is scheduled to begin by mid-2011, and hiring is slated to start late next year, in advance of a mid-2012 projected online date. The plant will be the home of 163 new jobs by 2013, Vela said.

The company, which was founded by veterans of the gear-making industry from across the Midwest, will make a multi-million dollar investment to construct the 250,000 square-foot facility.

"The potential new jobs and investment associated with this project will continue Indiana's forward momentum as a leader in the clean-tech market," said Mitch Roob, secretary of commerce and CEO of the Indiana Economic Development Corp.

"Indiana is an ideal location due to the high-skilled workforce, and a central location close to a variety of North American customers," said Noel Davis, Vela's founder and CEO.

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### Project News

#### Shifting Gears: Minnesota Power Changes Order to Direct-Drive Turbines

Utility Minnesota Power said it will switch gears and go with a direct-drive turbine for a project already under way.

For the second phase of its Bison 1 wind energy project in west-central North Dakota near the town of New Salem, the Allete subsidiary will install 15 new next-generation 3-MW direct-drive Siemens turbines instead of 17 of the turbine manufacturer's 2.3-MW turbines, which use a more traditional technology.

Direct-drive turbines are viewed as having the potential to cut down on operation-and-maintenance costs and increase productivity by reducing turbine maintenance down time, because they eliminate the need for a gear box, which bears tremendous weight and strain on standard turbines.

"We're very excited to apply this leading-edge technology in North Dakota, where the renewable energy potential of wind is unmatched," said Eric Norberg, Minnesota Power senior vice president of strategy and planning. "Our customers will benefit from the additional energy production and the likelihood of improved efficiency for many years."

The project is part of the Minnesota Power's effort to meet Minnesota's renewable energy mandate to deliver 25 percent of its energy from renewable sources. The company recently issued a request for proposal for wind energy (see related story above).

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### The States

## Wisconsin Irons Out Siting Rules to Improves Clean Energy Outlook

Thanks to changes made at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's (PSC) open meeting this week, wind developers in Wisconsin can look forward to a set of workable statewide permitting standards that will facilitate the development of well-designed wind projects, said renewable energy advocacy group RENEW Wisconsin.

At the meeting, the commission adjusted the requirements on two issues of critical importance to the wind industry: setback distances and compensation to neighboring residents.

"Today's decisions culminate a four-year effort to set Wisconsin's permitting house in order," said Michael Vickerman, executive director of RENEW Wisconsin, a statewide renewable energy advocacy organization. "The final rules strike a reasonable balance between protecting public health and safety and advancing wind energy generation, a proven pathway for creating well-paying jobs and increasing revenues to local governments."

Initially, the rule did not specify a definite setback distance between turbines and residences and community buildings.

"By setting a maximum setback distance of 1,250 feet, the rule would not impose economic burdens on wind developers seeking to install newer and

larger wind turbines now available in the market, such as the 2.5-MW turbines being erected at the Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County,” said Vickerman.

Regarding compensation to non-participating residences, the commission decided to uncouple the annual compensation level instead of linking the size of the payments to the payment received by the host landowner. The commission’s move resolved the most problematic feature that had been in the rule.

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## People

### **Oregon Governor Honored by Prominent Renewable Energy Advocacy Group**

Citing the governor’s “vision and action” in a state that has emerged as one of the leaders in renewable energy, the Renewable Northwest Project honored Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski (D) with its George Darr Clean Energy Award.

Kulongoski’s support for renewables spans at least the last seven years, starting with his development of Oregon’s first-ever Renewable Energy Action Plan. A highlight of his many achievements: in 2007 he championed landmark renewable energy bills that passed into law, including a renewable electricity standard that requires large utilities to meet 25 percent of their customers’ needs with new renewable resources by 2025. That target is among the most aggressive standards in the nation. The governor has championed a whole slew of other policies that foster the development of renewable energy.

Kulongoski’s award is particularly notable because the honor is not granted annually but rather on rare occasions when RNP, which is an AWEA regional partner, identifies someone who has shown “standout leadership.”

“Oregon would not be where it is today as a significant renewable energy leader if not for the governor’s vision and action,” said RNP Executive Director Rachel Shimshak. “We are grateful for his dedication and honored that he could join us in accepting the award.”

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## Around the Industry

### **Spotlight on UWIG’s Wind Interconnection Workshop**

The Utility Wind Integration Group is sponsoring its annual wind interconnection workshop from January 19-21 at Western’s Electric Power Training Center in Golden, Colo., to help utilities integrate the world’s fastest growing source of energy into the country’s generation portfolio.

This year’s two-day educational workshop will feature an overview of wind energy, followed by an introduction to the Utility Wind Integration Group’s Internet-based tools for assessing a distributed wind or solar project’s impact on the local distribution system. Training will cover the theory behind each tool

and demonstrate their use with actual data. A tour of the nearby National Renewable Energy Laboratory Wind Technology Center is an optional add-on to the event, and continuing education credit is available for the workshop.

Co-sponsors include the American Public Power Association, the Western Area Power Administration, the Wind Powering America Program, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the U.S. Department of Energy Wind Technologies Program, the American Wind Energy Association and Solar Electric Power Association.

More information can be found here:

<http://www.repartners.org/pdf/WindInterconnflyer11.pdf>

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#### **AWEA News**

### **ATTENTION: WINDPOWER 2011 Exhibitor Meeting**

If you are planning on attending the WINDPOWER 2011 Exhibitor meeting, we need your RSVP as soon as possible. The WINDPOWER 2011 Exhibitor Meeting will be held **January 19th, 2011** in Anaheim, CA, and if you have not received your invitation, please contact our Exhibition team at [exhibition@awea.org](mailto:exhibition@awea.org). Looking forward to seeing you all there!

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#### **AWEA News**

### **Build, Operate, and Maintain Reliable, Profitable, and Successful Wind Projects**

#### **AWEA 2011 Wind Project Performance & and Reliability Workshop January 12-13 > San Diego, CA**

Learn how to increase the performance and reliability of your wind project through practical asset management strategies and optimized wind project operations and maintenance. Discover the best practices and hear lessons learned on O&M programs and techniques from the leading wind project owners and operators in the world. Experience this two-day education program and get a comprehensive background on how to make your project more successful, while building relationships and networking with industry experts and your peers.

[Register](#) before December 20th to save!

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## AWEA News

### AWEA Seal of Approval Program

Deadline extended...[Apply](#) by January 5, 2011

Want to be one of the first education programs to apply for the AWEA Seal of Approval, which recognizes wind turbine service technician education programs? The American Wind Energy Association wants to identify the leading wind industry technician education curriculums in the United States. If you know of an education curriculum worthy of the AWEA Seal of Approval, let us know today or apply to have your education program recognized!

Make sure your application has been submitted by January 5th.

Visit [www.awea.org/la\\_education\\_soa.cfm](http://www.awea.org/la_education_soa.cfm) for more application and eligibility information.

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## AWEA News

### Wind Energy Transmission: Paths, Perplexities, and Progress

#### AWEA Wind & Transmission Workshop February 9-10 > Omaha, NE

Attend the AWEA [Wind & Transmission Workshop](#) to identify challenges to transmission and expansion in the U.S. and learn about solutions to overcoming obstacles standing in the way of transmission growth and the latest on wind integration studies and experience.

[Register](#) TODAY for this Workshop to learn:

- Which regions have the best transmission policies
- Who is building transmission, and where and when the power will flow
- How curtailment, integration charges, and other policies impact your project's economics
- Transmission technology innovations that could boost your profits

[View](#) the program online now!

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## AWEA News

### Learn the Progress, Priorities and Policies of Project Siting in the Wind Industry

#### AWEA Wind Power Project Siting Workshop March 1-2 > Kansas City, MO

AWEA's 2011 Wind Project Siting Workshop is geared towards seasoned siting professionals who want to learn the most pressing siting issues affecting

their business. The workshop is also an incredible place for newcomers to wind to get a basic understanding of what project siting is all about.

Regardless of experience level, this workshop is the yearly meeting place for wind siting professionals serious about increasing their effectiveness in the field and their value to their company.

[Register Now and Save!](#)

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#### [AWEA News](#)

**AWEA Store- [www.AWEAstore.com](http://www.AWEAstore.com)**

#### **FINAL NOTICE: “Better Than Coal” Tees**

These festive green tees are a top-seller this season – all the cool kids are wearing them! They’re the perfect gift for colleagues, family and friends, and are only available during the holidays. Available in short and long-sleeved styles, and even comes in youth sizes! You must order and ship by December 14 to guarantee delivery by December 24! (Also: 50% off all WINDPOWER 2010 Items – get them while they last!)

**NEW! BUMPER MAGNETS!** Four different designs show your support for wind energy! Perfect for your car, home or office refrigerators, or your bike! Makes a great stocking stuffer, too (but you must order TODAY for delivery by 12/24!)

**NEW! 2011 AWEA Calendar:** Fill your year with wind energy! The 2011 AWEA Calendar contains month after month of beautiful and inspiring wind turbine photography, wind energy facts, and industry information. The perfect holiday gift for the wind professional or renewable energy enthusiast. **SPECIAL PROMO:** Get a FREE 2011 AWEA Calendar when you order at least \$75 of AWEA Store merchandise; offer ends January 31, 2011.

#### **Back by Popular Demand: The Power of Wind DVD**

This DVD explains the basics of wind power, describes the current state of the technology, shows how wind farms are perceived by the communities where they are installed, and makes the case for using wind energy to diversify our power sources in a positive, educational way.  
Only \$20!

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#### [AWEA News](#)

**Have You Received Your AWEA Membership Renewal Invoice?**

Renewal invoices for your 2011 AWEA Member Dues have been sent. If you have not received an invoice, or if you have any questions, please contact the Membership team at [membership@awea.org](mailto:membership@awea.org).

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### AWEA News

## Get a 30-Day Job Posting, PLUS a Listing on the Energy Job Board Network With the New “Careers in Wind” Package

30-Day Job Posting + Energy Job Board Network: Purchase this NEW package and get one 30-day job posting on [www.CareersInWind.com](http://www.CareersInWind.com) PLUS a listing on ALL sites within the Job Board Network (including Clean Energy Council, Green Career Central, GreenBusinessCareers.com, RenewableGreenEnergyJobs.com and Green Careers Guide) for a small additional cost! Visit [www.CareersInWind.com](http://www.CareersInWind.com) for details.

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### AWEA News

## AWEA Outreach: The Weeks Ahead

AWEA staff members participate in high-level industry events to ensure that the newest and most accurate information about the wind energy industry gains maximum visibility. In the next two weeks, AWEA will have a presence at the following events:

- **Event:** [Power-Gen International 2010](#)
- **Details:** December 14-16, 2010; Orlando, FL
- **AWEA Participation:** Jeff Anthony, Director of Business Development, will chair a session on “How Wind Power Works for America” on the 15th. AWEA will have an exhibit booth (#1247) at the conference.

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### Advertisement

## DMI: A Leader in Towers

For over thirty years, DMI Industries has built a solid reputation in heavy steel manufacturing, and is now recognized as a North American leader in wind towers. DMI is a trusted partner to many of the world's leading wind turbine manufacturers because they can rely on DMI for a best-in-class product built to their exact specifications, delivered on time, every time.

With strategically-located factories in North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Ontario, DMI has unmatched reach through easy access to road, rail or barge. Each DMI facility is fully-integrated to take every tower section through every stage of the production process—from rolling and painting to internal assembly—all at the same location. We begin every project with the raw materials and processes that promise a superior product, and we continue to invest in new technologies, research and development because we are committed to meeting the changing demands of wind energy as it advances into the future.

DMI towers support wind turbines all across North America and we stand ready with the people, processes, and staying power to assure your project will be smooth, successful, and profitable. Discover the difference of a partnership with DMI. To learn more about DMI, visit [www.dmiindustries.com](http://www.dmiindustries.com).

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