



Alternative Energy Report

April 17, 2009
Volume 3, Issue
8

Power Politics
[Power Politics](#) is
the official blog of
ERG.

The Federal Renewable Energy Details Slow to Develop

In Washington, details are beginning to slowly come out about the allocation of funds from the stimulus package relating to energy investments. Staff of the US Departments of Energy, Interior and Agriculture told ERG partners this week that they are overloaded with requests for information and loan funding, but at the same time, they are short staffed, creating serious delays in responses to all.

ERG will continue to closely monitor state and federal agencies and provide updates both in Alternative Energy Reports and on the web at <http://www.pa-erg.com> as new information becomes available.

Science Funding

This week, the Department of Energy (DOE) offered new guidance on \$1.6 billion in funding intended for the Office of Science: The funding would cover a mix of extramural basic research, DOE laboratory research, facilities upgrades and construction, and advanced scientific computing. The stimulus appropriation combined with the regular appropriation could leave DOE's Office of Science with a FY 2009 budget of almost 750 million more than originally authorized by the America COMPETES Act of 2007. The Office would be on course to have its funding double over the next ten years. The stimulus bill also provides \$400 million to start up the ARPA-E (Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy), authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2007, funding that was not previously appropriated.

PEDA 2009 Guidelines Available; Green Initiatives Funded through ARRA

The Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) announced program guidelines for the 2009 round of grants this week. For 2009, PEDA has \$21 million in grants available, which includes \$9 million in state funds; \$10 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and \$2 million to aid municipalities, local government authorities and first responders in the Duquesne Light Company's electric service territory.

Acting DEP Secretary John Hanger said grants of up to \$1.5 million are available for green initiatives like solar, wind, waste recovery and alternative fuels for transportation. Applications are due May 29.

"This is the right time for Pennsylvania to make needed investments in our energy future and support projects that put our people to work in good, green collar jobs," Hanger said. "The federal stimulus package has nearly doubled the funds available to help us develop new renewable energy technologies and support projects that will reduce our energy consumption, lower energy bills and speed up our economic recovery."

It was also announced that PEDA has distributed \$3.8 million from the stimulus package to five projects that it expects will create 155 jobs and attract an additional \$19 million from private sources.

[MORE...](#)

Quigley Named Acting Secretary of DCNR; Agency Has Energy Agenda

Pennsylvania's farms and forests are some of the state's best renewable resources. As

such, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is becoming increasingly involved in Pennsylvania's energy independence strategy. John Quigley, who has been serving as Chief of Staff at the Agency, was named Acting Secretary on April 8 by Governor Ed Rendell.

Quigley had held previous positions as director of Operations and director of Legislation and Strategic Initiatives at DCNR, and has guided some of the department's priority projects, most importantly working to help Pennsylvania address the impacts of climate change. Quigley has been instrumental on many alternative energy initiatives, including the impact of windmills on wildlife.

[MORE...](#)

Past Time for America to shift to NEW WEALTH INDUSTRIES

By: Bill Holmberg, Chairman of the Biomass Coordinating Council, American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)

In these troubling times, it is critical to recognize the irreplaceable value of "new wealth industries" (NWI). NWI are based on natural resources – mining (oil gas, coal, minerals, metals); agriculture; aquaculture; silvaculture (forestry); all renewable technologies (biofuels, biopower and biothermal energy), solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and water power, and renewable hydrogen; recycling/reuse; Energy Efficiency; and human creativity.

The importance of NWI was recognized by President Lincoln when building the transcontinental railroad (rails manufactured in the US) and by President Roosevelt during World War II. Neglect set in during the Truman Administration when the concept of parity for agriculture (one of America's most important NWIs) was set aside while US oil production dominated the world with major NWI benefits.

New Wealth Industries are vital to the reconstruction of America, given their economic multipliers (generally more than three, whereas service industries are generally limited to one plus). These industries produce new commodities in a sustainable manner, whereas service industries do not produce goods. NWI are an investment in the future while creating new basic industries and quality jobs; they have ready markets – many are "shovel ready," and they encourage positive nation and community oriented consumption, while contributing to national, energy, homeland, economic and environmental security. These industries also combat the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

In our haste to recover economically, we are wisely using stimulus dollars to support important service industries, bankers, police, fire fighters, teachers, public servants, marketers of goods and services to stimulate consumption. It is also important to direct adequate stimulus funds toward generating new wealth. As valuable as these service professions are, they are in fact dependent on new wealth industries for their own long term sustainability.

America cannot recover without focusing on sustainable new wealth industries. Biofuels, biopower, and biothermal energy play critical roles in our future, and will succeed because they are products of American agriculture and silvaculture industries with significant support from aquaculture, hunting and open stream fishing, renewable energy, recycling and reuse, energy efficiency and human creativity. These industries are driving forces that also demand a nationwide focus on health, education, creativity and community involvement.

The low hanging fruit - energy efficiency (weatherization of low-income housing, schools, public buildings, etc.) should be our first order of business, followed by advancing all renewable energy industries!

For more information on NWI, email biorefiner@aol.com.

GOP Energy Task Force Unveils 'Energize PA' Initiative to Tap Marcellus Shale Gas Deposits

The House Republican Energy Task Force unveiled their "Energize PA" plan to expand natural gas drilling on 390,000 additional acres of state forest land during the next three years. The proposal would provide an additional \$260 million per year for state and local governments and conservation districts while promoting the creation of 7,000 new private-sector jobs in Pennsylvania's emerging Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling industry.

The lawmakers say the local government share of the money is important because natural gas drilling operations often have a significant impact on local budgets. The local funding share of the revenue would be split evenly between the host county and the host municipality. Reed's proposal would provide local governments with the money they need to maintain important infrastructure, including roads and water systems.

Rep. Dave Reed (R-Indiana), is prime sponsor of the legislation – House Bill 1050 – and one of two co-chairs of the House Republican Energy Task Force. The proposal would directly result in the creation of 7,300 new private-sector jobs during the next decade. This is a stark contrast to the potential effects of a new tax proposed by the governor in February, which experts predict could cost Pennsylvania approximately 53,000 jobs during the next five years.

[MORE...](#)

U.S. Energy Dept Offers \$3.4 Billion in Smart Grid Grants

Through a program authorized by the federal stimulus package, the DOE has announced a process to distribute \$3.4 billion in grants for "smart grid" technology to modernize electricity transmission.

The program will provide financial assistance from \$500,000 to \$20 million, matching up to 50 percent of approved project costs. It will also give out \$100,000 to \$5 million grants for organizations deploying grid monitoring devices.

[MORE...](#)

Clean Coal and Carbon Capture Info Released

The DOE also announced funding guidance for \$3.4 billion in fossil energy research and development from the Recovery Act, including clean coal and carbon capture information. Investments will go toward finding and testing new ways to produce energy from coal - such as gasification - and improving techniques to clean or capture and store the emissions from coal-fired power plants. Funds include:

- \$1.0 billion for fossil energy research and development programs;
- \$800 million for additional amounts for the Clean Coal Power Initiative Round III Funding Opportunity Announcement;
- \$1.52 billion for a competitive solicitation for a range of industrial carbon capture and energy efficiency improvement projects, including a small allocation for innovative concepts for beneficial reuse of carbon dioxide (CO₂);
- \$50 million for a competitive solicitation for site characterization activities in geologic formations (in the context of CO₂ sequestration in geologic formations);
- \$20 million for geologic CO₂ sequestration training and research grants

Clinton Foundation Providing PA Carbon Sequestration Assistance

The William J. Clinton Foundation has chosen Pennsylvania as one of three initial areas where it will assist in developing carbon sequestration technology. The state is seeking an initial \$98 million in federal stimulus money to develop this emerging technology known as carbon sequestration, and The Clinton Foundation is drawing up the business plan for a proposed state-run system to transport and store carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired electric plants.

Pennsylvania's status as a major coal-producing state, energy initiatives and an

awareness that more than 50 percent of the state's electricity comes from coal-fired plants caught the attention of foundation officials.

[MORE...](#)

EVENTS

DEP Offers Energy Workshops To Help Small Businesses Improve Efficiency, Cut Costs

DEP is sponsoring a series of workshops in April, May and June to help small- and medium-sized businesses reduce energy costs and increase profits. The workshops will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates at these locations:

- April 29 at Penn College of Technology, Thompson Professional Development Center, Mountain Laurel Room, 1 College Ave., Williamsport;
- May 6 at Connelley School, Auditorium, 1501 Bedford Ave., Pittsburgh;
- May 19 at Elizabethtown College, Brossman Commons Student Center, Event Space Room, 1 Alpha Dr., Elizabethtown;
- May 27 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Crimson Event Center, Corner of Maple Street and Pratt Drive, Indiana;
- June 2 at Bucks County Community College, Penn Hall Room 257, 275 Swamp Road, Newton; and
- June 3 at Wilkes University, Henry Student Center Ballroom, 84 West South St., Wilkes-Barre.

The workshop will offer businesses information on energy supply options, illustrate how to identify energy cost-saving opportunities, and explain how to develop an energy action plan. In addition, information about financial and technical resources for energy-efficiency upgrades will be available. Particular emphasis will be given to easily implemented, cost-effective changes for small commercial and industrial facilities.

Registration for the workshops is free, and the sessions are open to the public. To register visit [Upcoming Events](#) webpage. For more information or to request a registration form, call 717-783-8411.

[Pennsylvania Environmental Council Annual Gala Dinner](#), April 22, Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

To honor Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Winners.

Second Annual Infrastructure Summit, April 28, Harrisburg PA

The Second Annual Infrastructure Summit will bring together top leaders and presenters from across industries such as broadband, water, transportation, energy, and software on April 28 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

[PV America Conference and Trade Show](#), June 7-12, Philadelphia PA

Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) will host the PV America Conference and Trade Show in Philadelphia on June 9. The public is welcome to see the technology on Public Night on June 9 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Admission for Public Night is free. To register for PV America or to learn more, visit <http://www.pvamericaexpo.com> or contact Brian Mahar (bmahar@tigercomm.us, 703-302-8393).

Click [here](#) to view more energy events...

NEWS CLIPS

[DOE Announces \\$41.9 Million to Spur Growth of Fuel Cell Markets](#)

[Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Winners Named; Lake Erie Biofuels Receives Honor](#)

[Senate hearing unearths tough natural gas questions](#)



[National Science Board releases Building a Sustainable Energy Future report](#)

[Wind Power Drives Need For Grid Changes](#)

[PA Receives \\$1.7 Million Clean Diesel Federal Stimulus Funding](#)

[Funding Approved for PA Sunshine Program](#)

**COPYRIGHT © PENNSYLVANIA ENERGY RESOURCES GROUP, LLC.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.pa-erg.com

Energy Resources Group

200 North Third St. | Suite 1100 | Harrisburg, PA 17101

Phone: 717-233-8606 | Fax: 717-233-8665

E-Mail: info@pa-erg.com

[Click Here](#) to be removed from this list