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



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Also in September: AWEA Wind Resource and Project Energy Assessment Seminar

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AWEA Wind Resource & Project Energy Assessment Seminar
Sept. 13-14, 2012
Pittsburgh, PA

AWEA Offshore WINDPOWER Conference & Exhibition
Oct. 9-11, 2012
Virginia Beach, Va.

AWEA Wind Energy Fall Symposium
November 13-15, 2012
Chandler, Ariz.

AWEA Regional Wind Energy Summit - Southwest
December 5-6
Houston, Texas

More information:
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Top Story

American wind power reaches 50-gigawatt milestone: 2012 sets red-hot pace, but layoffs hit supply chain amid policy uncertainty for 2013

LAS VEGAS, NEV., Aug. 7, 2012 – American wind power has blown through an historic milestone--50 gigawatts (GW) of electric generating capacity, according to AWEA--just as Congress works to extend a critical federal policy and continue the growth of wind power in the United States.

AWEA CEO Denise Bode announced the achievement Tuesday at the National Clean Energy Summit hosted by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, and attended by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

The 50 GW online today mean that U.S. wind turbines now power the equivalent of nearly 13 million American homes, or as many as in Nevada, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, and Michigan combined. In addition, 50 GW of wind power capacity:

- Equals the generating power of 44 coal-fired power plants, or 11 nuclear power plants.

Executive Leadership

Denise Bode

- Avoids emitting as much carbon dioxide as taking 14 million cars off the road.
- Conserves 30 billion gallons of water a year compared to thermal electric generation, since wind energy uses virtually no water.

For an infographic on what 50 GW look like, see www.powerofwind.com.

“This milestone for wind-energy production marks continued success for this clean, renewable and domestically produced energy source,” said Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), father of the Production Tax Credit that has helped Iowa become the state with the second most wind power in the nation. “Wind energy has exceeded expectations since I first authored the tax incentive, in 1992, and offers an ideal for expanded production and use of alternative energy sources in the future.”

Among the projects that contributed to crossing the threshold of 50 GW (equal to 50,000 megawatts, MW) are projects newly connected to the power grid in Nevada, Oklahoma, Idaho, California, Hawaii and Iowa. Featuring turbines made by General Electric, REpower, Siemens and Vestas, they include:

- Pattern Energy’s Spring Valley wind farm, 30 miles east of Ely, Nevada (151.8 MW) (see related story)
- Enel Green Power North America’s Rocky Ridge wind farm in Oklahoma (148.8 MW)
- enXco’s Pacific Wind project in Kern County, California (140 MW)
- Utah Associated Municipal Power’s Horse Butte project in Idaho (57.6 MW)
- First Wind’s Kaheawa Wind II wind farm in Hawaii (21 MW)

“It is amazing that 50,000 megawatts of our nation’s power is generated from clean and affordable wind energy,” said U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK). “This is a very big milestone for the wind industry, and I am proud the Rocky Ridge Wind Project has contributed to this great success. As a leader of Congress, representing Oklahoma’s Third Congressional District, I have supported wind energy in the past, and I will continue to support it in the future.”

A series of community wind projects in Iowa also contributed to reaching the goal:

- AG Land 5 and 6 (3.2 MW)
- Cumberland Rose Wind Energy (1.6 MW)
- Forward Fontanelle Power (1.6 MW)
- Greenfield Wind Power (1.6 MW)
- Meadow Ridge Wind Energy (1.6 MW)
- Sky Volt (1.6 MW)

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Industry's growth has been geometric

Both American wind development and the capacity of a typical turbine have taken off in recent years. Although utility-scale wind generation dates to the early 1980s, it took 23 years to reach 5 GW of U.S. generating capacity (from 1981 to 2003).

American wind power reached 10 GW in 2006, 25 GW in 2008, and now has doubled that in just four more years. The last time a new energy technology ramped up to 50 GW was nuclear, in the late 1970s and early 1980s – since then, no new energy technology has been as successful as wind.

With the growth of capacity has come higher domestic content in U.S.-deployed wind turbines, which surged from 25 percent U.S.-made in 2005 to over 60 percent today, with a steadily increasing number of factories joining the supply chain here. Today, 500 U.S. factories provide wind power components.

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Jobs and continued growth depend on stable policies

Driving this powerful expansion has been relative policy stability starting in 2005, when President Bush and Congress extended the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC). With subsequent extensions, the PTC has not expired since, but is scheduled to do so at the end of the year. That has caused the industry's manufacturing supply chain to already start dramatically slowing down, given the 18-month project development cycle under which the industry operates.

"These truly are the best of times and could be the worst of times for American wind power," said Bode. "This month we shattered the 50-gigawatt mark, and we're on pace for one of our best years ever in terms of megawatts installed. But because of the uncertainty surrounding the extension of the Production Tax Credit, incoming orders are grinding to a halt.

"Layoffs have begun up and down our American manufacturing supply chain, which the industry has so proudly built up in support of the U.S. economy and made-in-the USA manufacturing. And when incoming orders stop, so do factories. Congress must act now to give wind energy a stable business environment to keep producing all this homegrown power, and save 37,000 American jobs by the first quarter of next year," Bode said. (see related story on recent layoffs)

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Bumper crop seen in 2012, amid uncertainty over 2013

News of the 50-gigawatt milestone comes just as AWEA released numbers for the second quarter that show an industry blazing forward in 2012 despite the policy uncertainty that has 2013 installations in doubt. American wind power installed enough new wind turbines just in April through June 2012 to power the equivalent of 330,000 average American households.

The new installations boosted the industry's total for the year to 1,400 turbines and over 2,800 MW to date, sufficient to power 840,000 homes, and underscored the success of the PTC incentive in creating jobs and helping the industry attract over \$15 billion a year of private investment in new wind farms.

AWEA reports more than 10,000 MW of wind farms were under construction at the quarter's end, an all-time record, with over 100 MW under construction in 21 states – headed by Texas, Kansas, California, Oklahoma and Iowa. The blistering pace of new construction results from wind farm developers' racing to finish work before the scheduled Dec. 31 expiration of the PTC, unless Congress acts to extend it.

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Layoffs mount in U.S. wind power manufacturing plants this week: *Four major manufacturers announce layoffs or dramatic changes to their businesses as Production Tax Credit for wind nears expiration*

Layoffs are increasing this week in the U.S. wind industry manufacturing sector in the absence of a policy signal only Congress can provide: extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) that has been the basis for rapid growth of U.S. jobs and manufacturing since 2005.

Layoffs announced this week include:

- In Tulsa, Okla., DMI Industries announced 167 workers will be unemployed by November;
- In West Fargo, N.D., DMI Industries said 216 jobs stand at risk;
- In Little Rock, Ark., LM Wind Power announced job reductions that will impact 94 full-time employees and 140 temporary workers and contractors; and,
- In Dallas, Tex., Trinity Structural Towers said it will shift reposition resources away from wind turbine tower manufacturing.

In response to the news that the DMI Industries plant in Tulsa would likely be closing and laying off all its workers, DMI welder Jim Leeds told a News OK reporter, "I was floored. It was a big shock ... With the economy the way it is, you



don't know what's going to happen, you hope for the best and unfortunately this is what happened to us." On working from now until his last day in November, Mr. Leeds said, "We'll fulfill the work we have and then try to look to the future somehow."

Jim Deedric has worked in DMI's West Fargo facility for 14 years and told West Fargo's WDAY6 DMI "has been a good company to work for and we appreciate what they have done for us ... It's an unknown and we don't know what's going to happen."

This week's layoffs add to a longer list that have already happened this year. Those include:

- Wind turbine manufacturer Gamesa furloughed 165 of its Pennsylvania-based workers (July 5, [Bloomberg](#))
- Wind measurement technology manufacturer NRG Systems laid off 18 Vermont-based employees in May, and an additional 12 in July— the first time in 30 years the firm has had to make any layoffs (May 22, [Windpower Monthly](#) and July 18, [Burlington Free Press](#))
- Wind turbine manufacturer Vestas laid off 182 employees (January 12, [Huffington Post](#))
- Wind project developer Iberdrola Renewables laid off 50 U.S. employees, about half of whom were based in Oregon (January 25, [North American Windpower](#))
- Wind pattern analysis company Windlogics cut 10 of its Minnesota-based employees (July 2, [Minnesota Public Radio](#))

The four companies, all major wind component manufacturers, laying off employees this week "represent what is happening and will continue to happen across the country in the U.S. wind industry if these businesses are not provided the policy certainty they need to continue to invest in America and its workers," said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. "I'm deeply distressed that our wind industry colleagues are facing furloughs and layoffs due to lack of stable tax policy. Unfortunately the industry has begun letting workers go up and down our American manufacturing supply chain, which the industry has so proudly built up in support of the U.S. economy and made-in-the-USA manufacturing. Congress must act now to give wind energy a stable business environment to keep building this new industry and save 37,000 American jobs by the first quarter of next year."

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Denver Post calls for quick action on PTC extension

Reacting to last week's approval by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee of a bill containing an extension of the federal wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC), the Denver Post said in an editorial Monday that it hopes Congress as a whole will do the same immediately after its August recess.

The Post's editorial was the second in two days on the issue from a major newspaper in a swing state, heightening the stakes in this year's Presidential

race. On Sunday, the Des Moines (Iowa) Register endorsed an extension of the PTC, noting that every member of the Iowa Congressional delegation supports the measure. Similarly, the Post said, eight of nine U.S. Representatives from Colorado, including Republicans Scott Tipton and Cory Gardner, are in favor of keeping the PTC in place. In addition, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) has been making speeches on the Senate floor each day the Senate is in session, calling for immediate action on a PTC extension.

Said the Post editorial in part, "Federal support of an industry through tax credits is not necessarily wasteful spending, in our view. We see it as an investment. We prefer to see the investment pay off in full, rather than wade through the carnage of a collapse should the extension fail.

"The wind association estimates that failure to extend the tax credit would result in the loss of 5,000 jobs in Colorado and tens of thousands more across the country. Given the state of the economy, we hope to see the Senate and the House rally around this bipartisan issue in short order."

The PTC provides an income tax credit of 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour for the first 10 years of electricity production from utility-scale wind turbines. It is set to expire on Dec. 31 unless Congress extends it first. A recent [study by Navigant Consulting](#) found that extending the Production Tax Credit will allow the industry to grow to 100,000 jobs in just four years, while an expiration would kill 37,000 jobs within a year.

A House bill seeking to extend the PTC has 110 cosponsors, including 25 Republicans, while a similar Senate bill is cosponsored by seven Senators, including three Republicans. PTC extension efforts have received the endorsement of a broad coalition of more than 370 members, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Edison Electric Institute, and the Western Governors' Association. A PTC extension also has the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Governors Association, and the bipartisan Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, which includes 23 Republican and Democratic Governors from across the U.S. A PTC extension has been endorsed by a number of newspapers across the country, including the [Houston Chronicle](#), [The New York Times](#), the [Denver Post](#), the [Daily Oklahoman](#), and the [Toledo Blade](#).

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Administration to speed seven major renewable energy projects that would power 1.5 million homes

Tuesday, as a part of his "We Can't Wait" initiative, President Obama announced that seven nationally and regionally significant solar and wind energy projects will be expedited, including projects in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Together, these job-creating projects would produce nearly 5,000 MW of clean energy--enough to power the equivalent of approximately 1.5 million homes, and support what the White House described as "the President's all-of-the-above

strategy to expand American-made energy."

The announcement included two major wind farms, the giant 3,000-MW Chokecherry/Sierra Madre project located on 230,000 acres in Wyoming and the 425-MW Mohave County Wind Farm in Arizona.

The Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Farm Project, proposed by Power Co. of Wyoming, would be the largest wind farm in North America. According to the White House news release, "The project, as currently configured, avoids critical sage-grouse habitat identified as 'Sage-Grouse Core Areas.' Chokecherry is a multi-tiered decision process that includes a land use plan decision anticipated in October ... followed by review of a series of right-of-way applications through 2014."

The Mohave County Wind Farm, proposed by BP Wind, would be located on approximately 38,000 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and 8,960 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Reclamation in Mohave County, Arizona.

As a part of a Presidential Executive Order issued in March of this year, the Office of Management and Budget is charged with overseeing a government-wide effort to make the permitting and review process for infrastructure projects more efficient and effective, saving time while driving better outcomes for the environment and local communities. Additional expedited infrastructure projects will be announced in the coming weeks.

"As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above strategy to expand domestic energy production and strengthen the economy, we are working to advance smart development of renewable energy on our public lands," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "These seven proposed solar and wind projects have great potential to grow our nation's energy independence, drive job creation, and power economies across the west."

The renewable energy projects announced today, the release said, build on the Obama Administration's record of success in permitting an unprecedented number of utility-scale renewable energy projects: "Thanks to a coordinated and focused review process, in the past three years, the Department of the Interior has approved more utility-scale renewable energy projects on public lands than in the past two decades combined--a total of 31 new projects. When constructed by the companies, these projects are expected to generate enough renewable energy to power the equivalent of 2.3 million American homes."

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Ex-Im Bank okays \$32.1 million for export of blades to Brazil

In line with its congressional mandate to increase support for renewable-energy exports, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) said recently that it has authorized a \$32.1 million loan guarantee to Wind Power Energia SA of Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the purchase of wind turbine blades manufactured by LM

Wind Power Blades, Inc., of Little Rock, Ark.

The financing, which guarantees a Bank of America loan, will support approximately 250 permanent American jobs at the company's Little Rock, Ark., and Grand Forks, N.D., manufacturing facilities.

"The Bank's loan guarantee will facilitate the export of American-made products to one of our nine key markets at a critical time," said Ex-Im Bank Chairman and President Fred P. Hochberg. "By doing so, it will simultaneously support American jobs in a valuable industry and boost Brazil's clean-energy prospects."

The wind blades will be used on turbines for a 180-MW wind farm in the Brazilian state of Bahia and another 211-MW farm in the state of Ceara.

"We welcome the vision and assistance of Ex-Im Bank, which has enabled us to develop a new and growing market opportunity for wind-turbine blades in Brazil," said Richard Pettifor, LM Wind Power's commercial director for the Americas. "As well as developing the Brazilian renewable-energy market and overall production capacity, it will also support the prospect of long-term growth in LM Wind Power's America business with approximately 250 permanent green-energy jobs in Arkansas and North Dakota."

Headquartered in Little Rock, LM Wind Power Blades is a manufacturer of wind blades and operates facilities in Arkansas and North Dakota. The company is a subsidiary of LM Wind Power, the largest manufacturer of wind-turbine blades in the world.

Wind Power Energia, a subsidiary of Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona SA of Argentina, designs and manufactures wind turbines for power projects in Brazil and South America. It favors turnkey solutions and currently ranks as the market leader in Brazil. The transaction is the company's first with Ex-Im Bank.

In FY 2012 to date, the Bank has authorized approximately \$415 million for renewable energy exports of all types worldwide.

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Nevada's first wind power project begins generating clean energy

Pattern Energy Group LP said Wednesday that its Spring Valley Wind project--the first wind power project in the state of Nevada--is fully operational. A ceremony took place to commence commercial operations at the 151.8-MW facility, located near the town of Ely.

"I couldn't be happier that Nevada's first commercial wind facility is located in Spring Valley," said U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D). "Pattern has done a tremendous job working with White Pine County, the State of Nevada and other Federal agencies to bring clean, affordable power to more than 45,000 Nevada homes. We have just begun to tap into Nevada's tremendous wind energy resources and more job-creating projects like this will be good for our economy and our

environment. Renewable energy is the way of the future. There is no reason in the world, with all the renewable energy sources Nevada has, that we shouldn't be energy independent."

"Advancing smart renewable energy development on our nation's public lands is a key component to President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "Starting today, Nevada's first wind energy project on public lands will begin powering the grid. This is a great milestone in the collaborative public-private partnership on clean energy that is creating jobs, generating power, strengthening our economy and making us more competitive globally."

"Building Nevada's first wind energy facility was a collaborative process that would not have been possible without the strong support and hard work of numerous groups and individuals across the state and around the country," said Mike Garland, CEO of Pattern Energy. "Spring Valley Wind had the benefit of receiving bipartisan support from Senator Reid, Senator [Dean] Heller [R], Secretary Salazar, and local government officials as well as the great people of Ely. We were also able to work constructively with many others, including the local Native American tribes and environmental groups. We thank them for their support and look forward to being a valued member of the community and providing significant benefits to the community and school system for decades to come."

"Spring Valley was built with American-made products by many locally-hired workers, including our assistant facility manager, Tom Ashby, who is a local from Ely. All of the major turbine components were manufactured in Iowa and Kansas and the project's advanced radar system was built by DeTect in Florida. Going forward, Spring Valley Wind will generate significant local tax revenues, alleviating the burden on local taxpayers and demonstrating that this successful clean energy project is also a meaningful long-term investment in the economic health of the community."

"Pattern was also proud to bring its environmental leadership to Spring Valley Wind with groundbreaking mitigation measures that minimize impacts on the environment. These measures include preservation of cultural resources, funding for sage grouse, curtailment standards, modified electrical lines to reduce risks to birds, and an advanced radar system designed to protect birds and bats."

"Mortenson is delighted by the opportunity to partner with Pattern on such an important milestone for the state," said Tom Wacker, SVP of Mortenson Renewable Energy Groups. "The construction of Spring Valley resulted in the creation of approximately 240 jobs. Over 40 businesses throughout the state were involved during construction and nearly \$10 million has been spent with those businesses on construction goods and services. It's gratifying to be part of a project that has contributed so significantly to the local and surrounding communities."

"We are honored to once again work with Pattern as they make history in Nevada and continue to develop wind projects across the Americas," said Mark Albenze, CEO of Siemens Wind Power Americas. "This marks our 10th project completed, in development or under contract, totaling more than 800 wind turbine units capable of producing clean energy for more than 500,000 average homes."

Because of customers like Pattern, Siemens has invested more than \$100 million in factories and jobs to make its state-of-the-art wind turbine blades and nacelles right here in the U.S."

Spring Valley Wind created approximately 240 jobs during construction and 13 full-time permanent positions for ongoing operations and maintenance. The wind energy project is expected to generate more than \$20 million in tax revenue for White Pine County and the state of Nevada's Renewable Energy Fund over the next 20 years. Pattern has entered into a 20-year power purchase agreement with NV Energy for the sale of energy produced by the project.

Mortenson Construction managed construction of the project, which utilizes 66 Siemens 2.3-MW wind turbines and is connected to an existing 230-kilovolt transmission line for electricity distribution.

Spring Valley Wind will be Pattern's fourth operating wind project in North America and is one of a number of wind power projects that Pattern expects to bring into operation over the next 12 months in North America, Puerto Rico and Latin America.

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Geronimo Wind Energy sells Prairie Rose Wind Farm to Enel Green Power

On Monday, Geronimo Wind Energy announced the sale of its 200-MW Prairie Rose Wind Farm to its strategic partner, Enel Green Power (EGP). Subsequent to the sale, GE Financial Services acquired an ownership interest in the project from EGP.

The Prairie Rose Wind Farm is located in Rock County in southwestern Minnesota and will consist of 119 1.68-MW GE turbines. The project will generate enough electricity to power approximately 75,000 homes and displace approximately 650,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. Rock County and its residents in particular will benefit from Prairie Rose, which is expected to create up to 300 construction jobs, about a dozen permanent jobs, and will contribute approximately \$850,000 annually in tax revenue to the county and townships. In addition, landowner payments from the project will exceed \$1 million per year. The project is currently under construction and will be completed by the end of the year. Prairie Rose has a 20-year power purchase agreement for the electricity it generates with Northern States Power Company (NSP), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy.

The sale of the Prairie Rose Wind Farm to our strategic partner Enel Green Power represents a very important milestone in our company's history," said Geronimo President Blake Nixon. "We are very pleased to bring EGP and its world class operating knowledge to the project and the community that is hosting it."

GE Energy Financial Services said in a news release that it has committed approximately \$156 million in common equity for 51 percent of the project, while EGP committed approximately \$149 million for a 49 percent ownership stake and

serves as project manager.

The GE unit and Enel Green Power North America also raised approximately \$190 million in tax equity to be provided by a syndicate led by J. P. Morgan which includes Wells Fargo Wind Holdings LLC and Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. The tax equity will be funded at project completion and will reduce both GE Energy Financial Services' and Enel Green Power North America's stakes in the wind farm.

"This transaction showcases GE's ability to provide both world-class technology and flexible financing structures for our customers and advances our long-term partnership with Enel Green Power, an established renewable energy leader," said Kevin Walsh, Managing Director of Power and Renewable Energy at GE Energy Financial Services.

Construction of Prairie Rose, managed by Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction, is expected to be completed later this year. Enel Green Power North America will have the option to purchase up to an additional 26 percent ownership stake from the GE unit later in 2012 and in 2013.

This transaction expands GE Energy Financial Services' and Enel Green Power North America's portfolio of co-owned wind projects. In April, the companies invested in the 235-MW Chisholm View wind project under construction near Hunter, Okla., which also will use GE wind turbines. The GE unit and Enel Green Power North America also invested in the 101-MW Smoky Hills wind farm in Kansas and the 63-MW Snyder wind farm in Texas.

GE Energy Financial Services' global wind portfolio now comprises equity and debt financings for projects spanning 17 U.S. states and four other countries totaling 9.9 GW in operation or under construction.

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United Technologies completes sale of Clipper Windpower

Hartford, Conn.-based conglomerate United Technologies said this week that it had completed the sale of wind turbine manufacturer Clipper Windpower, of Carpinteria, Calif., to Los Angeles investment firm Platinum Equity. The price of the transaction was undisclosed.

News reports said the sale is one of a number of moves United Technologies has made to raise money to pay for the recent acquisition of Goodrich Corp., a manufacturer of aircraft components and other products based in Charlotte, N.C.

According to AWEA's annual wind industry market report for 2011, Clipper Windpower installed 103 turbines in the U.S. during the year, totaling 257.5 MW of capacity (a 3.8 percent market share).

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AWEA News

AWEA Regional Wind Energy Summit - New England

With a focus on New England, this seminar is packed with experts who specialize in issues pertinent to wind development in this region of the United States. The Regional Wind Energy Summits have been a popular new addition to the AWEA lineup, and the latest installment comes to New England for the first time Sept. 5-6 in Portland, Maine. [Learn more.](#)

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AWEA News

AWEA Wind Resource and Project Energy Assessment Seminar

Join your resource assessment peers and the wind industry's leaders as they explore new challenges and find critical solutions to key issues in this crucial field within the industry. With insights from presenters who are the experts in the field, this event is worth adding to your calendar. The event takes place Sept. 13-14 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

If you are new to wind resource assessment, or are just interested in a baseline refresher, consider the basic webinar scheduled prior to the seminar: [Resource Assessment 101](#). This introductory webinar is specifically designed for those wind professionals new to resource assessment, or those who are already familiar but who would like to hone their knowledge. This webinar will maximize your learning during the more technical onsite seminar program.

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