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*"This kind of collaboration is essential to addressing complex challenges like sustainable energy and efficient transportation."*

Mary Sue Coleman, U of M President

# Watt's New? *Michigan Energy News*

## MISO Says Presque Isle Coal-Fired Plant Must Stay Open

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) has concluded that the 431 MW Presque Isle coal-fired power plant must remain open for reliability reasons. As a result, it has denied the request by We Energies to suspend operations at its plant by February 2014. Discussions are underway between the company and MISO as to how to compensate the company for the mandated continued operation. Who will pay the cost will ultimately be proposed by MISO in a filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The viability of the joint venture effort between We Energies and Wolverine Power Cooperative to upgrade the pollution control equipment at the plant is uncertain.

## Getting Closer to Making Good Energy Decisions

Three of the four energy reports requested by Governor Snyder have now been finalized by MPSC Chairman John Quackenbush and Michigan Energy Office Director Steve Bakka. The three reports concern *Renewable Energy*, *Additional Areas*, and *Electric Choice*. The fourth report, *Energy Efficiency*, will be finalized later this month. Each can be found at [www.michigan.gov/energy](http://www.michigan.gov/energy). In comments filed prior to finalization of the *Renewable Energy* report, the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council provided research that used data cited in the draft report to show that not only could Michigan accommodate up to 30 percent renewable energy by 2035, but that 40 percent by 2035 was achievable.

## Assessment of Wind Energy Opportunities in Michigan

On November 4, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Conference held a state-specific conference in East Lansing to discuss Michigan wind issues. The event, which attracted over 150 participants, ran all day at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University Campus. AWEA staffers gave both the national wind update and the regional market update. The specifics of the Michigan situation were covered by representatives from Mackinaw Power LLC, the Michigan Public Service Commission, the Michigan Environmental Council, Consumers Energy, and DTE Energy, followed by a lunch address by Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan and Senator Ron Widen of Oregon. After lunch there were small group "tabletop" discussions on topics which included technology developments, economic benefits, off-shore wind, natural gas future, supply chain/manufacturing, community wind, and siting issues. Afternoon panel discussions focused on various aspects of the Michigan experience, highlighting the 988 MW of installed wind turbines capacity and efforts to build on the "proof on concept" provided by the 2008 renewable portfolio standard mandate.

## New Battery Lab at U of M

Industry and university researchers will collaborate on developing cheaper and longer lasting energy storage devices at a new \$8 million battery research lab at the University of Michigan. Located within the newly renovated Phoenix Memorial Laboratory, the new lab has received \$5 million from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, \$2.1 million from Ford Motor Company, and \$0.9 million from the U of M College of Engineering. The new facility will be used for prototyping, testing, and analyzing batteries and the materials that go into them. The facility will be open to both automotive and non-automotive battery makers, and is expected to explore battery opportunities, including the integration of the power grid with solar and wind energy utilizing batteries.

## Energy Gala Spotlights Shining Stars

October's Michigan Energy Innovators Gala ("Made in Michigan") in East Lansing presented by the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council was well attended by industry and governmental officials. The speaker for the evening was Sun Edison founder, Jigar Shah, who focused on energy innovation opportunities. He told the audience that 25 percent of all energy installations last year worldwide were solar; an approximate \$100 billion in investment. The highlights of the evening's program were the various awards:

- Michigan Business of the Year: VenTower Industries of Monroe
- Michigan Emerging Business of the Year: GreenLancer of Detroit
- Michigan Employer of the Year: Patriot Solar Group of Albion
- Michigan Public Official(s) of the Year: Michigan Public Service Commission Chair, John Quackenbush, and Michigan Energy Office Director, Steve Bakkal
- Michigan Energy Innovator Hall of Fame: Stanford Ovshinsky and Richard VanderVeen.

### Michigan Energy Venues

- *Consumers Energy Forum on Anaerobic Digester Production of Energy*, Okemos Conference Center, Okemos, 8:00 AM, November 26. [www.events.anr.msu.edu/mienergyforum](http://www.events.anr.msu.edu/mienergyforum)
- *Michigan Advanced Lighting Conference*, Electric Industry Training Center, Warren, 8:00 AM, December 3. [www.tinyurl.com/MiALConf](http://www.tinyurl.com/MiALConf)
- *Joint Meeting of Bioenergy, Wind Energy, and Solar Energy Supply Chains*, Varnum LLP, Grand Rapids, 11:30 AM, December 5. Email [ChaplaR@rightplace.org](mailto:ChaplaR@rightplace.org)
- *Annual Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association Membership Meeting*, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, 11:30 AM, December 7. [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org)

## Michigan Shorts

ΩΩ Patriot Solar of Albion will be partnering with New Generation Power of Chicago and WAAREE Group of India on a 315 MW solar project in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India, in 2014 Ω Lean & Green Michigan has announced that Macomb County and Saginaw County have each voted to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs Ω Applied Energy Technologies of Clinton Township will provide solar module racking for a 1.7 MW project in Tolleson, Arizona Ω Sader Power of New Orleans is building solar panels at its manufacturing plant in Pontiac Ω GreenLancer took first place in the "Start-Up Alley Challenge" at the Solar Power International show in Chicago in October Ω The City of Chelsea has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MEDC to become Solar Development Ready ΩΩ

## Utilities Building More Wind Farms

Consumers Energy has started construction on its Cross Winds Energy Park in Tuscola County. The project, to be located in Akron and Columbia Townships, has agreements with the Tuscola County Road Commission for the maintenance, repair, and upgrades to area roads to be used for transporting wind turbine components and related project materials. The 105 MW project will be comprised of 62 wind turbines. Barton Malow of Southfield is the lead contractor, and the project is being assisted by Duke Energy personnel. In Huron County, the first 13 wind turbines of DTE Energy's Echo Wind Park have recently been commissioned. The project schedule calls for all 70 turbines (112 MW) to be operational by the end of 2013. This is the third wind farm to be owned and operated by DTE Energy, which now has contracts signed or projects in operation to bring its renewable energy portfolio to 9.8 percent of its annual load.

## Advanced Energy Storage Company Moves to New Facility

Navitas Systems LLC will expand its Michigan operations and move to a new location in Pittsfield Charter Township. The company produces advanced batteries and power electronics for commercial and government markets. Navitas Systems acquired the Government Solutions Group (defense related assets) of lithium battery maker A123 Systems out of bankruptcy in early 2013. The company says the new location will allow it to expand and add low-volume production of power electronics and energy storage systems. NextEnergy is assisting the company, along with the MEDC, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Automation Alley, the Center for Automotive Research, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce. Navitas will be investing \$9.3 million and creating 125 jobs over the next four years.



*"Advanced energy technology industries have seen significant growth in the state, and Navitas is a great example of just one of the companies driving that growth."*

Jean Redfield  
NextEnergy President and CEO

