## power finance & risk

The exclusive source for power financing and trading news

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### **Web Exclusive**

**XL Weather & Energy** has started offering contracts to hedge against power outages and price risk in natural gas and power markets.

For the full story go to *PFR*'s Web site (www.iipower.com)

## Power Plant Development Roundup

*PFR* is initiating a monthly index of new and canceled power plant development projects.

See feature, page 5

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# Billion Dollar Warchest DALLAS HEDGE FUND BRINGS IN KENDALL TO MAKE POWER FORAY

Carlson Capital, a Dallas hedge fund with \$3.1 billion under management, has hired Don Kendall, a founder of Credit Suisse First Boston's project finance business, to search out investment opportunities in the depressed power market. One financier says the fund is bankrolling the effort to the tune of \$1 billion and Kendall may use the funds to acquire distressed assets. Another power official, who was unaware of the hire, says

(continued on page 8)

### **AIG SET TO ENTER U.K. POWER MARKET**

AIG Energy, the Stamford, Conn.-based shop looking to acquire distressed generation assets, is planning to enter the U.K. market and has hired a former Enron Europe board member to lead the push. The subsidiary of triple-A rated insurer American International Group has recruited Mathew Scrimshaw, a 10-year Enron veteran, to build a London-based business and search out investment opportunities in the U.K., according to market watchers. Scrimshaw, reached at home, says he will join AIG on March 17, but declined further comment. He reports to Tony Gordon, head of global energy, who also declined comment.

(continued on page 8)

### **GOLDMAN SWOOPS FOR EL PASO TRADING BOOK**

Goldman Sachs has purchased El Paso Corp.'s European natural gas trading book, a move that highlights Goldman's burgeoning confidence and activity in the European energy markets and El Paso's desire to wind down its London-based trading operations in short order. El Paso said in a statement that the sale will realize total cash proceeds of approximately \$80 million, including the recovery of cash collateral, but did not name the buyer or reveal what the counterparty had paid for the book. Senior officials at Goldman and El Paso declined comment.

That Goldman bought the book comes as no surprise, says one London trader, noting (continued on page 8)

## WILLIAMS CONTINUES CUTS; SENIOR TRADER JOINS CITADEL

Williams Co.s has continued to cut into the headcount of its Energy Marketing & Trading operation in Tulsa, Okla., with a recent round of layoffs believed to total around 70, including Greg Hickl, head of power trading. Separately, Steve Culliton, EM&T's head of forward and financial power trading who left the firm several months ago, recently joined Citadel Investment Group, a hedge fund in Chicago. Hickl and Culliton declined comment.

Brad Church, a Williams spokesman, confirmed Hickl and Culliton's departures and

(continued on page 8)

## Private Equity Shops Play Waiting Game

The much-hyped influx of private equity players into the power sector may not materialize any time soon. Robert Gurman, managing director at Prospect Street Ventures, told attendees at an Infocast power conference in New York that his firm is sitting on the sidelines because, "There is not an active market for distressed assets as yet." But, he thinks that will change over the next 12-18 months as operators are forced to sell assets.

Peter Rigby, director at Standard & Poor's, also questioned interest among private equity players in taking on distressed assets. He noted that so far these players have focused buying transmission and pipelines. He added that some private equity firms have said they're not interested in merchant assets.

## Banks Set To Take Keys On U.S. Plants

Banks could end up controlling U.S. power plants saddled with tens of billion of dollars of debt as the original owners walk out on generation assets crippled by project level loans far exceeding the plants' value, warns John Veech, managing director at Lehman Brothers.

The bleak forecast, given to delegates at an Infocast conference in New York last week, mirrors similar events unfurling in the U.K. (PFR, 1/13). While U.K. creditors are seemingly reluctant to sell the plants they've recently acquired in a moribund generation market, some U.S. players believe there could be a quicker turn around in the U.S. as banks accept significant write downs on their investments. "It is a harsh reality, which is slowly sinking its way into folks," said Veech. He told delegates that these "bite-the-

bullet" type divestitures will start appearing in the second half of this year.

Veech argued that once a few deals have been done the flow will ramp up. The M&A market will provide a yardstick for marked-to-market values and that again is going to put pressure on lenders to recognize the deterioration in the debt value.

### **Hawaiian Utility To Refinance Debt**

Hawaiian Electric Industries will look to the bond market to refinance \$136 million of long-term debt that comes due in April. Suzy Hollinger, manager, investor relations, said the company is planning to issue \$100 million in medium-term notes out of a prior \$300 million shelf registration. The remaining \$36 million will be bankrolled through internal funds.

Hollinger says Merrill Lynch will lead the offering and work with a handful of unspecified banks on HEI's roster. The debt comes due on April 15, but HEI is looking to complete the refinancing this month. HEI is rated BBB/Baa2.

## **U.K. Trading Start-Up Adds Two**

Foundation Energy, a start-up that will trade physical and financial power and gas in the U.K., has hired a pair of traders. David Matthews, previously a power trader at Dynegy in London, will join Foundation Energy in April in a similar role, according to Marcello Romano, managing director. Adam Lewis, formerly a gas trader at Dynegy, will also join in April in a similar capacity. Romano was previously head of oil and gas trading for Europe at Dynegy.

Foundation Energy is looking to raise some GBP25 million (\$41 million) in capital and is in discussions with financiers. It expects to start trading in April (PFR, 2/3).

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### **Killingholme Chief Resigns**

Stuart Jackson, recently appointed ceo of Killingholme Power, has resigned, a month after taking the helm at the bank-owned U.K. power plant. Jackson, formerly head of NRG Energy's European power business, began working for Killingholme's creditors last month after NRG walked out on the 680 MW gas-fired power plant (PFR, 2/10). A City creditor involved in the financing says the banks have yet to appoint a new ceo.

Jackson left Killingholme to join **Stolt Offshore**, a New York and Oslo-listed offshore oil and gas contractor, as cfo. He will join April 22.

"Having steered Killingholme out of NRG Energy ownership and into the new world of being a bank-owned merchant plant, I announced my resignation a couple of weeks ago," Jackson said in an e-mail sent to industry officials and *PFR*.

## Government Consultant Slams U.K. White Paper

The U.K. government's long-awaited policy document on the future of the country's energy industry came in for a pasting from one of its advisors last week.

Tony White, former head of utility research at Schroder Salomon Smith Barney, and a member of the government's advisory panel on energy, told investors on a conference call last week that the document is, "Good on rhetoric and pathetic on delivery."

White's main complaint is that while the White Paper sets out bold targets for cutting CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, it does little to facilitate this change.

"It sets out a very aggressive target of reducing carbon emissions to 60% by 2050...If anyone had told me five years ago that the government was going to sign up [to this] I would have thought they were smoking something. It's a massive change."

But White, who was directly involved in drafting the White Paper, says the chances of achieving this emission target are slim. Part of the problem is that the government has proposed nothing to spur the growth of carbon credit trading, a tool that could prompt investment in green energy.

An even bigger obstacle is the government's decision not to replace the U.K.'s aging fleet of nuclear power stations, the only mainstream generation source that doesn't create CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. The White Paper states that renewable power will replace nuclear power and that the 60% carbon emission reduction will come from increasing energy efficiency measures such as house insulation.

"I have difficulty thinking this will happen. Within 3-4 years the Government will realize that relying on energy efficiency just is not going to work," said White.

### **CSFB Touts NorthWestern Paper**

Lead underwriter Credit Suisse First Boston has been offering some of its exposure to NorthWestern Corp.'s \$390 million B term loan in the secondary market. Market officials say the strategy by CSFB was planned from the outset (PFR, 12/23), noting it didn't fully syndicate the facility because of flux at the utility holding company. The amount of paper offered could not be determined, nor could the offer price. Calls to CSFB were not returned.

Major financial and management changes were in the works at NorthWestern when syndication was launched, so CSFB didn't pitch the deal to the whole market, they add. Since the turn of the year, the Sioux Falls, S.D., company has hired a new ceo and also suspended its dividend in a bid to strengthen its finances.

The \$390 million five-year term loan priced at LIBOR +575 basis points—after initially being pitched at a 550 basis point spread—with a 3% LIBOR floor.

## El Paso Pays Up For B Loan, But Earns Call Option

El Paso Corp. was forced last week to offer a rich 10% yield to refinance an \$825 million facility in the B loan market, but on the flip side bagged the option to call the deal early; an innovation for the power sector B loan market.

The \$1 billion two-year B term loan—that refinances El Paso's Trinity River structured financing—was priced at LIBOR plus 625 basis points with a LIBOR floor set at 3.5%, according to market officials, adding it was priced at a discount to yield north of 10%.

One banker says the deal highlights the growing sophistication of the B—or institutional investor—loan market, because on the one hand pricing is beefy, but on the other El Paso has landed considerable optionality, something not afforded to previous energy companies that have tapped the B loan market. The deal is callable at 99.25 for the first four months, 99.75 for the following four months and then at par until maturity.

The B loan is secured against El Paso's Trinity River gas exploration and production assets. The facility will be repaid in three installments: \$250 million in June 2004, \$250 million in September 2004 and \$500 million in March 2005.

According to an 8K statement filed last month, the new financing gives El Paso greater access to the revenues of its Trinity River assets than under the previous arrangement, where cashflow was earmarked to amortize the loan. Credit Suisse First Boston and Salomon Smith Barney arranged the new financing.

## **Project Finance Workouts Conference**

Around 80 attendees and speakers attended Infocast's Project Finance Workouts: Dealing With Distressed Energy Projects' conference in New York last week. Speakers covered a range of issues surrounding the distressed world of power loans. Peter Thompson, senior reporter, filed the following articles.

### **Consultants Defend Forecasts**

Industry consultants that have taken flak for their overly optimistic power price forecasts over the past few years hit back at criticism that their forward curve projections fuelled the boom-bust cycle that's gripping the IPP industry.

In response to a delegate's question on why the consulting industry hadn't forecast the downturn, **Todd Filsinger**, head of **PA Consulting**'s wholesale energy markets practice, noted that PA has been pointing out for a while that there was the potential for the market to take a hit. **Judah Rose**, senior v.p. at **ICF Consulting**, supported this view. He noted his firm only had a minority share of the power plant consulting market, in part because it walked away from projects where it didn't want to participate in the exuberant forecasts.

Mike Hamilton, a consultant at FTI Consulting, joked, "If anyone could accurately predict the curves, they'd be sitting on a beach in Hawaii, not running a consulting firm."

One veteran lender told *PFR* that consultants shouldn't take all the blame. Anyone in a deal that has gone bad should look at their own internal projections rather than looking for a scapegoat. "These deals were not done on the basis of consultant reports," he reflected.

### **Pros See Staggered Buildout**

The bulk of U.S. plants under construction will be completed by year-end, but the picture for when markets will be able to absorb the new capacity and so make it attractive for new projects to move forward varies dramatically by region, according to speakers.

Todd Filsinger, head of the wholesale energy markets practice at PA Consulting, told delegates, "We are not in a one-year problem here." But, PA analysis shows that while the reserve margin for Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada will absorb the glut of capacity by 2006, in NEPOOL and SERC overcapacity will weigh on the market until 2008 and SPP until 2009.

With lead-in times of around two to three years, Judah Rose, senior v.p. at ICF Consulting, agreed that overcapacity isn't going to persist for as long as some bears suggest. "It's not a 10-year problem. It's a couple of years problem."

Zeroing in on the current new build market, Dave Dunning, senior v.p. at engineering contractor Duke/Fluor Daniel, said his firm's current book of eight projects will mostly wrap this year, with a couple closing in 2004. He construsted that book, with

last year, when 34 projects were in the pipeline. Filsinger also argued that more cancellations may be on the way.

"In the Southeast expect more cancellations because of problem projects, not problem sponsors," he said, referring to PA analysis that shows spark spreads in the region won't cover plant debt until around 2008.

## Vulture Funds Turn Up Heat In Restructuring Talks

Traditional power sector lenders will have to get used to heated restructuring talks now that distressed investors are sitting across the discussion table, warned two workout attorneys.

"A lot of my time is spent trying to stop lenders from killing each other," quipped **Doug Fried**, partner at **Chadbourne & Parke**, in a session on the dynamics of inter-creditor talks. At the heart of the issue is the conflict between the original lenders, who lent money at par, and distressed asset investors who bought the debt at 30 cents on the dollar, he explained. That difference obviously alters what each group sees as an acceptable restructuring.

In the same session, Herb Glasser, partner at Haynes & Boone, said conflict can also arise from the industry expertise gap between the long-term lenders and the distressed players, who may also have a shorter term view. "If someone has bought at 30 cents on the dollar, they may not want to get to know anything about the industry," he said.

### **Regulation Takes A Beating**

The U.S. legal and regulatory framework came in for some not-so-subtle stick from speakers reflecting on the downturn of the U.S. market. Peter Rigby, director at Standard & Poor's, recounted a conversation with a major European power player who believes legal and regulatory risks make the U.S. market unattractive, so it is focusing instead on Mexico, which is a more stable country. And California seems to have few friends in the sector. "There are a lot of emerging market workouts going on, particularly in California," quipped Herb Glasser, a partner at Haynes & Boone, during a session focused on the peculiarities of emerging market work-outs.

And the smell of politics may not be the only aroma wafting from the Golden State. **Jeff Bodington**, head of advisory boutique **Bodington & Co.**, told attendees he was involved in an assignment on an underperforming hydro asset in the West. After

some investigation, he discovered 'farmers' were siphoning off water in remote locations before it could reach the hydro plant to irrigate an illicit herb. "It was a green cash crop. It's usually smoked," he dryly observed.

## **Polsky Pummels Merchant Model**

Michael Polsky, the IPP entrepreneur who sold his Wisvest-backed SkyGen Energy operation to Calpine for \$450 million three years back, tore into the oft-floated argument that the sectors' woes can be traced to a confluence of extraordinary problems. "It was not a 'perfect storm.' It was a failure of the business," he told attendees.

Polsky also questioned the feasibility of the merchant generation business model, arguing that access to end users is crucial to success in the power industry. "The business model became building plants, not building a business," he reflected.

Now back on the acquisition trail in his new **Invenergy** vehicle, Polsky says he has been looking at generation. But he noted that some sellers aren't too pleased with his analysis that their unfinished plants are not worth Invenergy's consideration, even if the sponsor agreed to just turn over the key. A lot of

unfinished facilities may be mothballed for a long time, or just sold for their parts, he believes.

Polsky left Calpine in 2001 to form his Chicago operation.

### Panelists See Benefits In Ch. 11

The steep interest rate hikes associated with many of the highprofile corporate loan restructurings of recent months left panelists questioning whether filing for bankruptcy protection might not prove a better longer-term option for embattled power companies unable to repay debt.

Peter Rigby, director at Standard & Poor's, says the airline industry could provide an illustration of what may happen in the power sector. When one carrier files, the others have to look at the option because generally the carrier that emerges from Chapter 11 is no longer weighed down by debt. But he added the nature of generation assets makes the power industry unlike other sectors, such as retailing, where Chapter 11 filings can reduce the level of competition and improve the business environment. "Power plants don't go away. Take away their fixed costs and they become more competitive," he told attendees.

## Power Plant Development Roundup



Some 2,215 MW of generation projects were cancelled in the U.S. last month, versus 2,045 MW of new capacity announced in the same period, according to a straw poll of publicly announced activity compiled by *PFR*.

Entergy, which has pulled out of a proposed 615 MW natural gas-fired plant in Orient

Township, Iowa, instead will focus on acquiring distressed generation assets in the eastern third of the U.S., according to Larry Daspit, spokesman in Houston. NRG Energy and

**Dominion Resources** have separately nixed projects in California and North Carolina, respectively.

Meanwhile Calpine is interested in building an unspecified number of natural gas-fired plants in Wisconsin and Florida Power & Light recently cleared the penultimate regulatory hurdle in getting approval for a new project in Florida. The Salt River Project has started expanding a 360 MW plant in Arizona and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power plans to build in the Mojave Desert what would be the largest municipally owned wind plant in the U.S.

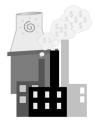
The following information is culled from press reports, industry sources and company announcements and is deemed reliable but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. To report new power projects or cancellations, contact Will Ainger, managing editor, at (44-20) 7303 1735 or via e-mail (wainger@euromoneyplc.com).

New U.S. Power Projects Announced (February)

Developer	Project Name	MW size	Fuel type	Location	Cost (\$M)	Status	Expected completion date
Calpine	-	Unknown	Natural gas	Fond du Lac, Wis.	-	Plans to ask Public Service Commission for permission	-
Florida Power & Light	Parrish	1,100	Natural gas	Parrish, Fla.	560	Awaiting power plant siting board certification	-
Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power	Pine Tree Wind	120	Wind	Mojave Desert, Calif.	162	Subject to city council review	July 2004
Salt River Project	Santan	825	Natural gas	Gilbert, Ariz.	-	Started construction	2005

#### **U.S. Power Projects Cancelled (February)**

Developer	Project Name	MW size	Fuel type	Location	Cost (\$M)	Reason cancelled
Dominion Resources	Roxboro	1,100	Natural gas	Roxboro, N.C.	600	Deteriorating market
Entergy	-	615	Natural gas	Orient Township, Iowa	300-500	Overbuild, recession & rising natural gas prices
NRG Energy	-	500	-	Mesquite, Calif.	250	Weak market & NRG's financial position



## **Generation Auction & Sale Calendar**

Following is a directory of ongoing generation asset sales. The accuracy of the information, which is derived from many sources, is deemed reliable but cannot be guaranteed. To report new auctions or changes in the status of a sale, please call Will Ainger, managing editor, at (44-20) 7303-1735 or e-mail wainger@euromoneyplc.com.

Seller	Plants	Location	MW	Plant Type	Advisor	Status
ADWEA	Um Al Nar	Abu Dhabi	1,100	Gas & Water Desalination	CSFB	Int'l Power is preferred bidder.
AEP	Fiddler's Ferry Fern Bridge	U.K. U.K.	2,000 2,000	Coal Coal	N/A	Intention to sell.
AES	Yarra Power Station Jeeralang Mt Stuart	Australia Australia Australia	510 449 288	Gas Gas Gas		Has appointed an advisor.
AES Fifoots Point	Fifoots Point	U.K.	363	Coal	KPMG (Administrator)	Looking to sell plant.
Allegheny Energy Supply	Armstrong Mitchell	Penn. Penn.	356 442	Coal Coal	J.P. Morgan J.P. Morgan	In talks with Exelon In talks with Exelon
Alliant Energy	Southern Hydro	Victoria, Australia	500	Hydro	N/A	Intention to sell.
American Electric Power/ Central and Southwest Corp.	Northeastern units 3 & 4 Lon C. Hill Nueces Bay Ennis S. Joslin	Okla. Texas Texas Texas	300 546 559 249	Coal Gas Gas Gas	N/A	Reviewing sale strategies.
BP	Great Yarmouth	U.K.	400	Gas	J.P. Morgan	Intention to sell.
Calpine	11 QFs	Calif. & East Coast	1,000	Gas	Salomon Smith Barney	Ongoing.
Cinergy	Cinergetika Energetika Chropyne EPR Ely Moravske Teplamy Pizenska Energetika Redditch Teptama Otrokovice	Czech Rep. Czech Rep. U.K. Czech Rep. Czech Rep. U.K. Czech Rep.	230 48 36 410 406 29 349 (11%)	CHP CHP Straw CHP CHP Gas CHP	J.P. Morgan	Expects to sell assets shortly.
CMS Energy	Loy Yang Ensenada CT Mendoza El Chocon	Melbourne, Australia Argentina Argentina Argentina	2,000 128 520 1,320	Coal Gas-fired Gas-fired Hydroelectric	Not chosen J.P. Morgan J.P. Morgan J.P. Morgan	Announced intention to sell.
DPL	All plants	Ohio	3,500	N/A	Morgan Stanley	
El Paso Europe	Enfield EMA Power Kladna	U.K. Hungary Czech Rep.	396 (25%) 70 350	Gas Coal Coal	No Advisor No Advisor No Advisor	Looking to exit Europe Looking to exit Europe Looking to exit Europe
Enron	Nowa Sarzyna Sarlux Trakya Chengdu Cogen Northem Marianas Bantagas Dabhol Subic Bay Teesside	Poland Italy Turkey China Guam Philippines India Philippines U.K.	116 551 478 284 80 110 2,184 116 1,875		PwC (administrator)	Ongoing.
Enron	Wilton	U.K.	133	Coal/Oil/Gas	Close Brothers	Ongoing.
Fife Power	Fife	U.K.	115	Coal	KPMG (Administrator)	El Paso placed plant in administration.
IVO Energy	Grangemouth*** Edenderry	U.K. Ireland	130 120	Gas Peat	-	Looking to refocus in Nordic region.
Mirant	Birchwood	Va.	119	Coal	CSFB	Ongoing.
	Kendall Shady Hills	Mass. Fla.	270 474	Oil Gas	BofA	Ongoing.
	West Georgia Bosque County Wichita Falls	Ga. Texas Texas	640 538 77	Gas		Looking for advisor to assist with sale Looking for advisor to assist with sale
Niagara Mohawk Power	Nine Mile Point 1 Nine Mile Point 2	N.Y. N.Y.	1,614 1,140	Nuclear Nuclear	N/A N/A	Awaiting bids.

## **Generation Auction & Sale Auction** (cont'd)

Seller	Plants	Location	MW	Plant Type	Advisor	Status
NRG/Xcel (Asia)	Gladstone Power Flinders Loy Yang A Hsinchu Lanco Kondapalli Collinsville	Australia Australia Australia Taiwan India Australia	1,500 (37.5% stake) 760 2,000 (25% stake) 400 (60% stake) 340 (30% stake) 192 (50% stake)	Coal Coal Coal Gasfired Gas/Oil Coal	ABN AMRO	Awaiting bids.
NRG/Xcel (Latin America)	TermoRio COBEE Itiquira Energetica Cementos Pacasmayo Bulo Bulo Cahua	Brazil Boliva Brazil Peru Bolivia Peru	1040 (50% sake) 220 (98% stake) 160 (98% stake) 66 90 (60% stake) 45	Gas Hydro/Gas Hydro Hydro/Oil Gas-fired Hydro	Deutsche Bank	Awaiting bids.
NRG/Xcel (Europe)	CEEP Enfield MIBRAG	Poland U.K. Germany	10 (10% stake) 380 (25%) 238 (50% stake)	- Gas-fired Coal	Goldman	Has already sold two Eastern European plants. Awaiting further bids.
NRG/Xcel (U.S.)	Big Cajun II Pike Batesville Brazos Valley Kaufman Big Cajun McClain Bayou Cove Sabine River Sterlington Mustang Pryor Cogen Timber Power Smith	La. Miss. Miss. Texas Texas La. Okla. La. Texas La. Texas La. Okla.	2,400 (90%) 1,192 1,129 633 545 458 500 (77%) 320 420 (50%) 202 485 (25%) 88 (20%) 13.8 80 (9.6%)	Coal Gas		Has shortlisted three bidders.
Oman (Ministry of Housing, Electricity & Water)	Rusail Ghubratt Wad AlJazzi	Oman Oman Oman	730 507 350	Gas CHP Gas	CSFB	-
Ontario Power Generation	Lennox Lakeview Atikokan Thunder Bay	Ontario Ontario Ontario Ontario	2,140 1,140 215 310	Oil, gas Coal Coal Coal	Merrill Lynch & Scotia Capital	Expects to sell Lennox and Lakeview shortly.
Pacific Gas & Electric	68 Plants	Calif.	3,800	Hydro	Morgan Stanley	Awaiting PUC approval. Expect sale to close shortly.
PESG Global	Tanir Bavi Karpatalsm	India India	220 (74%) 330 (20%)	Naphtha Naphtha	-	-
PG&E National Energy Group	Bear Swamp Masspower Salem Harbor Millennium Pitsfield Brayton Point Station Manchester Street Station Lake Road Athens Generating	Mass. Mass. Mass. Mass. Mass. R.I. Conn. N.Y.	599 267 745 360 173 "1,599" 495 840 1,080	Hydro Gas Coal & Oil Gas Gas Coal Gas Gas Gas	Lehman	Ongoing.
Polish Treasury	Elektroncieplownie Pozpnanskie	Poland		CHP		Ongoing.
Reliant Resource	Argener	Argentina	160	CHP		
Roosecote	Lakeland	U.K.	220	Gas	KPMG (Administrator)	Edison Mission placed plant in administration
TXU	Lake Creek Tradinghouse River Crest Mountain Creek Parkdale North Main	Texas Texas Texas Texas Texas Texas	323 1,340 110 893 327 123	Gas	Merrill Lynch	Reviewing sales strategy.
	Monticello Martin Lake Big Brown Sandow	Texas Texas Texas Texas	1,900 2,250 1,150 545	Coal	Merrill Lynch	Is looking to sell an undisclosed number of its coal assets.
TXU Europe	Shotton	U.K.	229	CHP	PWC	Awaiting bids.
Wisconsin Energy	Bridgeport New Haven	Conn. Conn.	1,100 (combined) 1,100 (combined)		CSFB	Has put up for sale following collaspe of NRG deal.

### **GOLDMAN SWOOPS**

(continued from page 1)

the investment bank has become an increasingly assertive player in the U.K. gas and power market in the past three or four months. "It has really moved up a gear as U.S. merchants have headed home."

But the trader was surprised by the size of the cash benefits that El Paso realized through the trade. "It wasn't that big a player; a lot must have been tied up in collateral."

El Paso announced in November that it is looking to exit the energy trading market and refocus as a pipeline company.

—*W.A*.

### **WILLIAMS CONTINUES**

(continued from page 1)

adds more layoffs are likely. In an e-mail sent to *PFR*, he says, "We are currently conducting an organizational review of the entire energy marketing and risk management organization...with no completion date yet set."

Williams is looking to sell its EM&T business or enter a joint venture and has ceased all speculative trading because of its weakened financial position, Church explains. Williams, like many other power trading shops, has been crippled by a collapse in its share price, credit downgrades and vanishing liquidity in wholesale electricity markets.

Citadel has been building a power trading operation for several months and has hired traders formerly with Enron (PFR, 5/27) and Aquila (PFR, 10/21).

-Victor Kremer

### **AIG SET**

(continued from page 1)

AIG has yet to fully crystallize its game plan in the U.K., but one market watcher who's spoken to AIG management says the company is looking to acquire assets in short order, while simultaneously building a trading and marketing effort. He notes this strategy is at odds with most other financial players, which have tended to build up a trading presence first before splashing out on hard assets.

For AIG to acquire assets from the outset requires building an M&A team with a strong understanding of the U.K. market, says the market watcher, adding Scrimshaw fits the bill nicely. Scrimshaw's recent M&A credentials include selling Dynegy's two U.K. gas storage assets, Hornsea and Rough, to Scottish & Southern Energy and Centrica, respectively. Scrimshaw, who was most recently ceo of Dynegy Storage, left the gas outfit last November after completing the GBP304 million (\$480 million) sale of

Rough. As ceo of Enron Teesside Operations Ltd. (ETOL) Scrimshaw also was responsible for acquiring the 130 MW Wilton power station from ICI in 1998.

Market watchers speculate that AIG might look to land Enron's Teesside generation assets, given Scrimswhaw's knowledge of the business—on top of running ETOL he was also co-manager of Enron's 1.8 GW Teesside plant between 1992-94.

AIG hired Gordon from Goldman Sachs last year (PFR, 9/30) to spearhead its energy investment push.

-Will Ainger

### **DALLAS HEDGE**

(continued from page 1)

landing Kendall is a signal of serious intent. "Don has always been thought of as one of the smartest people in the business," he notes. Kendall did not return calls by press time and a spokeswoman at Carlson says the fund hasn't commented on its operations since its inception 10 years ago.

Kendall has an impressive track record, says the power official. From launching Kendall Capital, which formed the basis of CSFB's power project finance effort after the investment bank acquired it, through to the late 1990s as one of the top lieutenants to Bob McNair at his IPP vehicle Cogen Technologies, Kendall has been a heavy hitter in the power industry. McNair, who owns the National Football League's *Houston Texans*, launched Cogen in 1984. The company sold the bulk of its generation assets for \$1.1 billion to Enron in 1999.

Carlson Capital runs \$3.1 billion in assets through its various Black Diamond funds, according to *Institutional Investor* magazine's 2002 hedge fund rankings. The firm is known for its non-directional investment approach focusing on equity and equity derivatives, says one hedge fund rival.

—Peter Thompsom

### **Quote Of The Week**

"Good on rhetoric and pathetic on delivery."—Tony White, former head of utility research at **Schroder Salomon Smith Barney**, giving a pithy critique of the U.K. government's policy document on the future of the energy industry (see story, page 3).

### One Year Ago In Power Finance & Risk

MidAmerican Energy, the energy arm of Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway, planned to take advantage of depressed asset prices and broaden its presence in the Midwest by acquiring more utilities in the region. [Last summer MidAmerican's acquired Williams Co.s' Kern River pipeline and Dynegy's Northern Natural Gas pipeline.]