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Power Finance & Risk

Exclusive Insight on Power M&A and Project Financing

By the publisher of GlobalCapital

FirstEnergy Finds Buyer for PJM Coal-fired Asset

Fotios Tsarouhis

FirstEnergy Solutions has found buyer for a merchant coal-fired facility in **PJM Interconnection** in the form of a joint venture between a private equity firm and an independent power producer.

Orca Acquisitions, a joint venture between **ArcLight Capital Partners** and **Olympus Power**, is buying the plant through a special purpose vehicle called **Walleye Energy**. ArcLight owns a 95% controlling stake in Orca, while Olympus owns 5%.

The asset is the Bay Shore plant in Lucas County, Ohio, which has a 136 MW coal-fired unit and a 16 MW PAGE 9 »

Ares-EIF to Roll PJM Gas-fired Bank Debt into Term Loan B Mart

Richard Metcalf

Ares-EIF is refinancing about $450 million of debt associated with its 700 MW St. Joseph Energy Center gas-fired project in Indiana in the term loan B market, a move which could free up billions of dollars on commercial bank balance sheets if it is widely replicated.

The $407 million term loan tranche, which **BNP Paribas** has underwritten and is marketing to institutional investors, has a tenor of seven years—two years longer than the bank loan it will replace. The debt package also includes a $40 million five-year revolving credit facility.

As the traditional lenders to such projects, American, European and Asian commercial PAGE 5 »

● PPA PULSE

Province Slaps Moratorium on BC Hydro PPAs

Shravan Bhat, Stuart Wise

Canadian utility **British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority** (BC Hydro) is freezing energy procurement until further notice, following the victory of the **New Democratic Party** in a provincial election in British Columbia last year.

While in opposition, the NDP said that BC Hydro was paying over the odds for independent power projects and that rate hikes planned by the then-incumbent **Liberal Party** would be used to offset poor financial planning.

At issue are the relative merits of more expensive, small-scale, private projects and large-scale projects. Advocates of the former claim that their higher costs are offset by environmental benefits, while the NDP argues that ratepayers are being hit with unnecessarily high bills.

BC Hydro recently signed a 40-year power purchase agreement with devel- PAGE 7 »

NYSERDA Prices Debut ABS

Sasha Padbidri

The **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** issued its debut residential solar asset-backed securitization two weeks ago to finance its Green Jobs–Green New York (GJGNY) program, three months after the municipal green bond scheme it previously used for financing was scrapped.

The $18.5 million PAGE 7 »

Buyer Emerges for Leeward

Fotios Tsarouhis

A Canadian pension manager has agreed to acquire **Leeward Renewable Energy**, adding a 1.7 GW portfolio of largely-contracted wind projects to its pool of investments.

OMERS Infrastructure Management, the infrastructure arm of the **Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System**, has agreed to acquire the platform from PAGE 9 »

● **POWER UP:** CHECK OUT A SELECTION OF THE WEEK'S POWER AND UTILITY NEWS ON TWITTER @POWERFINRISK

IN THIS ISSUE

EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS

TerraForm Power Preps Capital Raise to Finance Saeta Takeover

TerraForm Power is issuing $400 million in common stock as part of the funding plans for its $1.2 billion takeover of Spanish yield company **Saeta Yield**, according to a filing with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission**.

TerraForm Power expects its sponsor, **Brookfield Asset Management**, to acquire at least 51% of the stock issuance, and Brookfield will backstop the offering at a price of $10.66 per share.

TerraForm Power stock had traded down roughly 2% from $11.14 to $10.90 a share at midday after the announcement of the capital raise.

The underwriters and date of issuance were not disclosed in the initial prospectus filed with the SEC. **Sullivan & Cromwell** is TerraForm's legal counsel on the transaction.

RBC Capital Markets was bookrunner when the former **SunEdison** yieldco increased the size of its term loan B by $50 million to $350 million, priced at 275 basis points over Libor, in early November of last year (PFR, 11/7), and when it priced a $700 million tranche of 10-year notes at 5% and a $500 million tranche of 5-year notes at 4.25% later in the same month (PFR, 11/28).

Madrid-based Saeta Yield, whose sponsors are **Grupo ACS**, **Bow Power** and **Global Infrastructure Partners**, owns around 1 GW of contracted wind and solar assets in Spain, Portugal and Uruguay, all of which would be new markets for TerraForm Power (PFR, 2/16).

Santander has provided an almost €500 million ($614 million) bank guaranty to the Spanish holding company through which TerraForm Power is seeking to acquire Saeta, and **Natixis** provided letters of credit valid through Aug. 31 for the same amount on March 6, fulfilling a requirement of Spain's **National Securities Market Commission**.

TerraForm Power is meanwhile in the process of relocating its headquarters from Bethesda, Md., to New York and parting with its interim chief executive officer, chief financial officer and general counsel while Brookfield appoints their replacements. Terraform expects the "departures of a significant number of employees" as it relocates.

Brookfield extended a $500 million three-year credit facility to TerraForm on Oct. 16, while **HSBC Bank Canada**, **Bank of Montreal**, **Bank of Nova Scotia**, Natixis, RBC Capital Markets and **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.** acted as joint lead arrangers and joint bookrunners for a $450 million, four-year revolving credit facility for the yieldco that closed on Oct 17. ■

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Do you have questions, comments or criticisms about a story that appeared in ***PFR***? Should we be covering more or less of a given area? The staff of ***PFR*** is committed as ever to evolving with the markets and we welcome your feedback.

Feel free to contact **Richard Metcalf**, editor, at (212) 224-3259 or richard.metcalf@powerfinancerisk.com

GENERATION AUCTION & SALE CALENDAR

These are the current live generation asset sales and auctions, according to Power Finance and Risk's database.
A full listing of completed sales for the last 10 years is available at http://www.powerfinancerisk.com/AuctionSalesData.html

Generation Sale DATABASE

Seller	Assets	Location	Adviser	Status/Comment
AltaGas	Portfolio (837 MW Gas)	Calif.		AltaGas scrapped sale of two projects and will instead seek to sell other assets to finance its acquisition of WGL Holdings (PFR, 3/12)
● ArcLight Capital Partners	Leeward Renewable Energy (1.7 GW Wind)	U.S.	BAML (seller), Wells Fargo (buyer)	Canadian pension fund manager OMERS is acquiring the portfolio (see story, page 1).
● Canadian Solar	Guimarania (60 MW Solar)	Piauí, Brazil		Global Power Generation is acquiring the projects (see story, page 8).
Casa dos Ventos	Ventos do Araripe III (359 MW Wind)	Brazil		Regulator Cade gave the green light to Voltorantim Energia and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board to buy the wind farm (PFR, 3/12).
● Citi, Forsyth Street	Solano III (128 MW Wind)	Rio Vista, Calif.		Sacramento Municipal Utility District is buying the project back from Citi and Forsyth (see story, page 8).
Conduit Capital Partners	Santa Catarina (22 MW Wind)	Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico		Conduit plans to launch a sale process for the contracted, operational asset this year (PFR, 1/8).
Enbridge	Portfolio (~3 GW Wind, Solar, Hydro)	Canada, U.S.		Enbridge is looking to sell about half of its renewable assets (PFR, 1/8).
● FirstEnergy Solutions	Bay Shore (152 MW Coal, Oil)	Lucas County, Ohio		Orca Acquisitions, a vehicle 95%-owned by ArcLight and 5%-owned by Olympus Power, is acquiring the project (see story, page 1).
GD Solar	Portfolio (260 MW Solar)	Brazil		The firm is seeking equity investors for the portfolio (PRF, 1/22).
GenOn Energy	Hunterstown (810 MW Gas)	Gettysburg, Pa.	Credit Suisse (seller)	Private equity firm Platinum Equity is acquiring the asset. AOS Energy, which consulted Platinum, will co-invest in the asset. Morgan Stanley is arranging acquisition financing (PFR, 3/5).
Hudson Clean Energy Partners	Portfolio (210 MW Hydro)	U.S.	Evercore	Hudson is weighing a sale of its stake in Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, which owns 210 MW of hydro assets throughout the continental U.S. (PFR, 2/26).
Invenergy	Ector County (330 MW Gas)	Ector County, Texas	Guggenheim (seller)	Invenergy has put the peaker up for sale (PFR, 2/26).
Invenergy Renewables	States Edge (2 GW Wind)	Cimarron and Texas counties, Okla.		Two utilities owned by American Electric Power have filed for federal approval to acquire the facility (PFR, 1/16).
LS Power	Aurora (878 MW Gas)	Aurora, Ill.	Guggenheim	LS Power acquired Aurora and Rockford from NRG Energy in 2016 before refinancing them last year (PFR, 3/22).
	Rockford (450 MW)	Rockford, Ill.		
	Seneca (508 MW Hydro)	Warren, Pa.	Barclays, PJ Solomon	LS Power is marketing the project four years after it abandoned an initial attempt sell it (PFR, 3/22).
● Macquarie Capital	Norte III (907 MW Gas)	Ciudad Juárez, Mexico		Macquarie has sold a 45.5% stake in the project, with InfraRed Capital Partners taking 35.5% and Invex Infraestructura buying up the remaining 10% (see story, page 8).
Macquarie Infrastructure Corp.	Bayonne Energy Center (512 MW Gas)	Bayonne, N.J.		MIC is weighing a sale of the project, which powers parts of New York City (PFR, 2/26).
Morgan Stanley	NaturEner USA (399 MW Wind)	Montana	Morgan Stanley	Morgan Stanley is selling NaturEner, which owns development wind assets in Alberta as well as the 399 MW operational wind portfolio in Montana (PFR, 5/15).
NextEra Energy Partners	Portfolio (~400 MW Wind)	Ontario		NextEra Energy's yield company is weighing the sale of its Canadian assets with a view to reinvesting the proceeds in the U.S. (PFR, 2/5).
● NJR Clean Energy	Two Dot (9.72 MW Wind)	Two Dot, Mont.		NorthWestern Energy is acquiring the project, with which it has a power purchase agreement (see story, page 9).
Onyx Renewable Partners	Portfolio (small-scale Solar)	U.S.	RBC, CohnReznick	Onyx has begun marketing the portfolio (PFR, 1/29).
Recurrent Energy	Portfolio (235 MW Solar)	California	BAML, Scotia (seller)	South Korean utility Korea Electric Power Corp. has closed its acquisition of three solar assets from the Canadian Solar subsidiary (PFR, 10/2).
Renova Energia	Alto Sertão III (300 MW Wind)	Brazil		Brookfield is bidding for the assets rather than bidding for a stake in the company (PFR, 3/5).
	Development portfolio (1.1 GW Wind)			
RES Americas	Whirlwind (60 MW Wind)	Floyd County, Texas	PwC	A JV between Ardian and Transatlantic Power Holdings, called Skyline Renewables, bought the project (PFR, 3/12).
Ridgewood Infrastructure	Neptune (660-mile Transmission)	Long Island Sound	RBC (seller)	An undisclosed buyer has agreed to acquire Ridgewood's stake in the project (PFR, 3/22).
Rockland Capital	Victoria (290 MW Gas)	Victoria County, Texas	PJ Solomon	Rockland is selling the CCGT, which it acquired from ArcLight in 2016 (PFR, 3/12).
Southern Power	Portfolio (1,760 MW Solar)	U.S.	Citi	Southern Power has hired Citi to sell an up-to one-third stake in the portfolio (PFR, 11/6).
Texas Municipal Power Agency	Gibbons Creek (450 MW Coal)	Grimes County, Texas		The plant is for sale again after an earlier attempt to offload it fell through (PFR, 11/20).

● **New or updated listing**

The accuracy of the information, which is derived from many sources, is deemed reliable but cannot be guaranteed.
To report updates or provide additional information on the status of financings, please call Fotios Tsarouhis at (212) 224 3294 or e-mail fotios.tsarouhis@powerfinancerisk.com

PROJECT FINANCE

Deal Book is a matrix of energy project finance deals that Power Finance & Risk is tracking in the energy sector.
A full listing of deals for the last several years is available at http://www.powerfinancerisk.com/Data.html

Live Deals: Americas

Sponsor	Project	Location	Lead(s)	Deal Type	Loan Amount	Tenor	Notes
Advanced Power	South Field (1.1 GW Gas)	Columbiana County, Ohio	GE EFS, CIT Bank, Credit Agricole	Debt	TBA	TBA	Pricing on similar loans remained stable last year at 325 basis points over Libor (PFR, 1/22).
● Ares-EIF	St. Joseph Energy Center (700 MW Gas)	St. Joseph County, Ind.	BNP Paribas	Term Loan B	$407M	7-yr	Price talk is between 350 and 375 basis points over Libor. The deal will refinance bank debt signed in 2015 (see story, page 1).
				Revolving Credit Facility	$40M	5-yr	
Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners	Portfolio (292 MW Hydro)	Pennsylvania	MUFG, HSBC	Private Placement	$350M	15-yr	Brookfield will use the notes to repay bridge loans for the portfolio which it bought from Talen Energy for $860 million in 2016 (PFR, 3/5).
Cheniere Energy	Corpus Christi Train 3 (4.8 mtpa LNG)	San Patricio County, Texas	Société Générale	Debt	$6B	20-yr	Price talk of 200 basis points over Libor was given at a lender conference call held on March 13. Cheniere intends to raise some $1.8 billion of new money with the deal (PFR, 3/19).
● Diamond Generating (Mitsubishi Corp.)	Mariposa (200 MW Gas)	Alameda County, Calif.	Mizuho	Term Loan	$77.6M	4.5-yr	The deal, signed March 7, refinances a loan from 2012. The project is contracted with PG&E through September 2022 (see story, page 5).
				Revolving Credit Facility	$3.5M	4.5-yr	
EDP Renewables North America	Arkwright (78 MW Wind)	Chautauqua County, N.Y.	TBA	Tax Equity	TBA		The $156 million project has so far been funded entirely from EDP's balance sheet (PFR, 3/5).
● Enel Green Power	Portfolio (1 GW Solar)	Mexico	TBA	Debt	$720M	TBA	The European Investment Bank has approved a $150 million loan to the portfolio as part of a $700 million limited-recourse financing that is due to close soon (see story, page 6).
Geronimo Energy	Green River (212 MW Wind)	Whiteside and Lee counties, Ill.	TBA	Construction loan	TBA		The sponsor has selected a bank that is said to have bid in pricing of less than 100 basis points over Libor (PFR, 3/19).
Hive Energy	Mariel (50 MW Solar)	Cuba	Shanghai Electric	Debt	TBA	1-yr	Chinese EPC company Shanghai Electric is providing construction finance and a share of the project equity (PFR, 3/12)
Kinross Gold Corp	Portfolio (155 MW Hydro)	Brazil	TBA	Debt	$200M		Kinross is paying $257 million to a subsidiary of Brazilian steel company Gerdau for the hydro facilities (PFR, 2/26).
Fotowatio Renewable Ventures	Potosi (342 MW Solar)	Zacatecas, Mexico	KfW, Bancomext, ING	Debt	$209M	TBA	The lenders are providing the funds through equal commitments of almost $70 million each (PFR, 3/12)
Halyard Energy Ventures	Halyard Wharton (348.5 MW Gas)	Wharton County, Texas	Scotiabank (adviser)	Equity	TBA		Halyard is aiming to close financing for the peaker this quarter and bring it online by the second quarter of 2019 (PFR, 2/5).
Invenergy	Upstream Wind Energy Centre (202.5 MW Wind)	Antelope County, Neb.	Santander	Debt			Allianz has provided a 10-year proxy revenue swap for the project - the fourth such hedge in the U.S. (PFR, 2/12).
Invenergy	Gratiot County (110.4 MW Wind)	Gratiot County, Mich.	Natixis, NordLB, Zions, Siemens	Refinancing	TBA		GE EFS, which provided tax equity when the project came online in 2012, continues to hold a minority stake (PFR, 2/20).
Leeward Renewables	Mendota Hills (50 MW Wind)	Lee County, Illinois	TBA	Tax Equity			Leeward is seeking tax equity to repower the project, increasing the capacity by 26 MW (PFR, 3/12)
Lightsource BP	Johnson Corner (20 MW Solar)	Stanton County, Kan.	TBA	Debt, Tax Equity	TBA		Lightsource has issued a teaser for the project and is seeking indications of interest for tax equity and debt by March 9 (PFR, 3/5).
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority	Kayenta II (27 MW Solar)	Navajo County, Ariz	TBA	Debt, Tax Equity	$45M		NTUA has signed a 30-year PPA with Salt River Project for the project, which is expected to be online by Apr. 1, 2019 (PFR, 2/5).
OCI Solar Power	Lamesa II (50 MW Solar)	Dawson County, Texas	TBA	Debt, Equity	TBA	TBA	San Antonio's municipally-owned utility, CPS Energy, signed a 25-year power purchase for the project in October 2015 (PFR, 3/19).
● Parque Eólico Arauco (Province of La Rioja, Enarsa)	Arauco II (195 MW Wind)	La Rioja, Argentina	IIC	Term Loan	$50M		The IIC is contemplating the deal, while the other lenders are said to be interested in providing debt (see story, page 6).
			Santander, Banco de la Nacion Argentina, CESCE, BICE, Siemens EFS	Term Loan	TBA		
Pattern Development	Stillwater Wind (80 MW Wind)	Stillwater County, Montana	TBA	Debt, Tax Equity	TBA	TBA	Formerly known as Vivaldi Springtime, the project has a 25-year PPA with NorthWestern Energy (PFR, 3/19).
Penn Energy Renewables	Portfolio (41.8 MW Solar)	Ontario	Prudential Capital	Private Placement Refinancing	$150M	17.5-yr	The five projects are contracted under the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator's feed in tariff program (PFR, 3/19).
Siemens, Others	Temple 1 (758 MW Gas)	Texas	Goldman Sachs	Debt	$50M	5-yr	The first lien loan was priced at 450 bps over Libor, while the second lien paper was priced at 800 bps (PFR, 3/5).
● Statoil, Scatec Solar, ApodiPar	Apodi (132 MW Solar)	Ceará, Brazil	Santander, BNP Paribas, ING, ABN Amro, Bradesco	Letter of Credit	R$477M	2-yr	The letter of credit backstops a 20-year loan of the same size provided by Banco do Nordeste (see story, page 5).
Taaleri Energia	Truscott-Gilliland East (277 MW Wind)	Knox County, Texas	NorthRenew Energy (adviser)	Debt, Tax Equity	$350M		The Finnish developer is seeking debt and tax equity as it enters the U.S. market (PFR, 2/12).
SunEast Development	Portfolio (700 MW Solar)	U.S.	Whitehall & Co.	TBA	$33M	TBA	The utility-scale developer is raising capital as it seeks to transform its business model by owning projects (PFR, 2/20).
Sunrun	Hera (Residential Solar Portfolio)	U.S.	Investec	Refinancing	$600M	5-yr	The financing is expected to close by the end of March (PFR, 3/19).

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PROJECT FINANCE

Sponsor to Roll PJM Gas-fired Bank Debt into Term Loan B Mart

« FROM PAGE 1

banks have financed quasi-merchant gas-fired projects in **PJM Interconnection** to the tune of tens of billions of dollars over the last five years, and the St. Joseph deal could be just the beginning of a huge wave of refinancing activity.

"If the St. Joe loan does well, which I expect it will, more bank loans could move into the B loan market," says a project finance banker away from the deal, who estimates that there could be about $30 billion of bank debt associated with quasi-merchant gas-fired plants.

Price talk on the refinancing is between 350 and 375 basis points over Libor, somewhat wider than the 325 bp margin on the original commercial bank loan package, which was signed in 2015.

The bookrunner on the refi, BNP Paribas, was one of the coordinating leads on the original construction-plus-five-year mini-perm, alongside **Crédit Agricole**. **Société Générale**, **Siemens Financial Services**, **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China** and **Wells Fargo** also took tickets in the deal (PFR, 11/25/15).

The loan was structured on the basis of a five-year revenue put with an affiliate of **BP**, meaning that the seven-year term loan B refinancing includes a two-year merchant tail.

Moody's Investors Service announced that it had given the deal a Ba3 rating with a stable outlook on March 22, almost a week after *PFR* first reported that the deal was in the market.

Moody's notes that the revenue put provides an energy margin and ancillary revenues floor of about $30 million a year for the duration of the contract.

A second banker away from the deal expressed surprise that the deal had been launched as a term loan B initially without ratings.

"On an institutional deal, it's all about momentum and building a book and you are not going to get orders from CLOs, for instance, without a rating," he said, referring to the collateralized loan obligation managers that make up the bulk of the investor base for such loans.

Officials at BNP Paribas in New York declined to comment and representatives of Ares-EIF in New York did not respond to requests for comment. Commitments are said to be due by mid-April.

The 700 MW combined-cycle project is under construction and "substantial completion"—a condition of financial close for the term loan—is expected by March 24, according to Moody's. The slated in-service date in PJM's new services queue is April 29.

The St. Joseph Energy Center is the first of two planned phases to be built by Ares-EIF on the same site in St. Joseph County. The second, called St. Joseph Energy Center II, would have the same capacity but serve the **Midcontinent Independent System Operator** rather than PJM.

Mizuho Inks Calif. Gas-fired Project Refi Loan

Mizuho has provided an $80 million loan package to refinance a contracted gas-fired project in California.

The loan, signed on March 7, refinances debt associated with **Diamond Generating Corp.**'s 200 MW Mariposa facility in Alameda County.

The **Mitsubishi Corp.** subsidiary refinanced the debt to take advantage of the favorable pricing available ahead of expected interest rate rises, says a person familiar with the deal, who did not disclose the pricing.

The $77.6 million term loan matures at the end of September 2022, matching the length of the project's power purchase agreement with **Pacific Gas & Electric.** The debt package also includes a $3.5 million revolving credit facility that is due to be repaid a month before the term loan.

Morgan Lewis & Bockius advised Diamond on the deal and **Milbank** advised Mizuho.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., **DZ Bank**, **CoBank** and **Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co.** provided the original $150 million loan for the project in December 2012, a few months after Diamond brought it online. Pricing on the loan was 200 basis points over Libor (PFR, 12/12/12).

Commercial Banks Sign Letter of Credit for Brazil Solar Project

Five commercial banks have inked a R$477 million ($144 million) letter of credit facility to backstop a project finance loan for a solar project in Brazil.

The LOC for the 132 MW Apodi Solar project in the Vale do Jaguaribe region of Ceará has a two-year tenor with the expectation of a renewal for a further two years. **Santander**, **BNP Paribas**, **ING**, **ABN Amro** and **Banco Bradesco** signed the deal on March 8.

The facility acts as a backstop for a 20-year project finance loan for the project signed by Brazilian regional development bank **Bancodo Nordeste** last year (PFR, 10/24).

The borrowers under the loan are a group of four special purpose vehicles numbered 1 through 4.

The equity investors in the project are expected to put in R$187.4 million alongside the loan to build the project, which won a 20-year power purchase agreement in a state-run auction in 2015.

Norwegian oil and gas major **Statoil** acquired a 43.75% stake in the project for $25 million last year, in its first solar investment anywhere in the world (PFR, 10/4).

Statoil acquired a 40% stake in the project from another Norwegian company, **Scatec Solar**, and 3.75% from local consortium **ApodiPar**. Scatec retains a 43.75% stake in the project and the remaining 12.5% is held by ApodiPar.

PROJECT FINANCE

IIC Mulls Loan to Argentine Wind Project

The **Inter-American Investment Corp.** is considering providing an A loan to finance a wind project in Argentina that is co-owned by a provincial government and the country's state utility, **Energía Argentina** (Enarsa).

The sponsors, through project company **Parque Eólico Arauco**, have sought a $50 million loan from the international development bank for the 195 MW Arauco II wind project.

A decision on the IIC loan by the board of the **IDB Group,** of which the IIC is a member, is expected on June 26. The financing would fund a 52-mile, 132 kV transmission line to connect the wind farm to Argentina's national grid as well as the wind project itself.

Additional debt financing for the project is said to be coming from **Santander**, **Banco de la Nacion Argentina**, Spanish export credit agency **Compania Espanola de Seguros de Credito a la Exportacion** and Argentine ECA **Banco de Inversion y Comercio Exterior**. **Siemens Financial Services** is said to be interested in lending too.

Arauco II and its sister project, Arauco I, are 83.4% owned by the **Province of La Rioja** and 16.6% by Enarsa. Construction began this month and generation is expected to begin by 2019.

Siemens Gamesa is providing the turbines for the project, which would explain the participation of the Spanish ECA.

The first two phases of Arauco II, totaling 100 MW, were contracted at $67.19/MWh through round 1 of the **Ministry of Energy and Mines**' renewables program, RenovAr, while the third and fourth phases, totaling 95 MW, earned RenovAr round 1.5 contracts at $56.67/MWh.

Spanish turbine maker **Windar Renovables** is listed as the sponsor of a further two phases, totaling, 100 MW, which won $46.67/MWh contracts round 2 of RenovAr in December (PFR, 12/6), suggesting that Windar has acquired a stake in the project from La Rioja and Enarsa.

The power purchase agreements last 20 years, with **CAMMESA**, Argentina's wholesale energy market administrator, acting as offtaker.

GREEN BOND

The Province of La Rioja issued a $200 million eight-year green bond in February 2017, of which $170 million is destined for the Arauco II project. The bond has coupon of 9.75%. **UBS** and Argentine financial services firm **Puente** were the bookrunners on the deal, which was the first green bond issuance from an Argentinian borrower.

The size of the bond was increased to $300 million in a follow-on issuance in December, which was rated B by **Fitch Ratings**. The rating outlook is positive, reflecting the positive outlook on the B rating of Argentina's sovereign bonds, Fitch noted in a report on Dec. 5. La Rioja's ratings are constrained by the sovereign's.

> **"CAMMESA was facing instable flow of funds from the utilities—due to the low tariffs—high level of subsidies from the treasury and constant regulatory changes"**

The principal of the senior unsecured notes is to be repaid in four equal chunks spread across the last four years of the life of the bonds.

Argentinian law firm **Pérez Alati**, **Grondona**, **Benites**, **Arntsen & Martínez de Hoz** advised Parque Eólico Arauco while **Bruchou, Fernández Madero & Lombardi** advised the province.

ARAUCO I

Arauco I was originally built for the sponsor by Argentine turbine maker **IMPSA Wind** at a capacity of 25.2 MW in May 2011 and was expanded to 50.4 MW in 2014. The 25.2 MW expansion was less than expected "at the time, because of the lack of confidence on the offtaker's (CAMMESA) capacity to honor its commitments", according to a report published on Feb. 2 of last year by the **World Bank**, which added: "CAMMESA was facing instable flow of funds from the utilities—due to the low tariffs—high level of subsidies from the treasury and constant regulatory changes".

Construction is underway on a fourth phase of Arauco I, which will double its capacity by 52 MW to 104 MW. The project will cost an estimated $118 million of which Parque Eólico Arauco will provide 20% in the form of equity. ■

EIB Greenlights Loan for Enel Mexican Solar Trio

The **European Investment Bank** has agreed to provide part of the funding for three **Enel Green Power Mexico** solar projects with a combined capacity of 991 MW.

The three projects—Don José, Villanueva I and Villanueva II—have a total cost of approximately $1.027 billion, of which the loan from the EIB will cover around $150 million.

At the beginning of the month, *PFR* reported that Enel was nearing financial close on around $700 million in limited-recourse financing for the three plants (PFR, 3/9). The lenders are said to include commercial as well as development banks.

Taken together, the two phases that make up the 754 MW Villanueva project in Coahula, northwestern Mexico, collectively became the largest operational solar facility in the Americas when they began delivering power to the Mexican grid in December, nine months ahead of schedule.

Enel said in October that it was selling a combined 80% stake in Villanueva and the 238 MW Don José project to Canadian institutional investor **Caisse de dépot et placement du Québec** and Mexican infrastructure fund, **CKD Infraestructura México**.

The three projects obtained 15-year PPAs and 20-year clean energy certificate contracts in Mexico's first power auction in 2016. ■

FAST FACT

$1.027B

Total cost of the Don José, Villanueva I and Villanueva II projects.

PPA PULSE

Province Slaps Moratorium on BC Hydro PPAs

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oper **Boralex** for the 15 MW Moose Lake wind farm in British Columbia (PFR, 11/27/17)—an unusually long tenor for a utility to lock itself into, especially for a wind project costing more than $3/W.

A rate freeze proposed by the NDP was rejected by the **B.C. Utilities Commission** on March 1, and rates will rise by 3% for 2018. In response, the government asked BC Hydro not to sign any new power purchase agreements while it conducts an operational review.

BC Hydro operates 30 hydro plants and two thermal facilities but approved five small-scale, First Nations projects on March 14.

The First Nations projects are:

- Tsilhqot'in—a 1 MW solar project sponsored by the **Tsilhqot'in National Government** near Hanceville,
- Siwash Creek—a 500 kW hydro project in partnership with **Kanaka Bar Indian Band** near Boston Bar,
- Sarita River—a 5 MW hydo project sponsored by **Huu-ay-aht First Nation** near Bamfield,
- Sukunka—a 15 MW wind project sponsored by the **Saulteau First Nations** near Chetwynd, and
- Zonnebeke—a 15 MW wind project of **West Moberly First Nations** near Chetwynd.

One project sponsor seems to have slipped a deal through at the last moment. **Capstone Infrastructure Corp.** and the **shíshálh Nation** have extended an energy purchase agreement with BC Hydro for their 16 MW Sechelt Creek run-of-river hydro project for 40 years.

The facility began operation in 1997 and the new agreement, subject to regulatory approval, will expire in March 2058.

Here is the rest of this week's PPA news:

GREAT SCOTT!

Microsoft has signed a power purchase agreement with **sPower** for 315 MW from two solar projects in Virginia, which the software company says is the "largest corporate solar agreement in the U.S."

The deal brings the amount of renewable generation directly purchased by the Microsoft to roughly 1.2 GW—enough to send **Marty McFly**, the protagonist of 1985 movie *Back to the Future*, back or forward in time in a modified DeLorean.

Under the terms of the deal, Microsoft will buy a portion of the output of the Pleinmont I and II solar projects in Spotsylvania County, which total 500 MW, for 15 years. The projects are expected to be online by early 2020.

LITTLE ROCK, BIG SOLAR

Renewable Energy Systems Americas has signed a 16-year PPA with an electric cooperative for a 100 MW solar project in Arkansas.

Little Rock-based **Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp.** will purchase the output of the Crossett Solar Energy Farm in Ashley County under the terms of the deal.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2021 and the project is due to be online later the same year.

ADOBE FILLS A GAP

Social media company **Facebook** and software maker Adobe have signed PPAs with **Enel Green Power North America** for the output of a Nebraska wind project.

The agreement with Facebook builds on a long-term PPA the corporation signed in November for 200 MW of output from the 320 MW Rattlesnake Creek wind facility, which is located in Dixon County, Neb. (PFR, 11/14).

Under the recently signed deals, Adobe will buy an additional 10 MW of the generation from the project between 2019 and 2028 under a PPA that will act as a bridge until Facebook begins to buy the entire output of the project in 2029. Facebook will use the generation at its data center in Papillion, Neb.

Power procurement consultancy **Competitive Energy Services** assisted Adobe with the PPA.

The project, which involves an investment of $430 million, is under construction and expected be online by the end of the year. ■

SOLAR ABS

NYSERDA Prices Debut ABS After Trump Scraps Energy Bond Scheme

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transaction attracted five buyers, who liked the program's green bond certification from the **Climate Bond Institute**, according to a person briefed on the matter. The bonds were sold at a weighted average coupon of 4.55%, ranging from 3.00% to 4.813% for varying maturity dates.

NYSERDA's decision to tap the securitization market follows the elimination of the Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECB) program. The QECB scheme enabled state, local and tribal issuers to offer federally subsidized green bonds, which, according to the **Department of Energy**, were among the lowest cost public financing options available for eligible energy efficiency, renewable energy, and mass commuting projects.

The QECB program was eliminated on Jan. 1 as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was signed into law by President **Donald Trump** in December.

NYSERDA had accessed the QECB market in August 2013 with a transaction to finance residential energy efficiency improvements on one-to-four-family residential structures under the GJGNY program. Citi led the $24.3 million offering.

"GJGNY is a long-term ongoing program, so I would expect to see more issuance in the securitization market going forward," said an energy finance consultant.

Ramirez & Co. was the underwriter for NYSERDA's new ABS deal, which is backed by prime loans made by NYSERDA to "fund the installation of solar electric systems on one-to-four family residential structures for eligible applicants as part of the GJGNY program," according to a presale from **Kroll Bond Rating Agency**.

The weighted average FICO score of the loans was 754, with the majority of the borrowers based in Nassau County, Suffolk County and Westchester County. ■

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Canadian Solar to Flip Brazil Project Duo

Canadian Solar has agreed to sell a pair of solar projects in Brazil to subsidiary of a Spanish utility only six months after first acquiring them.

Global Power Generation, a subsidiary of Barcelona-based **Gas Natural Fenosa**, will purchase the Guimarania I and II projects in Minas Gerais for approximately €95 million ($117 million) under the terms of the deal.

Both of the projects won 20-year power purchase agreements priced at R$290/MWh ($91.77/MWh) in a 2015 power auction run by Brazil's **Chamber for the Commercialization of Electric Energy**.

Canadian Solar acquired the projects, which are expected online at the end of the year, from **Consórcio Guimarania**, a consortium of developers, in September (PFR, 9/6).

That acquisition was preceded by Canadian Solar's June 2017 sale of an 80% stake in the 92.5 MW Pirapora II solar project, also in Minas Gerais, to **EDF EN do Brasil** (PFR, 6/20).

The purchase of the Guimarania projects is GPG's second solar acquisition in the country. Last year, the company bought 85% stakes in the Sertao I and Sobral I projects in Piauí, each 30 MW in size, from Spanish developer **Grupo Gransolar**.

Norway's **Scatec Solar** had previously agreed to acquire a 70% stake in Sertao I and Sobral I (PFR, 2/2/16). The reason why GPG ended up buying them instead could not immediately be learned.

Steel Company Buys Cogen Plant

Canadian steel manufacturer **Algoma** has acquired a 55 MW cogeneration facility to supply factories it owns in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The Lake Superior gas-fired project, situated on the St. Mary's River, will be used intermittently at times of peak demand, according to a statement issued by the company. Algoma, which is headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie, filed for bankruptcy protection last year.

The purchase price and the identity of the seller were not disclosed and a spokesperson for Algoma did not immediately respond to an inquiry.

Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners owned 100% of **Lake Superior Power LP** in 2014, according to paperwork filed with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission** that year.

Macquarie Brings Equity Investors into Mexican Gas-fired Project

Macquarie Capital has sold minority stakes in its 907 MW Norte III gas-fired project in Mexico to two investment funds.

InfraRed Capital Partners' InfraRed Infrastructure Fund V acquired a 35.5% stake in the project from Macquarie, while **Invex Infraestructura** took 10%.

The project, which has a 25-year dollar-denominated power purchase agreement with the **Comisión Federal de Electricidad**, is under construction in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Milbank, **Tweed, Hadley & McCloy** advised Macquarie on the deal.

Abengoa originated the project, selling it to Macquarie and **Techint Engineering & Construction** last September as part of the Spanish conglomerate's restructuring (PFR, 9/6). Macquarie put a $716 million five-year debt financing in place in conjunction with the acquisition (PFR, 9/12).

California Utility to Buy Back Wind Project from Investor Duo

Sacramento Municipal Utility District is buying back its 128 MW Solano III wind project in Rio Vista, Calif., from investors **Forsyth Street** and **Citi**.

The utility will fund the acquisition with cash on hand, says a spokesperson for SMUD.

"The wind project over the long term is expected to produce 7% less than originally estimated," notes the spokesperson. "In a normal year the project makes about 360 GWh which is very close to the independent engineer P50 estimate."

> **"The wind project over the long term is expected to produce 7% less than originally estimated"**

The municipal utility constructed the project, which is located near the Sacramento River and has been online since April 2012, and transferred the cash and tax equity to Forsyth Street and Citi, respectively, on Dec. 9, 2011, in conjunction with the signing of a power purchase agreement between the project and SMUD for 100% of its output.

SMUD's right to buy the project back under the terms of the PPA vests on Apr. 26, 2018.

Forsyth Street, a New York-based investment firm owned by partners **Charles Laven** and **Esther Sandrof**, owns 0.01% of the project while tax equity investor Citi owns the remaining 99.99%, a structure common to several joint renewables investments by the two firms.

Citi and Forsyth recently sold their combined stake in the 57.6 MW Horse Butte I Wind facility to **Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems** for $15.4 million under a similar PPA-ordained buy-back option (PFR, 1/24).

The sale price was not disclosed in a March 13 filing with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** describing the proposed transaction. A spokeperson for Citi in New York declined to comment.

The Solano III project sits alongside Solano I and II, which are owned and operated by SMUD and have a combined output of 102 MW.

FirstEnergy Finds Buyer for PJM Coal-fired Asset

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oil-fired unit, and three retired units, according to a filing with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**.

FES parent **FirstEnergy Corp.** decided to sell or decommission Bay Shore in 2016, saying it was no longer an economically viable asset. The company's business development group launched a sale process for Bay Shore that year, saying it would shutter the plant if no buyer was lined up by October 2020 (PFR, 7/15/16).

Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy is in the process of spinning off FES, its wholesale generation business unit, and expects to complete the split by the end of March, severing what the parent company's ceo, **Charles Jones**, called "the last tie that we have with that business" on a Feb. 21 earnings call.

FirstEnergy, which put all 14 of its competitive assets on the market at the end of 2016 (PFR, 11/7/16), is shifting its strategy to an exclusive focus on regulated assets.

In January, FirstEnergy and FES established a restructuring working group that is advising FirstEnergy's management on the transition. **Lazard** is acting as FES's financial adviser on the restructuring, with **Akin Gump** acting as legal counsel, says a deal watcher.

Appeals to state and federal regulators and lawmakers to adopt policies that would benefit its regulated assets, including the company's nuclear plants, have proven unsuccessful, according to Jones.

FirstEnergy had contemplated the sale of Bay Shore as long ago as 2001, before the retirement of several of the plant's units, going as far as to agree to sell it to **NRG Energy** along with three other predominantly coal-fired assets—the 249 MW Lake Shore, 1,262 MW Eastlake and 376 MW Ashtabula facilities. Bay Shore had a total capacity of 648 MW at the time.

The sale was cancelled in 2002, during NRG's bankruptcy proceedings, with the independent power producer paying a $198 million penalty (PFR, 10/28/02). By the end of that year, **DTE Energy** was eyeing the portfolio and had entered into exclusive talks with FirstEnergy (PFR, 12/2/02), but no sale agreement emerged.

FAST FACT

9.9 GW

Approximate total capacity of the remaining assets in FirstEnergy's competitive portfolio.

Buyer Emerges for Leeward Renewables

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its private equity owner, **ArcLight Capital Partners**.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch ran the sale for ArcLight and **Wells Fargo Securities** is advising OMERS Infrastructure on the deal. Law firms **Latham & Watkins** and **Shearman & Sterling** are acting for the seller and buyer, respectively.

The deal is slated for a third quarter closing. The purchase price could not immediately be learned.

ArcLight acquired 18 of Leeward's 19 operating assets from **Infigen Energy** in a $257 million transaction in 2015 as part of the Australian sponsor's departure from the U.S. market (PFR, 7/16/15).

The projects are located in California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas.

ArcLight refinanced the portfolio in July 2016, with $256 million of five-year, backlevered, senior secured debt provided by a group of seven banks. Coordinating lead arrangers **Crédit Agricole** and **Santander** each underwrote 50% each of the debt facility.

The refinancing was voted *PFR*'s North America Renewables Project Finance Deal of 2016 (PFR, 5/25).

REPOWERING

Leeward plans to continue its development of greenfield assets as well as the repowering of older wind projects, Leeward ceo **Greg Wolf** said in a statement.

The company has plans to finance a repowering of its Mendota Hills project in Lee County, Ill., this year. The repowering would increase the project's capacity from 50 MW to 76 MW (PFR, 3/7).

Leeward is one of a handful of sponsors that have experience of repowering wind projects. It financed the repowering of its Sweetwater II wind project in Nolan County, Texas, with a $160 million tax equity investment from **GE Energy Financial Services** (PFR, 1/11). The Sweetwater II project's output was bumped from 91.5 MW to 98.8 MW.

NorthWestern to Buy Out Montana PPA

NorthWestern Energy is acquiring a 9.72 MW wind project in Montana with which it has a power purchase agreement.

The Sioux Falls, S.D.-based utility has agreed to buy the Two Dot project, which is named for its location, from **New Jersey Resources Corp.** subsidiary **NJR Clean Energy** for $18.5 million.

NorthWestern's 25-year PPA with the Two Dot project, which has been online since 2014, will be terminated as a result of the acquisition.

NJR Clean Energy owns approximately 117 MW of wind generation in Iowa, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Wyoming, as well as residential, commercial and industrial solar systems in New Jersey totaling roughly 189 MW, according to a filing with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** seeking authorization of the Two Dot sale.

NJR Corp., which is based in Wall Township, N.J., acquired the Two Dot project from **EDF Renewable Energy** subsidiary **OwnEnergy** in 2014 (PFR, 5/16/14).

STRATEGIES

Peru LNG Breaks into Bond Mart with Oversubscribed Deal

Peru LNG, the owner of South America's only gas liquefaction plant, garnered sufficient investor demand to cover its $940 million debut bond offering more than two and a half times, pricing the deal on March 15.

The company, whose largest shareholder is **Hunt Oil Co.**, printed the 12-year bond with a 5.375% coupon after approaching the market with initial thoughts about midway between 5% and 6%.

Demand for the bonds peaked at $2.4 billion, according to a banker at one of the leads, **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** (global coordinator), **Citi**, **Credicorp** and **JP Morgan**.

The issuer and the banks had laid the groundwork for the issuance the week before with an investor roadshow spanning three continents (PFR, 3/8).

The bonds were priced wider than where similarly-rated Peruvian energy sector bonds were trading, which could also help explain the strong demand.

Kallpa Generación, whose Baa3 and BBB- ratings from **Moody's Investors Service** and **Fitch Ratings** match those of Peru LNG, has a bond maturing in 2027 that was being bid at roughly 4.6% at the time of Peru LNG's deal, says a bond trader in London.

This means that Peru LNG paid about 78 basis points more than its similarly-rated compatriot for just three extra years' duration, representing a fairly chunky concession for an investment grade-rated issuer, the trader adds. Peru LNG has an additional BBB- rating from **S&P Global Ratings**.

The Peru LNG notes have a six-year grace period before repayment and mature two years after the company's LNG sale and purchase delivery contract with its sole offtaker, **Shell International Trading Middle East**, expires in 2028.

The maturity mismatch between the notes and offtake contract is mitigated by the amortizing structure of the notes, according to Moody's. The rating agency reckons that Peru LNG will owe roughly $280 million under the bonds by 2028, which the company will cover with accumulated cash flow from operations.

The proceeds of the offering will be used to partly refinance $1.2 billion of existing project finance debt early, with the rest due to be paid down using cash on hand.

Peru LNG's Ebitda-to-net-debt ratio was 5.9 times last year, and after the issuance this is expected to fall to 4.5 times, according to Fitch, which also estimates that leverage at the company will drop to below 3.5 times in the medium term. This is roughly in line with S&P's calculations, which put leverage at the company at four times in the next two years. ■

NRG Shaves 50 Basis Points from Term Loan

NRG Energy has repriced its senior secured term loan B, cutting the margin on the loan by 50 basis points and reducing the Libor floor to 0%.

Goldman Sachs was left lead on the $1.875 billion deal, which was launched on March 9 and allocated on March 19.

The Princeton, N.J.-based independent power producer expects the reduction of the margin, from 225 bps to 175 bps over Libor, to save it $47 million in interest over the remaining life of the loan, which matures in June 2023.

The transaction fits a long-running trend as conditions in the term loan B market remain friendly to borrowers.

"CLOs need to be invested and there are probably not enough new money opportunities to match the capital formation," says a leveraged loan banker, referring to the collateralized loan obligation managers that make up the bulk of the market's investor base. The CLO managers have been repricing their bonds in turn, passing on the reduced levels to their investors, the banker adds.

Citi was left lead and bookrunner when NRG priced the original loan in 2016 at a margin of 225 bps with a Libor floor of 0.75%. Citi sold the loan at an original issue discount of 99.5% (PFR, 6/20/16).

The senior secured loan has Baa3 and BB+ ratings from **Moody's Investors Service** and **S&P Global Ratings**, compared with B1 and BB- ratings for NRG's unsecured debt.

> **"CLOs need to be invested and there are probably not enough new money opportunities to match the capital formation"**

The company revealed the progress it had made on its plan to reduce the size of its balance sheet earlier this year, announcing the sales of its renewables platform and its stake in yield company **NRG Yield**, a portfolio of five conventional generation assets in the South and its energy trading and marketing subsidiary (PFR, 2/7, 3/5).

Global Infrastructure Partners is buying the yieldco stake and the rest of the renewables business for $1.375 billion, while a recently-formed subsidiary of utility holding company **Cleco Corporate Holdings** is acquiring the 3.5 GW mostly gas-fired portfolio, which is spread across Louisiana and Texas, for $1 billion.

Diamond Generating Corp., meanwhile, has agreed to buy the energy marketing business, **Boston Energy Trading and Marketing**, in a $70 million transaction.

"NRG's transformation plan, which includes selling off about half of its assets and reducing its leverage, is credit positive," said **Toby Shea**, vice president and senior credit officer at Moody's, in a report published by the rating agency in October. "Our positive outlook reflects the view that the benefits of having lower leverage will outweigh the higher business risk associated with being a smaller, less contracted company." ■

Spark Energy Acquires Retail Marketing Business

Spark Energy and its chairman have acquired a New York-based retail energy marketer with operations in several states in the Northeastern and Midwestern U.S.

Spark and the chairman of its board of directors, **W. Keith Maxwell**, acquired **HIKO Energy** on March 1 through a vehicle called **Spark HoldCo**, which is 62% owned by Maxwell through **TxEx Energy Investments** and 38% by Spark.

The transaction was revealed in paperwork filed with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** on March 13, nearly two weeks after the acquisition closed. The application for permission for the deal was filed late owing to what is described in the filing as "an oversight".

The sellers are a group of private investors.

"STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVES"

Spark Energy, which is listed on **Nasdaq** and has traded under the ticker SPKE since its initial public offering in 2014, recently tapped **Morgan Stanley** to advise it on "strategic alternatives" it is exploring.

"Since the time of our IPO, our management team and board have been focused on ensuring that we are always making decisions to maximize long-term shareholder value," Spark ceo **Nathan Kroeker** said on the company's March 9 earnings call. "We believe that the current stock price does not accurately reflect the growth we've achieved or the underlying value of the business."

The company acquired Norwalk, Conn.-based marketer **Verde Energy** last year and recently sealed the purchase of a book of customers from retail power marketer **National Gas & Electric**, where Maxwell is founder and ceo. Maxwell founded Spark in 1999, according to his **LinkedIn** profile.

Spark's latest acquisition, HIKO, operates in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland Ohio and Pennsylvania.

PEOPLE & FIRMS

Japanese Firm Hires Ex-CIBC Banker in New York

A former **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce** project finance and infrastructure banker has taken up a new position at a Japanese bank in New York.

Darrel Ho, who spent five years at CIBC before departing last May (PFR, 7/20), joined Tokyo-headquartered **Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank** as a senior executive director in January.

Ho will continue to focus on project finance in his new role, he tells *PFR* from SMTB's U.S. office in Midtown Manhattan.

Ho has worked in the project finance departments of several banks in the greater New York City area over the years, including **UBS**, **Deutsche Bank** and **Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi** (now part of **MUFG**).

In 2005, Ho left BTM and joined **Fortis Capital** (which has since been acquired by **BNP Paribas**) as a vice president, staying there for three years.

Then, in 2008, he joined **GE Energy Financial Services**, where he was senior vice president until 2012 when he left for CIBC (PFR, 3/19/12, 4/4/08).

SMTB is now looking to hire a credit analyst to focus on structured and project finance, as well as trade and export finance.

The bank is unrelated to **Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group**, the parent company of **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.**, though both institutions trace their origins to the **Sumitomo Group** and the **Mitsui Group**.

Project Finance Lawyer Joins Baker McKenzie

Baker McKenzie has hired **Emeka Chinwuba** as a partner in its New York office. He joins from **Norton Rose Fulbright**, where he spent three years as counsel.

Chinwuba will focus on project finance in power and infrastructure in the U.S. and Africa given his dual-qualifications. He is licensed to practice in the U.S. and Nigeria and has advised clients on domestic and cross-border transactions involving conventional and renewable energy power projects for 15 years.

He practiced in Lagos before moving to New York, where he was awarded an LLM by **Columbia University School of Law** and then spent almost nine years at **Shearman & Sterling**.

Following a secondment with Abu Dhabi-based renewable energy company **Masdar** in 2013, he joined NRF in 2015.

While at NRF, he was appointed to serve on the **New York City Bar Association**'s Project Finance Committee in September 2016. Terms typically last three years.

Chinwuba started at Baker McKenzie's New York office this month. The firm has added 10 senior personnel in the past two years. NRF, which absorbed the project finance team of **Chadbourne & Parke** in a major law firm merger last year, experienced departures earlier this year, when an eight-member team joined **Winston & Strawn** (PFR, 2/2).

Troutman Reels In Hydro Specialist

Troutman Sanders has hired a former **Van Ness Feldman** lawyer who specializes in hydro regulation as a partner in its Washington, D.C., office.

Charles Sensiba, who joined Troutman earlier this month, had worked at Van Ness since graduating law school in 1999. He was made partner in 2008.

Specializing in the regulatory aspects of hydro deals, Sensiba's expertise includes project licensing, as well as the environmental, land management and historic preservation aspects of hydro development.

His clients typically include developers, independent power producers and investor-owned utilities, as well as public utilities and state government agencies.

In his new role, Sensiba reports to **Amie Colby**, who chairs Troutman's energy and regulatory department in Washington. The department includes attorneys who work on renewable project financings and M&A deals.

Troutman was most recently one of three law firms advising **Cleco Power** parent **Cleco Corporate Holdings** on its acquisition of **NRG Energy**'s 3,555 MW generation portfolio in the Southern U.S., alongside **Norton Rose Fulbright** and **Phelps Dunbar** (PFR, 2/7/18).

FAST FACT

1920s

Decade Troutman Launched its energy practice.

Bracewell Hires Project Finance Attorneys from Pillsbury

Two project finance attorneys who previously worked at **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman** have joined Bracewell as partners in New York.

One of the lawyers, **Nicolai Sarad**, was co-head of Pillsbury's projects team, while the other, **Fernando Rodriguez Marin**, has particular experience handling projects in Latin America and Spain and is qualified to practice Spanish as well as New York law. The pair joined Bracewell this month.

"Nick and Fernando have worked together for many years and are highly regarded by the project finance industry," said **Ron Erlichman**, a partner in Bracewell's project finance group in New York, who has been with the firm since 1998, in a statement.

"Their addition to the project finance team will expand Bracewell's reach into Latin America and deepen our P3 infrastructure practice," he said. "Additionally, their lender experience will deepen and expand our already globally recognized lender project finance practice."

Bracewell's power practice was bolstered in 2012 with the arrival of a group of lawyers from **Dewey & LeBouef**, the now-defunct New York law firm that was in the midst of a high-profile bankruptcy at the time (PFR, 5/10/12).

John Klauberg, an ex-Dewey lawyer, and **Jessica Adkins**, who has worked at Bracewell since 2001, are co-heads of power at the firm.