power finance & risk

The exclusive source for power financing and trading news

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Traders See Energy Lucre

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GE To Eye Calpine Plants

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10 GW TXU PUTS PLANTS, STORAGE ON THE BLOCK

TXU is auctioning 10.3 GW of gas-fired generation facilities in Texas as well as a reported 20 bcf in gas storage facilities. **Bank of America** is running separate marketing processes for the two portfolios of the Dallas-based energy company.

Officials in BofA's mergers and acquisitions group in New York



(continued on page 12)

INVENERGY AIMS FOR \$400M WIND FINANCING

Invenergy is aiming to arrange about \$400 million in construction financing for a roughly 200 MW portfolio of wind farms. The lead will be launched by **Dexia Crédit Local**, which ran an earlier \$120 million loan, funding the acquisition of turbines for the development, about three weeks ago. Officials at the bank declined comment. Pricing on the turbine loan or this second phase of debt could not be ascertained. Calls to **Kevin Smith**, a senior v.p. at the Chicago-based wind developer, were not returned.

Bankers say the debt package is similar to a \$390 million wind financing (PFR, 9/5)

(continued on page 12)

A Breeze?

NOVEL EUROPEAN WIND POWER DEAL LAUNCHED

A novel €350 million (\$435 million) deal backed by expected future power sales from 39 wind farms in Germany and France is in the market. **CRC Breeze Financing**, a Luxembourg-based SPV, is issuing the notes and will use the proceeds to buy out the various project developers and finance the completion of each farm, according to *PFR* sister publication *Securitization News*. A spokesman for CRC, a Cayman-based funding boutique, declined to comment.

HVB sourced the projects, which will total 330 MW, and is structuring the paper. Matthias (continued on page 12)

UBoC READIES PUSH IN M&A

Union Bank of California is beefing up its power and utilities group in North America and hired former Calpine exec Lynn Smull to spearhead a new initiative in mergers and acquisitions. The San Francisco-based bank, which is best known in the sector for arranging corporate utility loans, wants to expand the scope of its deals. It sees an opportunity to snare M&A business from existing clientele, says Henry Park, senior v.p., in Los Angeles.

"More and more clients are asking us for these services and we have a successful track record in the power sector and we want to leverage our knowledge and experience in many

(continued on page 11)

At Press Time

Babcock NorthWestern Purchase Seen As Share Boon

Babcock & Brown Infrastructure's planned \$2.23 billion acquisition of Sioux Falls, S.D.-based NorthWestern Corp. is expected to be a positive for the firm's listed Australian investment fund. Roger Leaning, analyst at ABN AMRO Morgans in Brisbane, Australia, says the deal fits in well with the existing portfolio of assets owned by the publicly-traded fund, including Powerco, New Zealand's third largest electricity and gas network utility. The fund is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange as Prime Infrastructure. Leaning estimates Babcock's purchase could yield in excess of 7 cents Australian (5.3 cents) per share for shareholders.

Tristan Peniston-Bird, spokesman for Babcock at public relations firm Gavin Anderson & Co. in New York, says \$505 million of debt will be raised upon completion of the deal, and that the fund has about \$248 million cash on hand. It also adds about \$41 million to its coffers semiannually through a dividend reinvestment plan, which could mean another \$82-123 million, depending on when the sale closes.

Energy Traders Get More Cash

Energy traders are getting bonus guarantees 10-15% higher than last year from large firms seeking to boost staff in the once-again lucrative sector, traders and recruiters say. Big players are promising compensation of over \$1 million including salary and bonus, up from the \$800,000 traders averaged last year, and multimillion-dollar guarantees are being promised to the top traders. Bonuses are likely to go up even higher this year as competition for star traders intensifies and banks fight to keep talent from jumping ship.

"Much of the staffing up at bulge-bracket firms transpired in 2004 and 2005, but second-tier banks are rapidly hiring personnel to catch up to the **Goldman Sachs** and **Credit Suisses** of the world," says **Eric Moskowitz**, director with the **Options Group**, a global executive search and consultancy firm.

Goldman, Credit Suisse, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley were the first to invest in energy trading after the Enron debacle died down several years ago. Among those hiring now are Deutsche Bank Securities, JPMorgan Securities and Bear Stearns, which last month began recruiting personnel for a 26-trader energy desk.

Foreign banks, such as Fortis, Calyon and Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein, also want to establish businesses in the U.S. Spokespeople for the banks either declined to comment or did not return calls. A JPMorgan spokesman said the bank is strategically expanding its energy desk in the U.S. and globally.

These firms will face tough choices on whether to pay up for headcount or stand fast and potentially miss the market. "To build a meaningful desk, a brokerage would need to commit at least \$30-50 million just for hires," said Alan Johnson, ceo of Johnson Associates, a compensation consultancy.

All of them are competing against established firms, whose top traders can earn as much as \$25 million a year, so luring top professionals is difficult.

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DZ Adds Project Finance Pair

DZ Bank has hired two project finance professionals to bolster its business in New York.

The Frankfurt-based lending institution hired Moritz Keller as a v.p. and Judson Horn as an associate. Keller had worked previously with DZ for nearly three years before leaving for ING Capital (PFR, 11/20/03). He will be responsible for deal origination and syndication among other duties and Horn, who worked previously at JPMorgan Chase, will handle originations. Both execs will report to group head Bill Roos, who was unavailable for comment. The pair will start in the next few weeks.

Several months ago veteran project financier Mary Power left the firm, accepting an early retirement package (PFR, 10/3). She resurfaced as a consultant for Pace Global in New York (PFR, 3/20).

GMAC Looks To Add Staffer In Calgary

General Motors Acceptance Corp. is looking to hire a senior project finance banker in Calgary. Kirk Edelman, senior v.p., who heads up the energy finance business in New York, says GMAC wants to grow its presence and views Canada as a burgeoning market. The plan is to add a senior originator experienced in the power and oil and gas sector over the next several weeks and it will consider tapping additional staffers as needed. Edelman was hired at the start of the year to grow GMAC's project finance footprint (PFR, 12/12).

General Motors sold a majority stake in GMAC to a group led by Cerberus Capital Management for \$7.4 billion. Edelman notes although there is some uncertainty about the strategy of new ownership, the firm continues to pursue deals.

Primary Energy Offers Top \$400M

Bidders in the auction for American Securities Capital Partners' stake in Oak Brook, Ill., generator Primary Energy Ventures have made indicative offers of more than \$400 million. A number of bidders topped that number, says a banker following the sale. The shop is looking to sell its stake, which is believed to stand at more than 70%, for about \$440-450 million via broker Lehman Brothers, which took first round bids a week-and-a-half ago (PFR, 2/20).

The timing of the second round could not be determined. Calls to Michael Fisch, managing director at American Securities in New York, and to Frank Napolitano, managing director at Lehman in New York, were not returned. William

Johnson, executive v.p. at Primary Energy, declined to comment.

Primary Energy was founded by power financier Bill Rockford. It owns and operates four recycled energy projects and has a 50% interest through an investment vehicle in a pulverized coal facility. The facilities are under contracts with United States Steel, Ispat Inland and International Steel Group.

Ohio Power Fund Sets Up Houston Post

Columbus-based **Alpha Energy Partners** is opening an office in Houston. The firm, which is run by former **American Electric Power** honcho **Lew Williams**, is opening the office on May 1, says **Barry Hines**, co-founder of **Boomerang Capital**, which serves as third-party marketer.

Alpha, which manages \$325 million, focuses on natural gas trading (*iialternatives.com*, 9/24/04). The team is comprised mostly of AEP veterans, and for this reason is based in Columbus, said Hines. By opening an office in Houston, the firm will have an easier time attracting talent in the future, he adds. **John Massey**, who manages the coal and emission portions of the portfolio, will head up the office in the Lone Star state.

GE Energy Eyes Calpine Assets

GE Energy Financial Services plans on taking a hard look at assets expected to be offloaded by Calpine. Leanne Bell, managing director at GE EFS in Stamford, Conn., says GE EFS may bid on some of the 20 plants the San Jose, Calif., company plans on selling. She declined to detail GE EFS' interest, including specifying which plants it might have an interest in. The asset sale is part of a streamlining of operations for Calpine's anticipated emergence from bankruptcy

Observers say Calpine's intent is to auction the bulk of its generation investments outside of those in its home state and ERCOT. Calpine spokeswoman Katherine Potter declined to provide details on the company's sale strategy. "Along with the bankruptcy court, we are evaluating all our assets certainly from an economic standpoint," she says.

Alabama facilities such as the 793 MW Decatur plant and a 722 MW plant known as Morgan could be put up for grabs. Also believed to be on deck are Carville, a 455 MW plant in Louisiana; Columbia, a 464 MW plant in South Carolina; Goldendale, a 237 MW plant in Washington; Oneta, a 994 MW plant in Oklahoma; as well as New Jersey facilities Newark and Parlin.

Corporate Strategies

Dynegy Bulks Up Bank Lending Lines

Dynegy Holdings has added capacity to its revolving credit line and obtained a new letter of credit facility. The Houston-based holding entity added some \$270 million in additional capacity by tacking on \$70 million to its existing three-year \$400 million revolving line and obtaining a six-year \$200 million LC. Ralph Pellecchia, an analyst with Fitch Ratings in New York, says the new facility gives the company more liquidity to run its business. David Byford, spokesman for Dynegy in Houston, would not comment or make an official available for comment.

Both lines were arranged by Citigroup Global Markets and J.P. Morgan Securities. The banks also served as lead arrangers on the original \$400 million credit facility, which was priced at 200 basis points over LIBOR (PFR, 3/20). Pricing on both facilities now is set at 175 basis points over LIBOR. Syndication of the facilities was completed two weeks ago.

Pellecchia believes Dynegy is in a position to see improved credit ratings from revenue growth given its asset sales, which have allowed it to trim overall debt.

Sierra Units Add Goldman To **Punched Up Revolvers**



Bill Rogers

Sierra Pacific Resources subsidiaries Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific Power have added Goldman Sachs to upsized credit facilities. Bill Rogers, treasurer at the Reno, Nev., holding company, says the utilities added about \$100 million of firepower each to their lines, needed in light of volatile natural gas prices. He says Goldman's inclusion is the first

time the firm has worked with the company's units. "We want to have them as a banking partner," he notes.

The added capacity on the loans provides additional flexibility: the units are fully hedged for the summer. "I can't tell you what 2007 is going to look like," Rogers reflects. Both maturing Nov. 2010, Nevada Power's revolver was increased to \$600 million, and Sierra Pacific Power's was pushed to \$350 million.

Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, and about seven other lenders are also providing the same amount of aggregate credit as Goldman between the two facilities. Since Sierra Pacific Resources does not have a revolver at the holding company level, the two amended revolvers represent all of the credit facilities available to its subsidiaries. Rogers notes that Sierra Pacific's units enter into contracts to purchase gas and then hedge its contracts.

Rogers says bringing Goldman into its credit facility is part

of a broader effort to reach out to more banks than Sierra Pacific has in the past. He notes that banks that work with the company gain insight into it what can be beneficial for Sierra Pacific in the future, which will be taken into account when it hands out new assignments.

Geothermal Producer Taps Equity For Expansion

Ormat Technologies, a geothermal energy producer, recently sold 4 million shares, netting \$135 million to support growth. The shares were priced at \$35.50, a \$0.70 discount to the previous day's close. Dita Bronicki, ceo, said the Sparks, Nev.based company's primary reason for raising capital was to help pay for construction of projects that should add 110 MW of capacity this year and 58 MW the next. Ormat's generating portfolio totaled 364 MW last year. The proceeds could also be used for acquisitions, Bronicki said, without providing any specifics.

Ormat, a subsidiary of Israel's Ormat Industries, has watched its share price soar in the past year, as investors flock to alternative energy stocks. However, Bronicki said the offering wasn't timed to take advantage of this year's stock price rise as Ormat filed a \$1 billion shelf filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in January.

Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs were the joint book runners on the offering, with Citigroup as the joint lead and HSBC, RBC Capital Markets and Dundee Securities as comanagers. Bronicki said she assembled the cast to expand Ormat's investor base through brand name bulge bracket banks and Canadian securities firms. Dundee, she noted, is small but has experience in raising capital for geothermal energy companies.

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Williams E&P Sub Sponges Term Loan

Williams Cos. subsidiary Williams Production RMT Company has retired secured debt with cash on hand and funds funneled from its parent's revolver. The unit paid down a \$488.9 million floating-rate term loan, coming due in 2008 and it will be replaced later this year, says Kelly Swan, spokesman for Williams in Tulsa, Okla. The loan, issued at Williams' exploration and production subsidiary, was used to back gas reserves in the Rockies. He would not make an official available for comment.

Swan would not say how much of Williams Production's debt is secured versus its unsecured, but says the preference is for

unsecured. Lehman Brothers and Banc of America Securities were the lead arrangers on the term loan.

Hugh Welton, an analyst at Fitch Ratings in New York, says the retirement helps simplify the company's capital structure. Williams has been diligently paying off debt since 2002 throughout its subsidiaries, retiring almost \$5 billion. The analyst says Fitch views the term loan retirement as a positive because it removes secured debt at the parent-level, adding the ratings agency has put the Williams Cos. on deck for a potential upgrade.

Willams Cos. still has about \$7.5 billion in debt outstanding, Welton says, adding it is a strong company due in large part to its core natural gas business.

Financing Record (APRIL 19-APRIL 25)

M&A

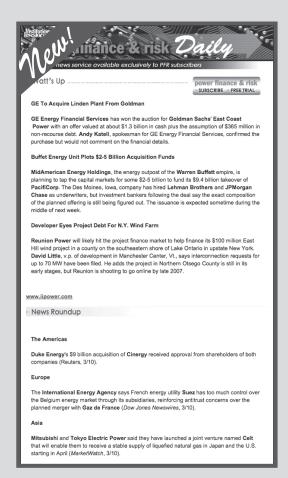
Announced	Date Effective	Target Name	Target Advisors	Target Industry Sector	Target Nation	Acquiror Name	Aaquiror Advisors	Acquiror Industry Sector	Acquiror Nation	Value(\$Mil)
4/19/06		Coleto Creek Power	Goldman Sachs & Co	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	International Power PLC	Lehman Brothers	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United Kingdom	1,140.00
4/20/06		Bintang Hytien Jaya PT		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Indonesia	Asian Utilities Pte Ltd		Investment & Commodity Firms, Dealers, Exchanges		0.028
4/20/06		Genscape Inc		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	DMG Information		Printing, Publishing, and Allied Services	United States	196
4/20/06	4/20/06	Powersource Corp)	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	Sure Trace Security Corp		Electronic and Electrical Equipment	United States	
4/22/06	4/22/06	Stadtwerke Cottbus GmbH	Sal Oppenheim Jr & Cie KGaA	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Germany	Deutsche Kreditbank AG		Commercial Banks, Bank Holding Companies	Germany	184.59
4/24/06	4/24/06	Entergy Solutions Ltd-Electric		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	Direct Energy		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Canada	30
4/25/06		NorthWestern Corp	Credit Suisse Group	Blackstone Capital Partners LP	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution		Babcock & Brown Infrastructure	Investment & Commodity Firms, Dealers, Exchanges		1,316.01

Debt

					Type of							
Rule 144A	Issue Date	Issuer	Amount (\$ mil)	Coupon (%)	Security	Maturity	Offer Price	YTM(%)	Spread	S&P	Moody's	Fitch
Yes	4/19/06	Florida Power & Light Co(FPL)	300	6.2	Fst Mtg Bonds	6/1/36	99.975	6.202	96	Α	Aa3	AA-
	4/19/06	Hydro One Inc	220.2	5.36	Medium-Term Nts	5/20/36	Market	Market				
	4/20/06	Gulf Cogeneration Co	46.1	5.87	Amortizing Nts	4/27/09	100	5.87		NR	NR	
	4/20/06	Gulf Cogeneration Co	30.7	6.11	Amortizing Nts	4/27/11	100	6.11		NR	NR	
	4/20/06	Gulf Cogeneration Co	76.8	6.64	Amortizing Nts	4/27/16	100	6.64		NR	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	15.7	1.97	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.97		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	15.7	1.97	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.97		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	34.5	1.97	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.97		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	3.1	1.95	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.95		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	18.8	1.95	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.95		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	15.7	1.85	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/11	100	1.85		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	62.7	1.85	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/22/11	100	1.85		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	31.3	1.85	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/11	100	1.85		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	15.7	1.85	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/11	100	1.85		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	3.1	1.85	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/11	100	1.85		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	62.7	1.95	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.95		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	31.3	1.95	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.95		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	31.3	1.95	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/16	100	1.95		AAA	NR	
	4/25/06	Taipower	18.8	1.85	Fxd/Straight Bd	5/3/11	100	1.85		AAA	NR	

Source: Thomson Financial Securities Data Company. For more information, call Rich Peterson at (212) 806-3144.

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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 Mark DeCambre, managing editor, at (212) 224-3293 or e-mail mdecambre@iinews.com.

Seller	Plants	Location	MW	Plant Type	Advisor	Status
Atlantic City Electric Company	B.L.England	New Jersey	447	Coal	Concentric Advisors	
	Key Stone	Pa.	-	Coal		
	Conenaugh	Pa.	-	Coal		
American Securities Capital Partners	Approximately 70% Stake In Primary Energy Ventures	Oak Broak, III.	900	Various	Bank of America	First-Round Bids Are In (see story, page 3).
Aquila	Racoon Creek	III.	340	Gas	Not chosen	Intention To Sell.
	Goose Creek	III.	340	Gas		
	Crossroads	Miss.	340	Gas		
Bear Stearns	Mulberry	Fla.	120	Gas	Bear Stearns	Sold to Northern Star Gen.
	Orange	Fla.	103	Gas	Bear Stearns	
BP	Great Yarmouth	U.K.	400	Gas	J.P. Morgan	Intention To Sell.
BNP -led bank group	Mystic River 7	Mass.	560	Oil/Gas	Lazard	Ongoing.
(Exelon developed plants)	Mystic River 8	Mass.	832	Gas		
	Mystic River 9	Mass.	832	Gas		
	Fore River	Mass.	832	Gas		
Carlyle Riverstone/ Sempra Carlyle Riverstone/ Sempra	Coleto Creek Power Station Topaz Power Group	ERCOT ERCOT	632 2.9 GW	Coal Gas&Oil	Goldman Sachs Greenhil & Co.	Int'l Power Agreed To Purchase For \$1.14B (See Story Page 1). Ongoing.
Citi & SocGen-led creditor group	Union	Ark.	2,200	Gas	Goldman	Ongoing.
(TECO Energy developed plants)	Gila River	Ariz.	2,300	Gas		
CMS Energy	Ensenada	Argentina	128	Gas	Not chosen	Announced Intention To Sell.
	CT Mendoza	Argentina	520	Gas	J.P. Morgan	
	El Chocon	Argentina	1,320	Hydro	J.P. Morgan	
	Palisades	Mich.	798	Nuke	Concentric Advisors	Offer Memo End Of Jan.
Citi-led bank group	Lake Road	Conn.	840	Gas	Lehman Bros.	Cargill Bought Debt Portion (PFR, 12/27).
(NEG developed plants) Delta Power	Lowell Power	Mass.	82	Gas	None	Actively Pursuing A Sale.
El Paso Europe	EMA Power	Hungary	70	Coal		
El Paso North America	Berkshire	Mass.	261 (56.41%)			Final Bids Due.
(Merchant assets)	CDECCA	Conn.	62	Gas		Negotiations Are Taking Place With
EnCana	Cavalier	Alberta	106	Gas	HSBC	Launched Sale In April.
	Balzac	Alberta	106	Gas	HSBC	
	Kingston	Ontario	110 (25%)	Gas	HSBC	
Energy Investors Fund	Multitrade	Va.	79.5 (60%)	Biomass	None	Stake Sold To GE
Entergy Asset Management	Robert Ritchie	Ark.	544	Gas/oil	None	Ongoing.
	Warren Power	Miss.	314	Gas		
	RS Cogen Harrison County	La. Texas	425 (49%) 550 (70%)	CHP Gas		
		10/100	000 (70 /0)			

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Generation Auction & Sale Auction (cont'd)

New Common	Seller	Plants	Location	MW	Plant Type	Advisor	Status
Lindon Centerating States Lindon Centerating States Lindon, N.J. 775 MW Gas Galdman Sachs East Coast Power Lindon, N.J. 940 MW Gas Galdman GE Agreed To Putchase Asset.	F 1 (0050	511 · 0 · 0 · 0 · 0		4.540.4.04/	0 1 10		
Galman Sachs East Coast Power Inden, N.J. 940 MW Gas Goldman S Fieldstane Phrate Capted of Purchase Asset: Capted Group	Exelon/PSEG	,	,				Interviewing Banks To Advise Un Sales.
Gaine Construction Invalid Carried Car		•				0.11	054
Recipion Companies Compa	Goldman Sachs	East Coast Power	Linden, N.J.	940 MW	Gas	Goldman	GE Agreed To Purchase Asset.
KBC Leid creditor group Milford Shady Hills Fla. 474 Gas Borque County Floxas Floxas Floxas Floxas Floxas Borque Marathon Capital Evaluating Bids. Considering Liquidation. Considering Liquidation. Considering Liquid	Gama Construction	Tynagh	Republic of Ireland	400 MW	Gas	Fieldstone Private	Ongoing.
Mirant Shady Hills Fla. 474 bit of 600 bit of 6	Ireland Limited					Capital Group	
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Weekly Recap

The Weekly Recap is a summary of publicly reported power news stories. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but PFR does not guarantee its completeness or accuracy.

Asia and Australia

• Australian power providers **Australian Gas Light** and **Alinta** have ended their hostile takeover battle, agreeing instead to an A\$6.8 billion (\$5.1 billion) asset swap and spin-off of Australia Gas' energy assets (*Wall Street Journal*, 4/27).

The Americas

- TXU said it will invest \$10 billion to construct 11 coalfired power plants in Texas, in a bet that it can wring bigger profits out of that state's lucrative power market. The addition of 8.6 GW of generating capacity could raise market-power concerns. TXU already is the biggest generator in the state, with 18.3 GW of installed capacity (*Wall Street Journal*, 4/21).
- Maryland reached a tentative agreement with Constellation Energy Group's Baltimore Gas and Electric unit, the state's largest power supplier, which will help ease customers into paying a 72% increase in their electricity bills (*Washington Post*, 4/21).
- Brazil's federally controlled electric power holding company Centrais Eletricas Brasileiras (Eletrobras) is looking to increase its involvement in international generation projects (*Estado*, 4/24).
- Aquila is investigating the purchase of the 500 MW Aries power plant near Pleasant Hill, Mo. The facility could be sold by Calpine as a part of plans to shop 20 plants in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring (*Kansas City Business Journal*, 4/24).
- Duke Energy Gas Transmission, a unit of Duke Energy, plans to expand its Algonquin gas transmission system by constructing a 3.5-mile, 18-inch diameter natural gas pipeline in

- the Cape Cod towns of Sandwich and Bourne, Mass. (*Charlotte Business Journal*, 4/26).
- New Solar Ventures and Solar Torx, two companies based in Arizona, proposed building a 300 MW solar-powered generating facility on state land northwest of Deming, New Mexico (Albuquerque Journal, 4/25).
- Appalachian Power and Wheeling Power, subsidiaries of American Electric Power, came to an agreement with government agencies in West Virginia in their rate cases. The overall impact of this year's increase and the future annual increases will result in an estimated overall \$129 million, or 16%, increase in revenue between the end of July and mid-2009 (*Dow Jones Newswires*, 4/25).

Europe

- Scottish Power won final planning approval to build Europe's largest on-shore wind farm. Scottish said the 322 MW 140-turbine Whitelee project south of Glasgow would provide enough green energy to power 200,000 homes (*AFX News*, 4/27).
- The European Commission has cleared E.ON to buy Spain's Endesa. The commission said the combination won't create antitrust problems. The Spanish government is maneuvering to block E.ON's bid in favor one from domestic Gas Natural (*Dow Jones Newswires*, 4/25).
- Lugano, Switzerland-based international consortium ASG Power said that it would build a \$1.9 billion power plant and re-gasification terminal in southwestern Albania in the next



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Weekly Recap (cont'd)

three years to provide power and gas to the region (Associated Press, 4/24).

• France won't amend a 1946 bill imposing minimum state ownership on municipal energy distributors, even when larger utility company Gaz de France is privatized, says Francois Loos, industry minister. The decision means local energy distributors such as Gaz de Strasbourg and Gaz de Bordeaux will remain majority state-owned (*Dow Jones Newswires*, 4/25).

Russia

- Russian president **Vladimir Putin** warned Moscow would shift its energy focus to Asia if Europe resisted its expansion plans, ratcheting up tension in an escalating row over Russia's international energy ambitions (*Wall Street Journal*, 4/27).
- Russian energy giant **Gazprom** attacked the European Union's plan to liberalize the gas market. **Alexander Medvedev**, deputy ceo, says proposals to deregulate the market and loosen long-term contracts between Gazprom and EU-based customers could undermine the stability of the gas market (*Financial Times*, 4/26).

UBoC READIES

(continued from page 1)

of the assets that we are intimately familiar," Park says, noting the institution's aim would be to serve as an advisor to company's looking to buy or auction generation facilities or other energy assets. He declined to discuss specifics about other possible hires in that area. "We are not striving to be a market leader in this sector—we have the luxury of targeting opportunities. We are not striving to displace JPMorgan [Chase] or Goldman Sachs—we are just looking to find opportunities for clients that enhance their business," Park adds.

At Calpine, Smull focused on restructuring and capital raising activities prior to the beleaguered San Jose IPP's Chapter 11 filing in December. He will be based in Los Angeles and is expected to handle M&A and arrange corporate and project level financing, Park explains. "He has extensive asset-specific M&A advisory and execution experience," he notes. Prior to Calpine, Smull was a director in Banc of America Securities' global project finance group and worked in a similar area at Salomon Brothers.

In addition, UBoC also is hoping to make a pair of hires to build up its power and utilities group in Calgary. The bank has an office there, but does not have staff on the ground



specifically geared to handling power and energy deals particularly as Canada, including the **Ontario Power Authority**, attempts to enhance generation and pipeline infrastructure, Park says. He declined to provide further details.

—M.D.

INVENERGY AIMS

(continued from page 1)

completed last year. The specific assets to be included in this iteration still need to be worked out, but the projects are expected to be contracted, say bankers, declining to identify offtakers.

Prospective participants, who were involved in last year's wind deal, expect that this new deal also will be received well in the market. Invenergy's deal last year ultimately drew the interest of nearly a dozen banks. Watchers expect that Dexia will give interested parties a clearer picture of which farms will be included in the financing as the deal gets closer to launching in the summer.

Last year, financing backed the construction of the 135 MW Judith Gap wind farm in Judith Gap, Colo., the 60 MW Spring Canyon farm near Peetz, Colo., and the 64.5 MW Wolverine Creek facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho. All three projects have been completed.

—Mari Slater

NOVEL EUROPEAN

(continued from page 1)

Glueckert, head of syndicate at HVB in Munich, says past wind farm transactions have been around €100 million (\$124.2 million), so CRC Breeze is setting a benchmark in terms of magnitude.

The construction loans made by CRC will also be cross collateralized. Laurence Monnier, analyst at Fitch Ratings, says the transaction's unique structure makes it something of a one-off. "Typical project financing transactions have a holding company, but this is more like a securitization with senior and subordinate debt, and a Luxembourg-based SPV issuing the loans," she adds.

The collateral is mixed—33% of the wind farms are fully operational, 9% have been completed but are still to be connected to the grid and the remainder is under construction.

This asset class comes to market infrequently, but there is potential for growth, Monnier says. The wind farm market is maturing and there is a need for refinancing of loans, which could lead to an increase in these kinds of deals, she said. "We expect to see more wind farm financing deals which may use a securitization structure, but not necessarily this structure," she adds. "This model just suited the portfolio involved in this

transaction." The biggest wind farm market is in Germany, followed by the U.S. which is also the fastest growing.

—Hugh Leask

TXU PUTS

(continued from page 1)

did not return a call for comment. TXU spokesman Chris Schein declined comment. Also advising TXU is Black River Capital, a boutique energy investment bank based in Dallas. An industry official familiar with the bank says John Wilder, ceo of TXU, may have brought Black River into the deal because he has a high opinion of partner Doug Strebel, a former Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette and Shell Exploration & Production official. Calls to Strebel were not returned.

Indicative bids for the assets were due April 21, say industry officials. Given the mix of assets, values could not be determined.

About 45 plants at 17 sites are included in the sale, of which 12 individual plants with a capacity to generate about 3.2 GW are mothballed. Observers say some of the storage terminals feed the to-be-sold generation facilities, which might make them more attractive to buyers of the generation.

TXU has included one proviso in the auction process: the winner must agree not to build coal-fired generation on the plant sites for a significant period of time. The requirement was inserted because TXU recently announced plans to spend approximately \$10 billion to construct 11 coal-fired power plants in Texas, and does not want the sale to create an opening for competition, deal trackers say.

—Peter Roth & Mark DeCambre

Quote Of The Week

"We are not striving to be a market leader in this sector—we have the luxury of targeting opportunities. We are not striving to displace JPMorgan [Chase] or Goldman Sachs—we are just looking to find opportunities for clients that enhance their business."—Henry Park, senior v.p. at Union Bank of California in Los Angeles, specifying UBoC's entry strategy in assetlevel mergers and acquisitions (see story, page 1).

One Year Ago In Power Finance & Risk

AIG Highstar and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan had tapped Barclays Capital to arrange about \$1.1 billion in financing backing the \$1.75 billion purchase of a 5.5 GW global generation package from InterGen. [Barclays, along with Royal Bank of Scotland, closed on the financing package, which consisted of an \$875 million, eight-year term loan and a \$200 million, five-year revolving credit facility, five months later (PFR, 10/24).]