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# **Duke Aims At Wind Portfolio Financing**

**Duke Energy** is planning to portfolio finance a number of constructed wind facilities next year.

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STARWOOD PLOTS FINANCING FOR +\$1B SOLAR PROJECT

Greenwich, Conn.-based **Starwood Energy** is talking to lenders about financing its more than \$1 billion, 290 MW concentrating solar project in Harquahala Valley, Ariz. "We're casting a wide net. We're talking about a significant sum of financing in a market that has been very thin," says **Brad Nordholm**, ceo, declining to identify potential lenders.

The company aims to finance the project with a 50:50 blend of debt and equity and will look to mandate leads on a construction/term loan in the fourth quarter. Starwood is also



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## CENTRICA TARGETS U.K. OFFSHORE WIND SALE

Centrica is planning to sell the combined 194 MW Lynn and Inner Dowsing farms three miles off the Lincolnshire coast in the U.K. The farms, which came online last year, cost approximately GBP300 million (\$483 million) to construct and have a power supply agreement with **British Gas**. A spokesman at the sponsor in Windsor, England, did not return a call.

The assets are within its Boreas portfolio, which is currently being refinanced. Any sale would take place after the close of the **Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi**-led debt. Centrica may be trying to rev up its cashflow after recently agreeing to acquire a 20% stake in EDF's U.K. nuclear business **British Energy** for GBP2.3 billion.

The portfolio includes the offshore farms and the 26 MW Glens of Foundland onshore

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## CPS READIES BUILD AMERICA BOND

Houston-based **CPS** Energy is considering issuing Build America Bonds, which would be the second such deal in the power sector and more are being forecast. "There will be more issues this year. It's hard for utilities to ignore the savings," says **Jill Toporek**, head of the public energy group at **Goldman Sachs** in New York.

BABs are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and provide a 35% rebate to the issuer on the interest they pay on the fully taxable bonds. The proceeds of the bonds must go toward certain sanctioned projects in areas such as infrastructure.

Goldman is the bookrunner on the CPS issue and was also the sole bookrunner on a \$200 million BAB issue for the **Sacramento Municipal Utility District**, the first in the power sector, earlier this month. The yield on the 27-year bonds was 6.322%, or 225 basis points over 30-year Treasuries, scoring a 100 basis point savings for SMUD over comparable

(continued on page 8)

### At Press Time

### **Evercore Hires B of A MD**

Evercore Partners, an investment banking boutique, has hired Robert Pacha, former managing director at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Houston, as senior managing director to establish an office in Houston and lead the firm's midstream energy practice.

Pacha is on gardening leave from B of A and will begin in his new position early this month. A spokeswoman at B of A did not return a call.

# Hydro-Québec Bidders Line Up Funding

Bidders submitting proposals into Hydro-Québec's request for bids for 500 MW of wind have been speaking to lenders stateside for funding. "It's going to be a windfall," says a project financier at European bank, referring to the fact the winners land 20-year power purchase agreements. Bids are due in May of next year and contracts will be awarded in October.

Hydro-Québec's last call for wind tenders in 2005 saw contracts awarded to several developers including:

- Invenergy for its 138.6 Le Plateau wind farm in Avignon.
- The EDF and RES Canada-led consortium St. Laurent Energies for a five-project portfolio.
- Kruger Energie for its 100 MW St. Rémi facility in several Quebec provinces and a 68 MW farm in St. Luce (PFR, 12/05).
- Enerfin Sociedad de Energia for its 100 MW De L'érable farm in Centredu-Quebec.
- Venterre NRG for its 50 MW St. Valentin project in Montérégie and the 66 MW New Richmond farm in Gaspésie.

"Bids are evaluated on the basis of the quality of their financing plan and credit rating," says a Hydro-Québec official in Montreal, adding sponsors don't necessarily need to have financing in place at submission. The cost of generation from the facility is one the most important factors in evaluating the proposals.

# **Duke Eyes Wind Portfolio Financing**

**Duke Energy** is aiming for a portfolio financing of existing wind projects late next year, says **Wouter van Kempen**, president at business unit **Duke Energy Generation Services** in Charlotte, N.C. He declined to comment on the size and scope of the portfolio, but says it will include the 70 MW North Allegheny wind farm.

Duke has agreed to acquire North Allegheny for an undisclosed sum from Gamesa Energy USA. The farm in development in Blair and Cambria Counties, Pa., and is the company's first wind acquisition in the Eastern U.S. Van Kempen notes the company will finance the purchase for now on balance sheet.

The farm, which is expected to come online by late summer, consists of 35, 2 MW Gamesa wind turbines and has a 23.5-year PPA with FirstEnergy. The acquisition is expected to close in the third quarter.

Duke is continuing to look at wind project acquisitions across the U.S. But van Kempen notes they too often are problematic. "A lot of them seem to have a lot of hair on them," he says, noting some have flawed turbines or locations.

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# **Horizon Hunts Tax Equity Approval**

Horizon Wind Energy is seeking approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a tax equity investment for its planned 101 MW Rail Splitter wind farm in Tazewell and Logan Counties, Ill.

JPMorgan Capital Corp., a subsidiary of JPMorgan, is planning on investing tax equity into the project, but a specific amount could not be learned. Horizon is planning to sell the power from the facility under long-term PPAs after it begins testing at the facility next month.

**John Eber**, managing director at JPMCC in Chicago, and **Gabriel Alonso**, chief development officer at Horizon in Houston, did not return calls by press time.

# Banks To Close Botswana Plant Financing

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Standard Bank are planning to wrap financing for the planned \$1.6 billion, 1.2 GW expansion at the 132 MW coal-fired Morupule plant near Palapye, Botswana, within two months.

The financing will likely close in two stages, with a \$140 million bridge loan financing closing first in about a month, followed then by an \$825 million loan. The banks were mandated as lead arrangers after about 10 bids were received from international players (PFR, 3/6). Botswana Power Corp. is being advised by BankMuscat, SBI Capital Markets and Project Financing Solutions. Officials at the banks declined to comment or did not reply to request for comment via e-mail. Modiri Badirwang, cfo at the sponsor in Gabrone, could not be reached.

# Sponsor Revives South Point Financing

**Biomass Group** is planning to relaunch financing in the next couple of months for a 200 MW biomass project in South Point, Ohio.

The sponsor is looking for \$160 million of tax equity and WestLB is planning to syndicate \$350-400 million in debt (PFR, 8/8) for the project. Financial close is targeted for the end of the third quarter. The deal was set to close last year, but has been on hold due to various factors including the credit crunch, an acute increase in construction costs and utility rate adjustment rulings, says a deal watcher.

South Point will be the largest renewable energy facility in Ohio. Utilities in Ohio must purchase half of their renewable energy within state borders. The sponsor is looking to sell 50-100% of the power from the facility and is in talks with local utilities to secure PPAs. Mark Harris, president and founder at

Biomass Group in Nicholasville, Ky., did not return a call, nor did an official at WestLB in New York.

# American Renewables Taps BOTM For Biomass Deal

American Renewables' joint venture partners have tapped Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi-UFJ to lead financing for its \$400 million, 100 MW Nacogdoches Power project in Sacul, Texas. The partners are Baycorp Holdings, Energy Management Inc., and Tyr Energy (PFR, 10/13). Jim Gordon, president of EMI in Boston, confirmed the appointment, declining to elaborate. A BOTM official declined to comment and Al Morales, cfo of American Renewables, did not return a call.

A syndication will likely be launched in the next two months, says a project financier in New York. The sponsor is considering tax credit options under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for equity input, the banker notes. Under one scenario, the government would provide up to 30% of the project costs in cash which could be used as equity investment on behalf of the sponsor. The amount of debt and equity in the project could not be learned.

Tyr provides a link to the Japanese banking sector with owner and trading conglomerate ITOCHU Corp. Nacogdoches has a 20-year PPA with Austin Energy. Construction is slated to start this spring with the plant going online in 2012.

# NYPA Scouts Feedback On Debut Solar RFP

The New York Power Authority is holding a request for expressions of interest process for 100 MW of photovoltaic solar. The move is ahead of a planned request for proposal. "At this early stage in the initiative, we're looking for general information from the industry. We'll rely upon feedback from the RFEI to prepare the RFP, which will further define what we're seeking," says a NYPA official in White Plains. A banker notes solar costs between \$5-8 million per MW to develop, translating into roughly \$500-800 million in total development costs for 100 MW of buildout.

The authority is looking for information from experienced developers regarding terms, conditions and evaluation criteria for bids into the RFP, the official notes, adding pricing for generation will be evaluated and compared to resources in the New York state electricity market. Economic development for the state, including PV manufacturing and production, particularly in Western New York will also be considered by an interdepartmental team for each proposal.

Installations would likely be hosted on the rooftops or land

of public and private schools, municipal buildings, businesses and state agencies, the official says, adding the developer would likely maintain an ownership stake. Projects must be in operation by 2012, with 20-year power purchase agreements awarded sometime next year. Expressions of interest are due July 7 and an RFP would likely be issued sometime in the fourth quarter.

# Wind Capital Adds Project Developer

St. Louis-based Wind Capital Group has hired John Doster as director of project development to develop a portfolio of wind energy projects east of the Mississippi with a focus on Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. The firm currently has 300 MW of wind development in that region, said Karl Dahlstrom, v.p. of development & acquisitions, in Chicago, to whom Doster will report. He starts June 15.

"We're developing wind farms throughout the U.S. Our focus east of the Mississippi will help to balance our current portfolio," Dahlstrom said. Wind Capital already has constructed and developed around 162 MW of wind power in the Midwest.

Doster most recently was a business development manager for wind at **Invenergy** in Chicago.

# **FPL Solar Financings Forecast**

FPL Group is planning to come to market next year to finance several solar projects. "There's going to be a nice, big FPL bank deal in the market next year," says a banker, adding the sponsor is in the process of building projects now and will look to finance the facilities upon completion. Calls to FPL in Juno Beach, Fla., were not returned and details regarding the solar projects up for financing could not be immediately learned.

Subsidiary Florida Power & Light has recently received approval from Florida state regulators to build three solar projects with a combined capacity of 110 MW. Developing solar costs between \$5-8 million per MW, notes a banker, giving the projects a combined \$550-880 million price tag. The portfolio includes the 10 MW Space Coast project at the Kennedy Space Center, the 75 MW Martin project near Indiantown and the 25 MW DeSoto plant in DeSoto County. The projects are slated for operation between year-end and the beginning of next year.

FPL's sister company NextEra Energy Resources recently wrapped a \$343 million financing backing it Heartland II wind portfolio (PFR, 5/25). Banco Santander, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi-UFJ, BayernLB, BBVA, BNP Paribas, Calyon, Commerzbank, Helaba, Lloyds TSB and Unicredit HVB

participated in the deal. Bank officials either declined to comment or did not return calls.

# **MMC Energy May Exit Biz**

MMC Energy will likely dissolve after selling its final assets, if a buyer does not step in to purchase the publicly traded company.

The company has agreed to sell almost all of its assets to Wellhead Electric Co. for \$4,865,500 in cash. The sale includes a 44 MW gas-fired facility in Chula Vista, Calif., and a 44 MW gas-fired plant in Escondido, Calif., that MMC has struggled to repower partially due to regulatory rulings (PFR, 4/3). The transaction is expected to close by the end of the summer. MMC is now in talks with undisclosed parties to sell its remaining assets, two General Electric LM6000 PC Sprint turbines, which it originally acquired for \$31 million. Bodington & Co. is advising MMC on both transactions. Once MMC liquidates all of its assets, the publicly traded entity can be bought or it will cease it exist.

Denis Gagnon, cfo at MMC in New York and Harold Dittmer, president at Wellhead in Sacramento, Calif., did not return calls. Jeff Bodington, president at Bodington in San Francisco, declined to comment.



# Corporate Strategies

# PPL Electric Offering Bags Funding Goal



Jim Abel

PPL Electric Utilities has satisfied its funding needs for this year and likely for next with a \$300 million issue of 6.25%, 30-year first mortgage bonds, says Jim Abel, v.p. of finance and treasurer in Allentown, Pa., at parent PPL. The deal was priced May 19 and closed May 22.

The deal was oversubscribed six to eight times, but the company decided not to upsize the offering. "We had all of the funding needed," says Abel. "We have been monitoring [the market], especially with utilities backed with mortgage paper. There's a strong appetite for that," says Abel on why the company came to market now. Investors included mainly pension funds and insurance companies, he says. The company is planning to use the proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, which will include a large capex program over the next four to five years.

Moody's Investors Service rated the bonds an A3 and Standard and Poor's assigned A- to the issuance.

Bank of America, Credit Suisse, Morgan Stanley and UBS were joint bookrunning managers for the issuance. PPL made its selections based on long-term relationships with the banks and the firms' ability to execute, notes Abel.

# **Energy East Sub Issues Debut First Mortgage Bonds**

Augusta, Maine-based Central Maine Power has issued its debut set of \$150 million first mortgage bonds in a private placement. The bonds are collateralized by property and imply more restrictions on moving, selling or restructuring the collateralized assets, says Robert Hornick, senior director at Fitch Ratings in New York. "First of all it's cheaper than issuing unsecured debt and it's just indicative of the fact that they're happy with the business they're in and they're probably not going to be making any major changes to it."

The company priced the 5.7%, 10-year notes issue on May 21 and expected to close the deal late last week. Fitch rates the notes A. Bank of New York and Mellon Wachovia are joint bookrunners on the deal.

The majority of proceeds from the issue, roughly \$80 million, will pay down an outstanding balance on a three-year \$485 million inter-company revolving credit facility CMP shares with five sister companies. The company uses the revolver to fund construction costs associates with its proposed \$1.6 billion Maine Power Reliability transmission project and working capital needs,

says Jill Schmidt, a director at Fitch in New York. Remaining proceeds from the issue will refinance \$37.5 million issue due this month and \$20 million in interest-rate hedges.

CMP will recover 90% of the 475-mile transmission project's costs through rate base increases, and Energy East will fund the remaining costs of the project with equity from stock offerings or dividend programs, Schmidt notes. The 345 kV line will link facilities in New Brunswick, Canada and New Hampshire to bring power to southern New England and is slated for operation in 2011. Construction will begin at year-end. Schmidt declined to comment on Energy East's plans to offer stock. Howard Koon, director of corporate finance at Energy East in Pittsburgh, did not return a call.

# TransAlta To Take Down Short-Term Debt

Calgary-based power generator TransAlta will use proceeds from a C\$200 million (\$179 million) bond to pay down short-term debt and boost liquidity. "It will also help us with our growth investments," says spokesman **Michael Lawrence**, declining to give a specific fund use breakdown.

The deal was "well oversubscribed" and upsized from C\$150 million, Lawrence says. The five year notes have a 6.45% coupon and were priced at 99.823 to yield 6.49%. The deal priced May 26 and will close May 29.

CIBC World Markets and Scotia Capital are major lenders to TransAlta and served as joint bookrunners on the issuance.

# **Newfoundland Power Taps Private Bonds**

Newfoundland Power will use proceeds from C\$65 million (\$58.3 million) in privately placed bonds to upgrade generation facilities. The company periodically issues bonds to maintain equipment every two years or so, says Jocelyn Perry, cfo. The 30-year bond was lead by RBC Capital Markets, which the company chose after a bid process.

The buyers are not public, said Perry, adding that the deal was "narrowly distributed among a group of high-quality Canadian institutional investors." The bond was not upsized and pays a 6.6% semi-annual coupon in May and November.

The bonds were priced using a 2.75% corporate spread plus the long Canadian interest rate of 3.85%.

The bond issue is known as a First Mortgage Sinking Fund Bond which means Newfoundland pays 1% of the principal on the debt annually.

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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 **Jeanine Prezioso** at (212) 224-3226 or e-mail jprezioso@iinews.com.

Seller	Plants	Location	MW	Plant Type	Advisor	Status/Comments
AES	Warrior Run	Cumberland, Md.	205	Coal	Goldman Sachs	Shopping PJM assets (PFR, 5/21).
	Red Oak	Sayreville, N.J.	832	Gas		
	Ironwood	South Lebanon Township, Pa.	720	Gas		
	Amman East	Jordan	370	Gas	Citi, HSBC	Quietly marketing Middle East portfolio along with a few one-o
	Barka	Muscat, Oman	456 (35%)	Gas		assets (PFR, 2/23).
	Ras Laffan	Qatar	756 (55%)	Gas		
	Lal Pir	Punjab, Pakistan	362 (55%)	0il		
	Pak-Gen	Punjab, Pakistan	365 (55%)	Oil		
	Cartagena Kilroot	Cartagena, Spain near Carrickfergus, Northern Irelar	1,200 nd 560	Gas		
	Various	U.S.	1,174	Coal and Oil Wind	N/A	Looking for joint venture partner for wind business (PFR, 3/16).
	Hulunbeier	Inner Mongolia, China	50 (49%)	Wind	IN/A	Looking for joint venture partitler for while business (1111, 5/10).
	InnoVent	France	30 (40%)	Wind		
	Hargicourt	Hargicourt, France	12 (40%)	Wind		
	Hescamps	Hescamps, France	5 (40%)	Wind		
	Pléchâtel	Pléchâtel, France	4 (40%)	Wind		
	Various	Bulgaria, China, France and	410 development	t Wind		
		Scotland				
	Various	Latin America	TBA	Various	TBA	Tipped that assets are for sale (PFR, 5/18).
AIG Financial Products	Bruce Mansfield	Shippingport, Pa.	830 (80%)	Coal	Commonwealth Capital Advisors	Shopping interest in Unit 1 with sale likely to close before year-end (PFR, 12/1).
Allco Finance Group	Various	New Zealand	538	Wind	N/A	Prepped to sell by end of third quarter (PFR, 6/23).
Allied Waste Industries	Trinity Oaks	Trinity Oaks, Texas	3.2	Landfill	N/A	Fortistar to acquire with financing to be provided by Catepillar Financial Services (PFR, 11/24).
American Shoreline	N/A	Texas, Mexico	3,000 developmer	nt Wind	N/A	Spinnaker Energy planning to purchase (PFR, 2/9).
ArcLight Capital Partners	Hobbs Generating	near Hobbs, N.M.	600	Gas	Credit Suisse	Selling newly commerical asset (PFR, 10/3).
7 HoEight Supridir Furtions	Juniper Generating	near Bakersfield, Calif.	298	Gas	Barclays Capital	Indicative bids taken mid-Sept. for portfolio of nine assets (PFR, 10/3).
Babcock & Brown	South Trent	Nolan and Taylor Counties, Texas	101	Wind	Marathon Capital	First round bids taken March 6 (PFR, 3/2).
	Majestic I	near Panhandle, Texas	80	Wind		Diamond Castle Holdings in running to purchase (PFR, 4/20).
	Majestic II	near Panhandle, Texas	unknown	Wind		
	Butler Ridge	Wisconsin	54	Wind		
	Wessington Springs	South Dakota	50	Wind		
	Gulf Winds	Kenedy County, Texas	238	Wind		
BARD Engineering	BARD Offshore 1	off coast of northwest Germany	400 development		UniCredit HVB	Looking to sell offshore farm in development (PFR, 2/9).
British Petroleum	N/A	Port Talbot, Wales	870 development	t Gas	N/A	Shopping 100% interest in development (PFR, 9/12 ).
BTEC Turbines	Southaven Energy New Albany Power	Miss. Miss.	340 390	Gas Gas	JPMorgan	Assets or just the equipment for sale. Teasers dispatched (PFR, 4/3).
Cannon Power	Windy Point	Klickitat County, Wash.	137	Wind	N/A	Agreed to sell first phase to Turlock Irrigation District (PFR, 3/30
Caithness Energy (DCE)	Shepherd's Flat	Gilliam and Morrow Counties, Ore.	909 development	t Wind	Citigroup	Teasers dispatched (PFR, 10/20).
CarVal Investors et al.	Granite Ridge	Londonderry, N.H.	720	Gas	Merrill Lynch	Second round bids taken, but auction on hold (PFR, 12/1).
Chermac Energy	North Buffalo	Harper County, Okla.	765 development		NorthWinds	Sold to Gestamp Wind North America in March (PFR, 5/4).
Gleffilde Ellergy	Various	Texas, N.M., Okla., Kan.	675 development		Advisors	Looking for buyers (PFR, 5/4).
City of Victorville	Victorville 2	Southern California Logistics Airport, Calif.	570 development	t Gas/Solar	Goldman Sachs	Teasers dispatched (PFR, 6/30). China Huadian Corp. and other undisclosed parties looking to buy (PFR, 4/6).
Cobisa Corp.	Cobisa-Greenville	Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas	1,750	Gas	Pace Global Energy Services	Auctioneer running a targeted auction (PFR, 5/30). Shortlist drawn up with close unclear.
Colmac Energy	N/A	near Mecca, Calif.	47	Biomass	Bodington & Co.	Sale iced due to financial markets (PFR, 1/19).
Conectiv Energy	Various	PJM Interconnection	3,700	Various	Credit Suisse	Status unclear.
Con Ed Development	Genor	Puerto Barrios, Guatemala	42 (49.5%)	Oil		Industry Funds Management did not acquire.
·	Ada Cogeneration	Ada, Mich.	29 (48%)	Gas		Partner is Olympus Power.
Constellation Energy	Mammoth Pacific	Mammoth Lakes	29 (50%)	Geothermal	N/A	Set to kick off auction in coming weeks. Owned with Ormat (PFR, 12/1).
	West Valley	West Valley, Utah	200	Gas	N/A	Planning tosell to MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. (PFR, 12/8) even though merger has been canceled.

### STARWOOD PLOTS

(continued from page 1)

applying to the **Department of Energy**'s Loan Guarantee Program. The company will likely land a tenor of five to seven years and aims to secure financing by the second quarter of next year.

WestLB and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. led a \$215 million financing for Starwood's acquisition of the 272 MW Thermo Ft. Lupton plant in Denver (PFR, 6/13). Bank officials either declined to comment or did not return calls. Starwood will contribute equity in addition to seeking tax equity investors, Nordholm explains. He declined to identify potential tax equity investors.

The plant has a 30-year power purchase agreement with the **Arizona Public Service Company**. Construction is slated to begin next year, pending permitting, and the facility is set for operation in 2013.

—Sara Rosner

### **CENTRICA TARGETS**

(continued from page 1)

wind farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. At least seven banks are expected to commit to the near GBP400 million (\$637.28 million) deal, including Banco Santander, Calyon, Dexia Crédit Local, HSH Nordbank, KfW, Lloyds TSB and Rabobank. Calyon is also looking buy a stake in the offshore farms once the refinancing is complete, notes a deal watcher, which is expected within the next few months.

Officials at BoTM and Calyon declined to comment.

—Katie Hale

## **CPS READIES**

(continued from page 1)

tax-exempt bonds and an overall present value savings of \$29 million.

CPS is considering a number of tranches in a \$560 million financing in addition to a BAB portion. It selected Goldman as the lead bookrunner due to its SMUD deal. "We typically rotate the bookrunner on each transaction. However, Goldman marketed a very successful BAB transaction earlier for the SMUD, so we think they will do an excellent job for us," says David Jungman, senior director of finance.

The 25 to 30-year BABs yielding in the 4-4.5% range, Jungman notes, compared to tax-exempt notes of similar tenors in the 4.80-5% range. The tenor is a function of the company's debt maturity schedule and the life of underlying assets. The company plans to price and close the issue between today and June 22.

The program was designed to lower borrowing costs and broaden the investor base. "It allows us to sell to investors that are outside of the normal municipal investor base," Jungman says, adding the BABs have drawn interest from smaller investors

## **Alternating Current**



### **Good Humor**

It's finally that time of year when the sun is beginning to shine more and the sound of the ice cream truck's repetitive song can be heard again. One vendor though sits alone

in the middle of the desert near Santa Fe, N.M., and powers a large ice cream maker entirely by the sun's rays.

Duane McDiarmid hands out free ice cream treats to visitors and says he has set up his solar-powered shop merely to get others to start talking. "This is sort of my technical campfire. Any stranger who comes upon [the machine] is welcome to sit at my fire, share with my food, and tell me their tales," McDiarmid told NBC. He is on a tour that is slated to stop in Death Valley, Calif. Good thing he's got something cold to share for such hot locales.

and money-managers as opposed to the large insurance companies and institutional investors which have traditionally invested with the company.

—S.R.

### **Conference Calendar**

• The International Association for Energy Economics is hosting Energy, Economy, Environment: The Global View at the Grand Hyatt San Francisco on Union Square from June 21-24. For more information, call 216.464.2785 or visit the Web site at http://www.usaee.org/usaee2009/index.html

### **Quote Of The Week**

"We're casting a wide net. We're talking about a significant sum of financing in a market that has been very thin."—Brad Nordholm, ceo of Starwood Energy in Greenwich, Conn., on looking for financing for its more than \$1 billion, 290 MW solar project in Arizona (see story, page 1).

## One Year Ago In Power Finance & Risk

Merrill Lynch launched its Americas Clean Energy Committee, a clean energy coverage team, anticipating an increase in deal flow amid pending carbon legislation [While it lost some of its team members after the merger with Bank of America, the firm is active in the area serving as advisor to Abengoa on its Arizona-based solar project and has a private equity deal in the market for SmartSynch, a smart grid infrastructure company.]