

Power Finance & Risk

Exclusive Insight on Power M&A and Project Financing

Breaking news – Tough life awaits PJM peakers as long-awaited auction disappoints. [Page 7](#)

● MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Buyer revealed for natural gas pipeline developer

A buyer has emerged for natural gas pipeline and storage developer **Stagecoach Gas Services**, after a competitive auction. [Page 5](#)

● PROJECT FINANCE

Financial close in sight for wind refi

A pair of sponsors is nearing financial close on a C\$1.2 billion debt refinancing for a wind project located in Ontario. [Page 6](#)

● PEOPLE & FIRMS

Citi's commodity chief moves on

Citi's former North American head of commodities finance and credit solutions is joining an energy transition-focused company. [Page 10](#)

Coal mine operator to develop up to 1 GW of renewables generation

Alfie Crooks

An Indiana-based coal mine owner and operator is planning to develop up to 1 GW of renewables-powered generation near the site of a coal mine that is retiring in the next couple of years.

The developer is Terre Haute-headquartered **Hallador Energy**, which initially focused on oil and gas exploration when it was established in 1951 before transitioning to coal production in 2004.

The company is aiming to build 200 MW of solar and battery storage capacity near the Merom Coal Generation Station, which is located in Sullivan, Indiana and due to retire in May 2023.

Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative has signed a power purchase agreement for the 200 MW of solar and battery storage output to be developed by Hallador, starting in 2025. [PAGE 9](#)

EDPR enters Chilean renewable market

Carmen Arroyo

Spain's **EDP Renewables** has agreed to buy a 628 MW wind and solar portfolio in Chile, marking its entrance into the Chilean market.

The sponsor will pay up to \$38 million for the four-project portfolio, which belongs to two separate sellers – **Atacama Energy** and **Lader Energy**. The

assets are due online between 2023 and 2025.

They include a 77 MW wind farm with a 20-year power purchase agreement, two wind farms totaling 297 MW and a 254 MW solar project.

The 77 MW wind farm is due online in 2023, while the other three projects will be [PAGE 10](#)

BP beefs up solar pipeline with 9 GW acquisition

Alfie Crooks

BP has agreed to acquire about 9 GW of development-stage solar projects spread across 12 US states from **7X Energy**.

BP is paying 7X Energy \$220 million for the projects, the largest of which are located in **ERCOT** and **PJM Interconnection**, as well as 1 GW of safe-harbor equipment.

The deal is expected to close within 30 days. BP will [PAGE 6](#)

SB Energy locks in debt, TE for California solar pair

Taryana Odayar

SB Energy, the renewables division of **SoftBank**, has clinched construction debt and tax equity financing for a pair of solar projects located in California.

The solar and storage platform was launched in 2019 and has since financed and started construction on five utility-scale solar projects – two in California and three in Texas – totaling 1.2 GW. [PAGE 10](#)

From oil and gas, to coal, to renewables. “Hallador” is loosely translated as “one who leads the way” in Portuguese.



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● RFP ROUNDUP

PNM ISSUES RFPs CALLING FOR UP TO 700 MW OF CAPACITY

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) has launched two requests for proposals, which collectively seek up to 700 MW of generation by June 1, 2023.

The RFPs, issued on May 24, call for all types of power generation and also include energy storage assets.

The first procurement process has been dubbed the 2022 Generation Resources RFP, and is designed to help PNM meet its immediate generation needs. It calls for up to 200 MW of firm, long-term or short-term capacity that is due online by June 1, 2022.

PNM says that the immediate need for capacity stems from the default of a 100 MW/30 MWh solar-plus-storage project that it had been developing to replace a portion of the output of the retiring coal-fired San Juan Generating Station.

"That plant's default, alongside energy market conditions impacted by the California energy crisis in 2020 and illustrated by Texas' tragic winter storms, have created these potential resource inadequacies," reads a statement from PNM.

PNM had been planning to replace San Juan's output with 650 MW of solar generation and 300 MW of battery storage ([PFR, 8/12/20](#)). Last summer, it signed power purchase agreements for two projects totaling 350 MW of solar and 60 MW of battery, and had been in talks for PPAs for two other projects, including the 100 MW/30MWh asset. The company submitted a notice of de-

fault for that project to the **New Mexico Public Regulation Commission** on May 24.

The second procurement process is the 2023 Economic Recovery Generation Resources RFP, which aims to support economic recovery and load growth in New Mexico. PNM is seeking up to 500 MW of firm capacity by June 1, 2023, under this process.

Proposals are due for the 2022 RFP on June 24, and for the 2023 RFP on July 26.

PNM is a subsidiary of Albuquerque-headquartered **PNM Resources**.

COLOMBIA PREPS PAIR OF SUBSTATION TENDERS

Colombia's **Mines and Energy Planning Unit** (UPME) is planning to launch two separate procurement processes for a pair of substations and related transmission lines in the country.

The first tender is for the 220 kV Pasacaballos substation, while the second is for the 500 kV Carreto substation, both of which are located in the department of Bolivar.

The Pasacaballos project comes with a 220 kV 10.56-mile (17 km) transmission line that will intercept the Bolivar-Toluviejo wire. The Carreto asset will include a line that will interconnect the project to the Chinu-Sabanalarga transmission wire.

The winners of the procurement processes will operate the projects for 25 years.

UPME has not set dates for the tenders yet, but it expects the Pasacaballos project to start operating by June 30, 2024, and the Carreto substation by September 30, 2024. ■

Power Finance & Risk

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Power Finance & Risk is a general circulation newsweekly.

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Institutional Investor, LLC ISSN# 1529-6652

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GENERATION AUCTION & SALE CALENDAR ●

These are the current live generation asset sales and auctions, according to Power Finance and Risk's database.

Generation Sale DATABASE

Seller	Assets	Location	Adviser	Status/Comment
7X Energy	Portfolio (9 GW Solar)	US		BP has agreed to buy the assets, in a deal expected to close this June (see story, page 1).
AES Andes	Guacolda (764 MW Coal, 50%)	Chile		AES Andes found a new buyer for the stake as of May 14 (PFR, 5/24).
AP Gas & Electric (New York)	AP Gas & Electric (New York)	New York		Catalyst Power Holdings has agreed to purchase the firm. FERC approval is expected by July 12 (see story, page 6).
Atacama Energy, Lader Energy	Portfolio (628 MW Wind, Solar)	Chile		EDPR agreed to buy the assets as of the last week of May (see story, page 1).
Balanced Rock Power	Balanced Rock Power	Utah	Lazard	The sponsor is seeking an equity injection as of early June (see story, page 5).
BNDES	Companhia de Eletricidade do Amapá	Brazil		The auction is expected to take place on June 18 (PFR, 5/24).
Broad Reach Power	Broad Reach Power	US	Citi	Marketing materials circulated in April (PFR, 5/10).
Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board	Puget Holding Company (10%)	Washington	JP Morgan	The bank has taken final bids as of the second week of May and expects to close the sale by the end of the summer (PFR, 5/17).
Clearway Energy Group	Portfolio (District energy systems)	US	BofA	The banks have been mandated for the sale of the assets, as of the second week of May (PFR, 5/17).
Basalt Infrastructure Partners, DCO Energy	DB Energy Assets	US	TD Securities	
Consolidated Edison, Crestwood Equity Partners	Stagecoach Gas Services	US	TD Securities	Kinder Morgan has emerged as the buyer, under a deal struck on May 31 (see story, page 5).
Columbia Basin Hydropower	Banks Lake (500 MW Storage)	Washington	Green Giraffe	The bank distributed teasers in April (PFR, 5/17).
Constellation Holdings, Peach Power	Albany Green Energy (50 MW Biomass, 94%)	Georgia		ReGenerate expects to get the purchase approved by June 28 (PFR, 5/24).
Cubico Sustainable Investment	Portfolio (Wind 158.5 MW)	Brazil		AES Brasil bought the assets as of the third week of May (PFR, 5/31).
Cypress Creek Renewables	Cypress Creek Renewables	North Carolina	Morgan Stanley	Eight bidders have been identified during the second round, as of mid-May (PFR, 5/24).
Ecoplexus	Ecoplexus	US	PJ Solomon	Ecoplexus is offering a minority stake in the company as of the last week of March (PFR, 4/5).
EDP Renewables	Bright Stalk (205 MW Wind, 55%) Harvest Ridge (200 MW Wind, 55%)	Illinois	Jefferies	Greencoat Capital has agreed to purchase the interests in a deal set to close in June (PFR, 4/19).
Elawan Energy	Portfolio (350 MW Wind)	US		Orix Corp agreed to purchase majority stakes in the portfolio as of March 26. FERC approval is expected by April 16 (PFR, 4/5).
Glidepath Power Solutions	Project Wolf (3.1 GW Storage)	US	Guggenheim Securities	Teasers were distributed during the week of April 19 (PFR, 5/3).
Global Infrastructure Partners	Frerport LNG export (Gas, 25%)	Texas	Rothschild & Co	The sponsor has mandated the bank to sell its minority stake in the project as of early June (see story, page 6).
John Laing	John Laing	US		KKR's takeover of John Laing has been approved and Equitix has emerged as a co-bidder, as of mid-May (PFR, 5/24).
Diamond Generating	Tenaska Gateway Generating Station (854 MW Gas, 67.8%)	Texas	Whitehall & Co	The bank distributed teasers in April (PFR, 5/17).
Photosol	San Juan Solar I (299 MW Solar, 130 MW Battery)	New Mexico	BNP Paribas	Second round bids were due on March 19 (PFR, 3/29).
Pivot Energy	Pivot Energy	Colorado	CohnReznick Capital	ECP acquired the company in a deal that closed on June 1 (see story, page 5).
Petrobras	Mangue Seco 2 (26 MW Wind, 51%)	Brazil		Tradener Group purchased the stake as of May 31 (see story, page 9).
Prospect14	Project Anthracite (1.3 GW Solar, Storage)	Pennsylvania, Virginia	Jefferies	Marketing materials for the sale process circulated during the week of April 26 (PFR, 5/3).
PSEG Power	Solar Source (365 MW Solar)	US	Goldman Sachs	Quattro Solar has agreed to purchase the assets in a deal that will close during this year's third quarter (PFR, 5/10).
Source Renewables	Community Solar Portfolio (23 MW)	New York		Sale launched in third week of March (PFR, 3/29).
Source Renewables	Community Solar Portfolio (22 MW)	New York		Letter of intent signed with potential buyer as of March (PFR, 3/29).
Southern Power	Partin Solar (50 MW Solar)	North Carolina		The sponsor has recirculated teasers for the project as of the second week of March (PFR, 3/15).
Terra-Gen	TG Geothermal Portfolio (Geothermal, Transmission)	Nevada		Ormat agreed to purchase the portfolio as of May 24, with closing penciled for the second half of 2021 (PFR, 5/31).

● 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 Taryana Odayar at (212) 224 3258 or e-mail taryana.odayar@powerfinancerisk.com

PROJECT FINANCE

Deal Book is a matrix of energy project finance deals that Power Finance & Risk is tracking in the energy sector.

Live Deals: Americas

Sponsor	Project	Location	Lead(s)	Deal Type	Loan Amount	Tenor	Notes
APG, Celeo Redes	Colbún Transmission	Chile	JP Morgan	Bond	\$1bn		The bank is trying to syndicate the bridge loan to the bond, eyeing the closing of the bridge in two weeks (PFR, 5/10).
Castleton Commodities International	Riverview Power (1.4 GW Gas)	New York, Texas	Morgan Stanley	Term loan B	\$205m	7-yr	The deal, which will refinance the portfolio, was launched in mid-April (PFR, 5/3).
Celsia	Tesorito (198.7 MW Gas)	Colombia	SMBC, Santander		\$140m-\$150m		The sponsor has mandated the banks as of early May (PFR, 5/17).
CIM Group	Westlands Solar Park (2.7 GW Solar)	California	Deutsche Bank	Term loan			The sponsor secured the financing as of May 26 (PFR, 5/31).
				Tax equity			
Competitive Power Ventures	St Charles Energy Center (745 MW Gas)	Maryland	MUFG, BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole, Mizuho	Term loan B	\$350m	7-yr	The deal was expected to close in the second week of May (PFR, 5/17).
				Ancillary facilities	\$100m	6.5-yr	
Cox Energy America	Sol de Vallenar (308 MW (DC) Solar)	Chile					The sponsor is looking for debt for the asset as of February 12 (PFR, 2/22).
Daroga Power	Portfolio (33 MW Fuel cell)	US		Tax equity	\$205m		The sponsor is raising financing as of late March (PFR, 4/5).
DE Shaw Renewable Investments	Big River (149 MW Solar)	Illinois	CIT	Term loan	\$200m		The sponsor closed the financing as of early June (see story, page 7).
Generadora Metropolitana	Portfolio (600 MW Solar, Gas)	Chile	Credit Agricole	Term loan	\$700m-\$1bn		The sponsor reached out to banks for the debt package as of April (PFR, 5/10).
GenOn Energy	Chalk Point (1.6 GW Gas, Oil)	Maryland	Investec	Term loan A	\$305m	5-yr	The sponsor launched the financing as of the third week of March and expects to close by late March or early April (PFR, 3/22).
	Dickerson (312 MW Gas, Oil)						
Interchile	Cardones-Polpaico (Transmission)	Chile	JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Scotiabank	Bond refinancing	\$1bn		The sponsor has selected the banks for the refinancing of a transmission line (PFR, 5/24).
I Squared Capital	Atlantic Power portfolio (1,160 MW Gas, Biomass, Coal)	US	RBC Capital Markets, MUFG	Term loan B	\$360m	6-yr	The banks met on March 18, with commitments due on April 1 (PFR, 3/22).
				Ancillary facilities	\$45m		
Key Capture Energy	Portfolio (250 MW Storage)	Texas					The sponsor is conducting pre-marketing for debt as of February (PFR, 2/15).
Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets	Wheelabrator Technologies, Tunnel Hill Partners	US	Credit Suisse	Term loan	\$1bn	7-yr	The sponsor is combining and refinancing the portfolio companies, with commitments due on March 19 (PFR, 3/15).
				Ancillary facilities	\$400m	5-yr	
Matrix Renewables	Portfolio (81.7 MW (DC) Solar)	Colombia	IDB Invest	Term loan	\$31m	18-yr	The sponsor is securing debt arranged by IDB Invest as of mid-May (PFR, 5/24).
	Portfolio (154 MW (DC) Solar)	Chile	BNP Paribas				The sponsor mandated the bank for a financing in February (PFR, 5/17).
NextEra Energy Resources	Sky River (77 MW Wind)	California					The sponsor is arranging financing for the asset as of the third week of May (PFR, 5/31).
Omega Geração	Chui (600.8 MW Wind)	Brazil	BTG Pactual	Debentures	\$183m		The sponsor is preparing to issue the debentures to refi the complex as of the second week of March (PFR, 3/15).
Pattern Energy Group, Samsung Energy Partners	Armow (180 MW Wind)	Ontario	AssociatedBank, Bayern LB, Credit Agricole, SocGen, Caixabank, SMBC, SMTB	Refinancing	C\$1.2b	18-yr	The deal is expected to close in July (see story, page 7).
Savion	Westoria Solar (200 MW Solar)	Brazoria County, Texas	CIT Bank, ING Capital	Term loan	\$79m	C+5yr	The sponsor is working on the financing as of February (PFR, 2/22).
				Tax equity	\$95m		
				Ancillary facilities	\$38m		
SB Energy	Athos I (250 MW Solar)	California	MUFG, CoBank, ING, KeyBanc, Santander, SocGen, SMBC	Construction loan	\$814m		The sponsor closed the financing as of late May (see story, page 1).
	Athos II (200 MW Solar)			Ancillary facilities			
			JP Morgan	Tax equity			
Terra-Gen	Edwards Sandborn (1,118 MW/ 2,165 MWh Solar, Storage)	California		Construction loan	\$1bn		The developer approached banks for the financing as of early May (PFR, 5/10).

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NORTH AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS ●

ECP snaps up community solar developer

ECP (Energy Capital Partners) has acquired a commercial and community solar developer based in Colorado.

The company is Denver-based **Pivot Energy**, which was established in 2009. It develops, finances and manages commercial and community solar projects and energy storage projects across the US.

ECP closed the acquisition on June 1.

The deal will provide Pivot with increased access to capital to grow its community solar business, while helping it transition to a model of aggregating and managing attractive assets through

in-house development, co-development partnerships and acquisitions.

CohnReznick Capital acted as financial adviser to Pivot on the transaction, while **Latham & Watkins** provided legal counsel to ECP.

"We are thrilled to partner with ECP in the next phase of growth for Pivot Energy," said **Tom Hunt**, CEO of Pivot. "With ECP's deep expertise in the renewable energy sector, strategic investment mindset and world class resources, we are well-positioned to accelerate project development, expand our product offerings and

enable project ownership."

Toward the end of last year, Pivot teamed up with **Nautilus Solar Energy** to co-develop a 13 MW community solar portfolio in Colorado ([PFR, 9/15](#)). The deal marked Nautilus's debut in the Colorado community solar market.

"We are impressed by the strategies and approaches the Pivot team has implemented in creating a high-quality distributed solar platform," said **Rahman D'Argenio**, a partner at ECP. "We are excited to work with Pivot to capitalize on the significant opportunities ahead to expand its market share and strengthen its

leadership in a large and under-penetrated market."

In 2019, ECP acquired **Convergent Energy + Power**, an energy storage developer which has since built out its solar-plus-storage portfolio and plans to bring online more than 150 MW (DC) of both solar and storage assets by the end of 2021 ([PFR, 7/10/19](#)).

Last month, ECP signed a \$300 million strategic partnership with **Hana Financial Investment**, a subsidiary of South Korea's **Hana Financial Group**, for infrastructure investments across North America, Europe and OECD countries ([PFR, 5/24](#)). ■

Equity raise for Utah-based renewables developer

An equity raise is underway for a utility-scale solar and energy storage developer based in Utah.

Balanced Rock Power is seeking an up to \$150 million equity injection to support its develop-

ment work, and is aiming to close a deal by the end of this year.

The sponsor has engaged **Lazard** as its financial adviser on the raise.

The company is developing a

roughly 1.5 GW pipeline of solar and energy storage projects in Arizona, Colorado, Utah and California.

The company was founded in January 2021 and is led by

CEO **John Knight** and CFO **Grant Keefe**, who are both alums of **SunEdison** and **NRG Energy**.

Knight was the chief development officer at **Strata Solar** from 2016 to 2019. ■

Winning bidder revealed for natural gas pipeline developer

A buyer has emerged for a natural gas pipeline and storage developer based in the Northeastern US, following a competitive auction process.

Consolidated Edison and **Crestwood Equity Partners** have agreed to sell their respective 50% stakes in **Stagecoach Gas Services** to a subsidiary of **Kindergarten Morgan** for \$1.225 billion.

Under the terms of the deal struck on May 31, the cash proceeds will be split *pro rata* between the co-owners.

Crestwood plans to use the funds to repay outstanding debt under its revolving credit facility and for its common and preferred equity buy-back program.

"As a result, we are now positioned to further reduce our cost

of capital and enhance returns to our unitholders through opportunistic common and preferred unit buy-backs, as we strive to be a leading sustainable MLP with best-in-class financial metrics," said **Robert Phillips**, the chairman, president and CEO of Crestwood's general partner.

The sale is expected to close in two stages, the first of which will see Stagecoach's subsidiaries (except the Twin Tier Pipeline) being transferred to its new owner for \$1.195 billion, subject to approval under **Hart-Scott-Rodino**. The transfer is anticipated to close in the third quarter of 2021.

TD Securities acted as financial adviser to the sellers while **Latham & Watkins** acted as legal counsel.

TD initially began marketing ConEdison's stake in Stagecoach toward the end of 2020, as reported by *PFR* ([PFR, 12/22](#)). First round bids were due at the start of this year.

The Stagecoach JV was formed in 2016 to own and develop Crestwood's natural gas pipeline and storage business in southern New

York and northern Pennsylvania.

Stagecoach's storage facilities include the Stagecoach, Steuben, Seneca Lake and Thomas Corners assets, which have a total storage capacity of 41 Bcf. The assets are connected to **TGP's** 400/300 Line, **Millennium**, **Transco's** Leidy Line and **Dominion Transmission**. ■

Stagecoach's natural gas pipeline assets are:

Transportation Overview	Key Transportation Metrics
The North/South and MARC I pipelines support customers in Bradford, Sullivan and Lycoming counties, Pennsylvania and Tioga county, New York	2.9 Bcf/d delivery capacity
Key customers include: Marcellus producers, northeast gas and electric utilities, marketers and power generators	185 miles of pipe. Primarily firm contract profile
The system connects to Millennium, Tennessee, Transco and major gathering pipelines	100% FERC regulated

● NORTH AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Sale underway for Texas LNG project stake

Global Infrastructure Partners is seeking a buyer for its minority stake in the 15 mtpa Freeport LNG export facility on Quintana Island, near Freeport, Texas.

Rothschild & Co has been mandated to run a traditional two-stage auction process for GIP's 25% stake in the asset, *PFR* has learned.

Potential bidders are expected to include infrastructure and energy companies, according to a source close to the situation.

Freeport LNG is touted as being

the seventh largest liquefaction facility in the world and the second largest in the US.

GIP bought its 25% interest in the three-train facility in 2014 from **Hastings Fund Management** and **Zachry American Infrastructure** for \$850 million, through its Global Infrastructure Partners II fund.

The owners of the project refinanced a portion of the debt associated with its third train in the bond market in 2018 (*PFR*, 6/26/18). The \$1 billion senior secured note offering replaced

a slice of Freeport 3's existing \$3.691 billion, seven-year mini-perm that was signed in April 2015 (*PFR*, 4/28/15).

The first two trains were financed in 2014, with a roughly \$11 billion debt and equity package (*PFR*, 12/1/14).

Osaka Gas and **Chubu Electric** own stakes in the first train, while **IFM Investors** holds a stake in the second. **Freeport LNG Development** owns the third train.

Michael Smith, the co-founder and CEO of Freeport LNG, co-

owns the company with GIP and Osaka Gas.

Freeport 1 and 2 have been online since mid-December 2019 and mid-January 2020, respectively, while Freeport 3 has been online since May 1, 2020.

Meanwhile, a fourth train is being developed which would increase Freeport LNG's total export capacity to more than 20 mtpa of LNG per year.

Freeport LNG is contracted to supply 13.4 mtpa of LNG to Osaka Gas, **JERA** (a partnership between **Tokyo Electric** and **Chubu Electric**), **BP Energy**, **Total S.A.** and **SKE&S** for 20 years. ■

Catalyst Power inks deal to acquire NY electric retailer

Catalyst Power Holdings, a portfolio company of **BP Energy Partners**, has struck a deal to acquire a New York-based electric retailer, marking its second such deal this year.

The company has requested US **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** approval to buy **AP**

Gas & Electric's New York-based electric retail subsidiary, according to a FERC filing dated May 28.

The business markets electricity and natural gas products and services and was formed in 2011 to operate primarily in the New York retail market. The transaction is valued at less than \$10 mil-

lion, according to a footnote in the FERC filing outlining the deal.

The parties to the deal have requested FERC approval by July 12.

This is the second energy retailer that Catalyst Power has set its sights on in the state of New York this year. In February, the com-

pany acquired Buffalo-based **US Energy Partners**, which supplies electricity to middle-market commercial and industrial customers in the state (*PFR*, 2/4).

Catalyst Power received an up to \$60 million equity backing from BP Energy Partners last July, and has been looking to acquire electric and natural gas retail providers since. ■

BP beefs up solar pipeline with 9 GW acquisition

«FROM PAGE 1 continue to develop the projects through its **Lightsource BP** joint venture, which was formed between **Lightsource Renewable Energy** and BP in 2017.

"This transaction speaks volumes about the success of our JV with bp, and how we leverage

each other's strengths to realize our ambitions for solar and a low-carbon future," said **Nick Boyle**, CEO of Lightsource BP.

About 2.2 GW of projects are expected to reach final investment decision (FID) by 2025, with the remainder to follow by 2030. BP

expects the projects to generate returns of at least 8-10%.

Norton Rose Fulbright is acting as legal adviser to 7X Energy on the sale of the assets. The acquisition boosts BP's US renewables pipeline from 14 GW to 23 GW of capacity. The company had

planned to grow the pipeline to 20 GW by 2025 and 50 GW by 2030.

"It brings us 9GW of high-quality solar projects in markets where we can create integrated renewable energy offers through our trading and customer franchises," added **Dev Sanyal**, BP's executive vice president of gas and low carbon energy. ■

● NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

Venture Global to install carbon capture at LNG facilities

Venture Global LNG is planning to install carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) equipment at two at of its liquified natural gas facilities in Louisiana.

The CCS project would compress CO₂ at Venture Global's 10 mtpa Calcasieu Pass and 20 mtpa Plaquemines LNG facilities, before transporting and storing it

in subsurface saline aquifers. An estimated 500,000 tons of CO₂ per year is expected to be captured and stored from the two LNG facilities, subject to regulatory approval, with a further 500,000 tons of CO₂ from the CP2 LNG site once permitted.

Altogether, Venture Global plans to sequester 1 million tons of CO₂ per year.

The company says that the CCS technology at Calcasieu Pass would be the first of its kind for an LNG facility in the US.

"Our location in Louisiana uniquely positions us to pioneer the deployment of this technology due to geology that can support industrial scale injection and storage of CO₂," said Venture

Global's CEO, **Mike Sabel**.

"Louisiana is well-positioned in terms of infrastructure, industry, geology and policy to take a leadership role in controlling and reducing atmospheric emissions of carbon through the use of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) initiatives," added the state's governor, **John Bel Edwards**. ■

NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE ●

Tough life awaits PJM peakers as long-awaited auction disappoints

After two years of delays due to uncertainty over the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR), PJM Interconnection has finally concluded its Base Residual Auction (BRA) for delivery year 2022/2023, although the results of the highly anticipated auction have fallen short of market participants' expectations. **Taryana Odayar** has the details.

The auction was originally scheduled to take place in May 2019, but was postponed multiple times amid a back-and-forth between PJM and the US **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** over rule changes addressing state subsidies for coal-fired and nuclear assets ([PFR, 3/13/20, 8/1/19](#)).

"It was an attempt at trying to stabilize prices but if you look at how those caps were set, they were clearly favoring non-renewables," says **Bob Shapiro**, a partner at **Norton Rose Fulbright's** Washington, DC office.

As a result, the auction for the 2022/2023 delivery year was not held until just last month, breaking the tradition of PJM holding its auctions three years in advance of the proposed delivery year.

Bidding opened on May 19 and closed on May 25, and the results were posted on June 2.

While renewables, nuclear and the most recently developed gas-fired assets saw the biggest increases in cleared capacity, and coal-fired units saw the largest decrease, market participants were disappointed with the steep drop in clearing prices (see table below) compared to PJM's last capacity auction.

About 144,477 MW of generation was procured at a total cost of \$3.9 billion, which is \$4.4 billion less than the last auction.

The latest auction produced a price of \$50/MW-day across most of PJM, compared to \$140/MW-day in the last auction, which was held in 2018 for the 2021/2022 delivery year.

"It was a surprise to everyone that prices were so low in the so-

called unconstrained RTO market," says Shapiro.

"MOPR is showing its colors in this auction," added **Jennifer Wnek**, a partner in **Allen & Overy's** New York office. "PJM has proposed to eliminate the rule itself because it foresaw what would happen in this auction."

"I am going to have some drinks tonight — maybe need an extra Scotch or two," said **Ralph Cho**, global co-head of **Investec's** power and infrastructure finance group, after the results were posted on June 2. "This is certainly going to impact our appetite to refinance assets in PJM."

PJM has attributed the low prices to three factors:

- a lower load forecast and reserve requirement, which reduced the amount of capacity that it needed to procure
- a 19% drop in the net cost of new entry (CONE), which is used to estimate the cost of a new generator to be built and enter the market
- overall lower offer prices from generators participating in the auction

"The drop in the CONE does have an effect, but most important is the amount of resources participating and MOPR," says Wnek.

Nuclear generators cleared an additional 4,460 MW compared to the last auction, while coal generators cleared 8,175 MW less than in 2018.

Meanwhile, energy efficiency programs rose by 70%, or 1,979 MW, and demand response fell by 21% to 8,812 MW.

GAS-FIRED GENERATORS

Although more than 3,414 MW of capacity was added from newer, more efficient combined-cycle gas-fired plants, the low clearing prices are a let down for sponsors of existing gas-fired projects in PJM for which debt will become due in 2022 and 2023.

"These results are terrible," says the global project finance head of a law firm, based on the West Coast. "People were hoping for better results and a slew of re-financings this summer."

"There are a lot of gas peakers out there living off of capacity payments," adds Cho. "Life will get tougher for them for at least a year."



"The drop in the CONE does have an effect, but most important is the amount of resources participating and MOPR."

Jennifer Wnek, partner, **Allen & Overy**

"Banks will put less debt on projects," predicts the West Coast-based project finance attorney. "If you're a sponsor with debt coming due this year or next, you have to get creative if you don't want to write an equity check."

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Capacity prices 2022/2023

Delivery Area	Capacity Price	Transmission Zone Affected
Rest of RTO	\$50.00	
ComEd	\$68.96	ComEd
DEOK	\$71.69	Duke Energy Ohio & Kentucky
MAAC	\$95.79	Met-Ed, Penelec, Pepco, PPL
Eastern MAAC	\$97.86	Atlantic City Electric, Delmarva Power, Jersey Central Power & Light, PECO, PSE&G, and Rockland Electric
BGE	\$126.50	Baltimore Gas & Electric

Source: PJM Interconnection

● NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

«FROM PAGE 7 He says that banks could also potentially extend their loans to the summer of 2023 in the hopes that prices pick up, or, alternatively, put in place limited contingency back-stopping structures with revenue and capacity guarantees.

"This only works in circumstances where you have a very well capitalized and high credit sponsor," notes **John Marciano**, a partner in **Allen & Overy's** Washington, DC office who co-leads the firm's projects, energy, natural resources and infrastructure practice.

"For gas projects it most likely will work and for very large solar and wind deals, but as you go down the size spectrum – like 20 MW projects – or to private equity fund sponsors, the credit will go down."

The development of new-build gas-fired assets is also likely to slow down, say market participants. "The overall effect seems to be power prices have to go up in order to get projects built," says Marciano.

"There are folks trying to get equity for new projects and that will be tough too and pause development for at least a year," adds the West Coast-based attorney.

Separately, the low clearing prices could also have a ripple effect on natural gas supply prices for gas-fired projects that sell their electricity into PJM, says Wnek.

However, other participants say that it is still too early to ascertain the full impact of the auction results.

"The impact on gas-fired assets in the future is tough to analyze based on numbers from a single auction," says Shapiro. "The whole capacity market construct in PJM is under discussion both within PJM and by FERC. It remains to be seen what impact



With apologies to K.C. Green

this particular auction will have."

"There's a lot of volatility here but I don't see an immediate snapback and the fundamentals are going to stay the same," adds the West Coast-based attorney.

"I think people are taking a wait-and-see approach," says Marciano, while Wnek adds that "we're not seeing a mass exodus out of PJM" just yet.

SOLAR, WIND ASSETS

About 1,728 MW of wind assets cleared the auction, an uptick of 312 MW from the 2018 auction, while solar increased by 942 MW, with 1,512 MW clearing. Altogether, wind and solar generation will provide as much as 11,761 MW of capacity in the PJM market.

"For renewables in particular, the results look skewed," Wnek tells *PFR*. "There were more renewables that were successful in this auction than any before and that was mostly due to state incentives, but it would have been higher if not for MOPR, and the longer it stays there without being modified or eliminated, you'll see more entities dropping out."

"You had folks that didn't bid or for whom this could be their last time bidding, unless MOPR is modified to clarify grandfathering," adds Marciano.

Meanwhile, a number of solar and wind projects may have been able to avoid offering a higher MOPR price by eliminating state subsidies altogether, as is the case with projects contracted with corporate offtakers as opposed to utilities.

"One of the state subsidies is the renewable energy credit that utilities would have to obtain in order to meet the renewables purchase requirements under state law," explains Shapiro. "But if the renewable project signed a PPA with a corporation, which is not subject to the state renewables purchase or REC requirements, FERC said that as long as the corporation that receives the RECs commits to retire the credits and not resell them, then the solar project would not be subject to MOPR."

He adds that because the identities of the renewables projects that were not subject to MOPR are unknown, the full extent to which the MOPR rule has impacted renewables is still unclear.

LOOKING AHEAD

PJM has already penciled in the next capacity auction for the 2023/2024 delivery year just six months from now, in December, to try to gradually return to a three-year-forward basis schedule.

"We look forward to returning to a regular auction schedule while we continue work with our stakeholders to reform the capacity market to ensure its success into the future," said **Manu Asthana**, PJM's president and CEO.

For any reforms, including the elimination of MOPR altogether, consensus would first have to be reached between PJM's stakeholders, followed by a FERC filing and public comments period, before a ruling can be made.

This means that there may not be enough time for FERC to make any rule changes in time for the December auction, says Shapiro.

FERC and PJM are also discussing ways to compensate energy providers and demand side resources by de-emphasizing the pricing of capacity and increasing the pricing on other market services, says Shapiro.

This could mean higher payments for the provision of ancillary services in times of stress, such as frequency control, reactive power and quick start capabilities that would favor gas-fired generators.

Separately, there are also proposals to include the cost of carbon in the energy price, which "may cut against gas-fired generators," he says. ■

NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

PSEG Power retires last coal-fired plant

PSEG Power has shuttered the last coal-fired power plant in its fleet, marking the completion of its long-term coal exit strategy.

The Bridgeport Harbor Station Unit 3 (BHS 3) power plant, which provided 400 MW of peaking capacity to southern Connecticut, was retired on May 31.

The decision to retire the plant was made in June 2019, in conjunction with the opening of the gas-fired 485 MW Bridgeport Harbor Station Unit 5 (BHS 5) facility at the time.

"For PSEG, the retirement of BHS 3 marks the end of our company's coal era, reflecting a nationwide trend toward the use of cleaner fuels to generate the electricity we need to power our lives," said PSEG's CEO, **Ralph Izzo**.

BHS 3 did not run for all of 2019 and operated for just two days in 2020. However, it ran for nearly two months uninterrupted in January and February 2021 during a stretch of unusually cold weather.

"That remarkable run, even as the unit was just weeks from retiring permanently, reflects the readiness and determination of the entire Bridgeport Harbor 3 team, with support from BHS 5, New Haven and the entire PSEG Fossil organization," said Izzo.

BHS 3 also helped power the Bridgeport region during Superstorm Sandy in 2012 as well as the polar vortex in the winter of 2014.

The Bridgeport Harbor Station came online in 1957 and was originally owned and operated by **United Illuminating Co.**

WISVEST, a subsidiary of Wisconsin-based **WEC Energy Group**, purchased the plant in 1999 and sold it to PSEG Power

Connecticut in 2002.

PSEG Power has been running a strategic alternatives process to divest the rest of its fossil fuel generation fleet as well as its Solar Source portfolio, having hired **Goldman Sachs** as financial adviser on the process last summer ([PFR, 8/3/20](#)).

PSEG recently struck a deal to sell the Solar Source assets to **Quattro Solar**, an affiliate of **LS Power** ([PFR, 5/5](#)).

The process is expected to conclude by the end of this year, after which PSEG Power's fleet will only comprise carbon-free plants, including nuclear plants in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and new investments in offshore wind generation. ■



The Bridgeport Harbor Station came online in 1957

Financial close in sight for C\$1.2bn wind refi

A pair of sponsors is nearing financial close on a roughly C\$1.2 billion debt refinancing for a wind project located in Ontario.

The funds will go toward the 180 MW Armow wind farm in Kincardine, which is co-owned by **Pattern Energy Group** and **Samsung Energy Partners**.

The 18-year debt package is expected to close in July, and will be split across two credit facilities, according to deal watchers. The mandated lead arrangers on the deal are:

- **Associated Bank**
- **BayernLB**
- **Credit Agricole**
- **Societe Generale**

The joint bookrunners are:

- **Caixabank**
- **SMBC**
- **SMTB**

The funds will replace a C\$580 million financing for the project that was put in place in 2014 by a club of 10 lenders ([PFR, 10/28/14](#)).

Armow Wind has a 20-year power purchase agreement with **Ontario Power Authority**, which is due to expire in 2035. ■

DESRI seals \$200m Illinois solar financing

D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI) has closed a \$200 million debt package for a solar project in Illinois.

CIT acted as coordinating lead

arranger on the financing, which will support the 149 MW Big River solar project in White County.

Further details on the structure of the debt package were not dis-

closed.

The project is fully contracted with multiple long-term power purchase agreements over the next 20 years. ■

Coal mine operator to develop up to 1 GW of renewables generation

«FROM PAGE 1 Hallador will seek other offtakers to help it develop the remaining generation capacity at the Merom interconnection site.

"While it may seem surprising for a coal producer to assist with a renewable transition, Hallador has been helping serve the needs of Hoosier Energy for 17 years,"

said **Donna Walker**, CEO of Hoosier Energy.

The generation and transmission cooperative supplies 18 electric distribution cooperatives in central and southern Indiana and southeastern Illinois, which in turn serve nearly 710,000 consumers.

"With today's heightened focus on decarbonization, utilities are constantly evaluating the make-up of their generation," said Hallador's president and CEO, **Brent Bilsland**.

"During these times of rapid change we are seeing coal plant retirement dates being both accel-

erated, for environmental reasons, and delayed, over grid stability concerns," continued Bilsland. "Hallador is now uniquely situated to support our customers through coal supply to existing plants while also offering a platform to help customers transition to solar and batteries at the time of their choosing." ■

● NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

SB Energy locks in debt, TE for California solar pair

«FROM PAGE 1 The most recently financed assets are the 250 MW Athos I and 200 MW Athos II solar projects in Riverside County, California. Both projects are under construction, with Athos II due online later this year and Athos I in early 2022.

MUFG acted as coordinating lead arranger on the construction debt financing for both projects, comprising construction loans and letter of credit facilities totaling \$463 million for Athos I and \$351 million for Athos II.

The bank was joined by a club of mandated lead arrangers, comprising:

- **CoBank**
- **ING Capital**
- **KeyBanc Capital Markets**
- **Santander**
- **Société Générale**
- **SMBC**

Meanwhile, **JP Morgan** has provided the tax equity commitment for both projects.

"We executed despite the pandemic by rolling up our sleeves with our capital providers," said **Gianluca Signorelli**, head of capital markets at SB Energy.

Rosendin is the engineering, procurement and construction contractor for the projects, which will be fitted with **First Solar** modules and trackers from **NexTracker**.

JUNO, TITAN, ARAGORN

Last year, SB Energy secured

construction debt and tax equity financing for its three Texas projects, namely Juno, Titan, and Aragorn, which total 770 MW and are due online this year.

The sponsor raised \$927 million in loans and letters of credit for the projects, working with a group of eight banks, and drawing tax equity investments from **Barclays** and **Bank of America**, as previously reported ([PFR, 11/25](#)).

The construction debt for the 313 MW Juno project in Borden County totaled \$380 million, while Titan and Aragorn, both in Culberson County, secured \$314 million and \$233 million, respectively.

Meanwhile, SB also sealed a \$250 million, three-year development loan, split into senior and junior tranches, for the three projects, with the option adding other eligible projects later ([PFR, 11/25](#)).

Deutsche Bank, **Ares**, **CIT Bank**, **East West Bank**, **Santander** and **Voya Investment Management** arranged the development financing for the portfolio.

KKR & Co's Global Atlantic Financial Group and **Prosperity Life** are also providing term debt financing across the portfolio.

Signal Energy is the EPC contractor for the Texas projects. **First Solar** is providing the

modules and **NexTracker** the trackers.

"By incorporating new technologies, such as drone-based monitoring, time-saving construction techniques, and AI/Machine Learning software to optimize production, SB Energy is able to rapidly provide clean energy at lower cost and greater reliability to our partners and communities at scale," added SB's co-CEO, **Abhijeet Sathe**.

PIPE DEAL

Separately, one of SB's initial energy storage investments, **ESS**, a long-duration iron flow battery manufacturer headquartered in Wilsonville, Oregon, recently struck a deal to become publicly listed through a SPAC merger with **ACON S2 Acquisition Corp**.

The deal is expected to generate about \$465 million in net proceeds to the combined company, and includes a \$250 million committed private investment in public equity (PIPE) deal that will fund manufacturing expansion to 16 GWh across three continents.

A consortium of investors, including **SB**, **Fidelity Management & Research Co**, **Breakthrough Energy Ventures** and **BASF Venture Capital**, will purchase 16% of common stock in the combined company through the \$250 million PIPE deal, which is slated to close in the third quarter.

"We executed despite the pandemic by rolling up our sleeves with our capital providers."

Gianluca Signorelli, head of capital markets at SB Energy

ESS's shareholders will own a roughly 64% stake in the combined company, which is valued at about \$1.1 billion.

The advisers on the merger and PIPE deal are:

- **Deutsche Bank Securities** – capital markets adviser, placement agent to ACON S2 and joint bookrunning manager on the ACON S2 initial public offering
- **Kirkland & Ellis** – legal counsel to ACON S2
- **Nomura Greentech Capital Advisors** – financial adviser to ESS
- **Wilson Sonsini** – legal counsel to ESS
- **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson** – placement agent's counsel on the PIPE deal
- **Cowen and Company** – joint bookrunning manager on the ACON S2 IPO
- **Stifel, Nicolaus & Company** – joint bookrunning manager on the ACON S2 IPO. ■

● LATIN AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

EDPR enters Chilean renewable market

«FROM PAGE 1 brought online by 2025. The parties have already secured regulatory approvals for the latter three assets, while approval for the 77 MW wind farm

is pending.

"We are committed to playing an active role in the energy transition and in the Latin American markets, where Chile

offers world class renewable energy generation potential," said **Miguel Stilwell de Andrade**, EDPR's CEO, in a statement on May 28. "The entry

into this market confirms the importance of the region for EDPR's ambitious international growth strategy. This move reinforces our global leadership and we are confident of Chile's growth potential for the renewable energy sector." ■

LATIN AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS ●

Petrobras closes wind farm sale

Brazil's **Petrobras** has sold its interest in the 26 MW Mangue Seco 2 wind farm to the **Tradener Group's** FIP Pirineus fund.

The fund paid R\$34.2 million (\$6.59 million) for the 51% stake in the asset, in a deal which

closed on May 31.

The fund had struck a deal to acquire the stake in February, following its acquisition of the other 49% interest in the asset from **Eletrobras** in October 2020 (PFR, 10/13/20).

Located in the state of Rio

Grande do Norte, the project is part of the Mangue Seco wind complex, which comprises four wind facilities totaling 104 MW.

Petrobras sold its interests in three of those projects – Mangue Seco 1, Mangue Seco 3 and Mangue Seco 4 – to Brazilian as-

set manager **Vinci Infraestrutura** in a deal that closed in April (PFR, 4/7, 1/8).

The sales are all part of the state-controlled oil and gas company's process to refocus its business on oil and gas production in ultra-deep waters in the pre-salt region, while selling non-core assets, namely its power plants. ■

LATIN AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE ●

London-listed firm to invest in Brazilian DG solar

UK-based investment firm **VH Global Sustainable Energy Opportunities** (GSEO), which went public in January, has agreed to finance a distributed generation solar portfolio in Brazil.

The \$63 million equity investment will support a 75 MW portfolio being developed by **Energea Global**, comprising 18 projects.

The funds will be split between three tranches:

- \$4 million for four projects totaling 5 MW in Rio de Janeiro
- \$24 million for eight assets totaling 28 MW in Sergipe, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Mato Grosso do Sul, Piauí, Bahia and Para

- \$35 million for six facilities totaling 42 MW in Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Bahia and São Paulo

The second tranche will be provided in June, while the third will be completed in August. The ready-to-build assets are expected to be operational six months after the investments close.

GSEO is financing the portfolio with 37% of the capital raised during its IPO at the start of this year.

The projects will supply commercial and industrial offtakers under 20-year contracts, with half of the output to be bought by a multinational telecommunications company, according to the firm.

GSEO is managed by **Victory Hill Capital Advisors**, a fund manager launched in 2020.

"As promised to investors, this funding commitment marks the beginning of a very exciting journey for the Company in Brazil, where we can support real and lasting improvements in the country's energy infrastructure," said **Eduardo Monteiro**, co-chief investment officer at Victory Hill. "Brazil is experiencing rapid growth in its energy sector and there is significant potential for investors with the right expertise to help contribute to the country's growth with cleaner and reliable sources of power." ■

Solarpack adds PMGD asset in Chile

Spanish firm **Solarpack** has begun the permitting process for a 9 MW solar project in Chile's Tarapacá region.

The Arrebol solar park, which is located in Pozo Almonte, will require an investment of \$18 million, according to filings with Chile's **Environmental Evaluation Service**.

Construction is penciled in to begin this October.

The Arrebol asset is the second facility that Solarpack has filed permits for in the last five months. The first was the San Marcos Etapa 2 project, which comprises a roughly 6 MW solar project and an adjacent battery storage unit.

Construction for the San Marcos project is also expected to begin in October (PFR, 3/29).

Both units will qualify for pricing benefits under the PMGD (*Pequeños Medios de Generación Distribuida*) distributed generation scheme. ■

TIM, Faro to develop Brazilian solar assets

Telecommunications firm **TIM** has partnered with **Faro Energy** to develop 15 small-scale solar projects in Brazil.

Faro will invest R\$100 million (\$19.71 million) to support the construction, operation and maintenance of the 25 MW (DC) portfolio.

Meanwhile, TIM will purchase the output of the projects, totaling 45 GWh of electricity per year, to power 970 of its antennas and towers in the country.

So far, 10 of the projects are al-

ready supplying TIM's sites in Paraíba, Pernambuco, Ceará and Tocantins. The remaining five, which are spread across the Federal District and Rio Grande do Norte, are expected to come online this month.

The 15 projects are:

- Monte Alto I in Ceará
- Monte Alto II in Ceará
- Monte Alto III in Ceará
- Cabo Branco II in Paraíba
- Cabo Branco III in Paraíba
- Alto do Pajeú I in Pernambuco

- Alto do Pajeú II in Pernambuco
- Oiticica I in Pernambuco
- Canabrava in Pernambuco
- Rio do Fogo I in Tocantins
- Riacho Fundo I in Rio Grande do Norte
- Riacho Fundo II in Rio Grande do Norte
- Riacho Fundo III in Rio Grande do Norte
- Ponta do Céu III in the Federal District
- Ponta do Céu VI in the Federal District ■

PPA PULSE

ØRSTED INKS PPA FOR SOUTH DAKOTA WIND FARM

Ørsted has secured an offtaker for a 103 MW wind farm in South Dakota.

North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (NIMECA) will purchase 46 MW of the output from the Willow Creek project, which is located in Butte County.

NIMECA supplies power to 13 municipal utilities in northern Iowa.

This is the third and largest wind PPA that it has signed, having previously procured most of its generation from coal- and gas-fired assets.

Ørsted's **Lincoln Clean Energy** subsidiary bought Willow Creek in July 2019 from **Pattern Energy Group** ([PFR, 7/1/19](#)).

The sponsor financed it in early 2020 with tax equity from **Berkshire Hathaway Energy** and **GE Energy Financial Services** ([PFR, 4/23/20](#)). The project came online in September.

Pattern had originally acquired the asset from developer **Wind Quarry** in 2017 ([PFR, 6/27/17](#)). The developer had searched for an offtaker since 2015, to no avail.

OMEGA TO SUPPLY GERMAN PHARMA IN BRAZIL

Brazil's **Omega Energia** has inked a 10-year supply agree-

ment with German pharmaceutical company **Bayer**.

Omega will power all of Bayer's operations in the country through its 1,869 MW wind and solar portfolio. The sponsor will also build new plants as part of the contract.

The projects will power Bayer's eight sites in Brazil, which are spread across:

- Uberlândia and Paracatu – Minas Gerais
- Itai and Paulínia – São Paulo
- Campo Verde – Mato Grosso
- Cachoeira Dourada – Goiás
- Petrolina – Pernambuco
- Belford Roxo – Rio de Janeiro

The contract is set to start in 2024.

ENGIE EXTENDS PPA WITH CHILEAN MINING FIRM

Engie Energia Chile has signed a three-year extension to its existing supply agreement with copper and gold mining company **Minera HMC**.

The contract will run until December 2028, rather than ending in 2025.

The sponsor will provide renewable power to the mining firm's Michilla plant in Antofagasta, as well as its Tambo de Oro operations in Coquimbo. Michilla's contract is for 50 GWh of electricity per year, while Tambo de Oro's is for 10 GWh.

Engie has inked a parallel agreement with the mining firm to change the diesel-based supply of a Minera HMC regasification plant to natural gas. Both contracts are part of the offtaker's energy transition strategy.

Earlier this month, Engie also clinched a contract with bakery chain **Ideal**, which is owned by Mexico's **Grupo Bimbo** ([PFR, 5/11](#)).

And in April, the developer signed two contracts with corporate offtakers – one with mining company **Cemin Holding Miner** and the other with commercial real estate firm **CBRE** ([PFR, 4/5](#)).

At the start of this year, it secured agreements with Chilean healthcare firm **UC Christus** to supply three of its medical facilities with 30 GWh of electricity per year ([PFR, 1/5](#)).

CHILEAN MUNICIPALITY SIGNS THERMAL SOLAR POWER CONTRACT

Chile's Lo Barnechea municipality in Santiago has inked a power contract for a portion of the output of the 210 MW Cerro Dominador concentrated solar thermal project in the Atacama desert.

The owner, **Cerro Dominador**, won the contract in a public tender managed by the municipality to supply the offices of the **Civic Center** and the **Community**

Development Directorate. The power purchase agreement kicked in last month.

The offtaker is a free client (*cliente libre*). Also known as unregulated customers, *clientes libres* are electric customers with a load of 5 MW or more and considered to have sufficient leverage to negotiate their own power contracts.

The output will come from the Cerro Dominador project in Maria Elena, Antofagasta, which combines a 100 MW photovoltaic array with a 110 MW concentrated solar thermal plant, making it the first concentrated solar plant in Latin America.

Cerro Dominador has other PPAs in place, namely an eight-year contract with Chilean distribution and transmission company **Grupo SAESA**, a 15-year contract with Chile's **National Energy Commission** awarded in the 2014 power auction and another five-year PPA with oil company **Copec** for 50 GWh of electricity per year ([PFR, 12/11/19](#)).

EIG Global Energy Partners bought Cerro Dominador from **Abengoa** in 2016, after the Spanish company filed for bankruptcy. The project's owners raised a total of \$1.4 billion in equity, debt, and mezzanine capital to fund its construction ([PFR, 10/18/19](#)). ■

PEOPLE & FIRMS

Citi's commodities chief takes up new role

Citi's former North American head of commodities finance and credit solutions is taking up a new role at a Durham, North Carolina-based holding company focused on the energy transition.

Jazib Hasan, who is on gardening leave from Citi, will be joining **Modern Energy** at the start of June as the company's

head of investments.

Modern Energy focuses on investments in the energy transition, including distributed generation, energy efficiency, energy storage and demand response management, in both the US and Brazil.

The company was founded in 2016 by **Mark Laabs** and **Benjamin Abram**,

by combining Laabs's Brazilian distributed solar company **Faro Energy** and Abram's energy efficiency management company **American Efficient**.

Hasan cut his teeth in energy infrastructure project finance in the early 2000s at **Deutsche Bank**, where he was a founding member and director of its structured credit trading and global

principal finance business in New York.

He moved to Houston in 2009, when he was named director of commodities structuring and origination.

In 2011, he joined **Royal Dutch Shell** as director of structured solutions, and in 2013 joined **Bank of America** as head of energy asset finance solutions.

He joined Citi's Houston office in 2018 ([PFR, 5/16/18](#)). ■

● PEOPLE & FIRMS

Engie's chief renewables officer leaves for new role

Laura Beane, the former president and CEO of **Avangrid Renewables** who joined **Engie North America** as chief renewables officer last year, has left the company for a new opportunity.

Beane is set to join **Vestas** on July 1 as its president of North America, and has already started the onboarding process for the role.

"Having worked in Renewables most of my career, I am passionate about clean energy in all forms but have always felt a particular allegiance to wind energy," Beane wrote in a LinkedIn post announcing her appointment. "Vestas is the original wind energy company, and I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the team in North America into our next phase of growth."

Before joining Engie as chief renewables officer in February 2020, Beane

spent 13 years at Avangrid, including the last three as CEO.

At Vestas, she will succeed **Eduardo Medina Sanchez**, who was president of North America for the last nine months and is leaving the company by the end of August. His plans thereafter could not be ascertained by press time.

Sanchez was appointed to the role after Vestas's previous North American president, **Chris Brown**, left the company to start his own venture last September ([PFR, 9/15](#)). Brown had served as president of the region since 2012.

"I want to thank Eduardo Medina Sanchez for his great contribution to Vestas, most recently leading Vestas North America through a difficult period and creating a strong foundation for Laura Beane to build upon," said **Henrik Andersen**, group president and CEO of Vestas. ■

Orrick hires tax attorney from Kirkland

Orrick has recruited a tax attorney from **Kirkland & Ellis** as it expands its renewable energy finance practice.

Scott Cockerham has joined the firm's Washington, DC office, where he will advise clients on energy tax credits and other tax incentives relating to renewable energy projects, project development and finance, and mergers and acquisitions.

His experience spans solar, wind, geothermal, fuel cell and biomass power generation as well as carbon capture and sequestration.

"As markets focus on decarbonization, all of the conditions are ripe for accelerated growth of the renewable energy sector," said **Dahl Thompson**, leader of Orrick's global energy and infrastructure practice. "We're delighted to add talent of Scott's exceptional caliber to help our clients respond to this demand."

Cockerham started his career at **Ballard**

Spahr in 2010 and joined **Chadbourne & Parke** (now **Norton Rose Fulbright**) in 2015. He went on to serve as counsel at **Akin Gump** before joining Kirkland in 2018 ([PFR, 5/5/18](#)).

"Orrick is a market leader in energy and infrastructure, and the firm's commitment to renewables in particular is unmatched," said Cockerham. "I'm excited to join the Orrick team and help guide our clients through the ever-evolving world of renewables and energy transition."

He will work with **Wolfram Pohl**, a tax equity partner at Orrick who is based in San Francisco.

"Together, they will be an extraordinary team," added **Chas Cardall**, head of Orrick's tax practice.

Earlier this year, Orrick partner **Michael Masri** left the firm to join Kirkland & Ellis. His move was one of the latest of a series of energy and infrastructure hires at the firm ([PFR, 3/24](#)). ■

● NEWS IN BRIEF

● MERGER & ACQUISITIONS

HONG KONG BUYER SEALS ACQUISITION OF CANADIAN WIND DUO

Hong Kong-based **CK Group** has completed the acquisition of a pair of wind farms in Canada, marking its first renewables investment in the country. The projects, totaling 30 MW and located in British Columbia, belonged to Toronto-based infrastructure investment firm **Instar Asset Management**.

● LATIN AMERICA

WAVE POWER TO BE INSTALLED AT BRAZIL'S PECÉM PORT

Eco Wave Power has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Brazil's **Pecém Complex** to install a wave power station at Pecém Port in the state of Ceará. The pair will set up grid-connected wave energy converters (WECs) with up to 9 MW of capacity in the breakwater area of the port.

CHILEAN DEVELOPER PLANS PMGD PROJECT

Chilean developer **Biwo Renewables** has begun the permitting process for a 5.1 MW solar project – the sixth small-scale facility that it has started working on this year. Located in the O'Higgins region, the Tipaume Sunlight solar park will require an investment of \$10 million.

CHILE SECURES IDB LOAN FOR DECARBONIZATION

The **Inter-American Development Bank** (IDB) has approved a \$50 million loan to support Chile's decarbonization strategy. The proceeds will be used to help Chile accelerate the retirement of its coal-fired plants, continue its energy transition plans and develop green hydrogen projects.

● PEOPLE & FIRMS

BRITISH INFRA GROUP LAUNCHES US RENEWABLES PLATFORM

The UK's **Amber Infrastructure Group** has expanded the scope of its US activities with the launch of **Circle Power Renewables**, a developer focused on solar, wind and battery storage projects. It builds on Amber's existing JV with the principals of Michigan-based renewables developer **Circle Power**.

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