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Web Exclusives

Goldman Sachs has lost a pair senior power traders and originators from its London-based energy trading operation.

Bank debt levels for U.K. coal plants are soaring as investors bet on electricity prices rising faster than coal prices.

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FortisAlberta Readies \$300M Bond Offering

FortisAlberta is planning to issue about \$300 million of senior unsecured bonds to repay short-term debt incurred as part of Fortis Inc.'s acquisition of Calpine's Canadian operations in May.

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RELIANT READIES \$4B DEBT REFINANCING

Roughly a year and a half after clinching a make-or-break \$5.9 billion debt refinancing that saved it from almost certain bankruptcy, **Reliant Energy** is gearing up for another mammoth debt restructuring. The Houston power company intends to refinance about \$4 billion of debt, comprised of \$1.1 billion of high-yield bonds and \$2.9 billion of bank paper, says a banker close to the situation. The terms of the deal have yet to be determined, but **Banc of America Securities**, **Barclays Capital** and **Deutsche Bank** have been tapped to lead the refinancing, and **Goldman Sachs** may also join the syndicate, according to the banker.

"Our next focus is to free up the cash traps at our **Orion MidWest** [debt] facility, and we are looking at a number of different options to do that," says **Stephanie Slavin**, a spokeswoman for Reliant. CFO **Mark Jacobs** told analysts on a conference call in February

(continued on page 2)

WIND FARM DEVELOPERS SCRAMBLE TO BEAT FEDERAL SUBSIDY DEADLINE...

The reinstatement late last month of a federal tax break on wind farm output will have developers scrambling to complete a slew of wind farm projects by the end of next year when the subsidy expires. "There are two or three billion dollars worth of projects lined up and ready to move forward," says Randall Swisher, executive director of the American Wind Energy Association. "Once they get the green light, it's an intense period."

On Sept. 23 Congress approved a one-year reinstatement of a \$0.018 per KWh production tax credit

(continued on page 8)

...AS WIND INDUSTRY CALLS FOR RADICAL CHANGE TO TAX BREAK SYSTEM

Having waited the better part of a year for Capitol Hill to finally enact new legislation supporting the wind farm industry, many green energy lobbyists complain that Congress is doing too little and has acted too late. "Congress has totally mishandled the whole situation," argues Jan Paulin, president and chief executive of wind farm developer Padoma Wind Power, of the new law passed late last month.

Paulin argues that Congress' decision to reactivate the use production tax credits (PTCs) until the end of 2005 offers both a flawed incentive to developers and also affords them too small a window of opportunity to develop new projects. The continual adoption of short-term tax break windows creates a vicious development cycle of boom years followed by fallow periods when developers lie idle waiting for the PTC system to be re-enacted, he

(continued on page 8)

Fibrominn Taps Insurers For Biomass Funding

Biomass plant developer Fibrominn, an affiliate of renewable energy outfit



Rupert Fraser

Fibrowatt LLC, is set to tap the private placement bond market to finance the construction of the first poultry litter-fired power plant in the U.S.

A consortium of six widely known insurance companies will underwrite the \$200 million, 20-year deal, says **Rupert** Fraser, chief executive of Fibrominn. He declined to offer details on the pricing of the deal or reveal the insurance companies involved until the final contracts are signed, which is expected to happen imminently. About \$165 million

of the bond will be used for construction costs, with the remainder earmarked to cover interest payments during the plant's two-year construction period.

The fixed-rate bonds will be secured by the 50 MW plant, which will be located in Benson, Minn., about 125 miles west of Minneapolis.

U.K. biomass outfit Fibrowatt decided to expand into the U.S. generation market to take advantage of its extensive supply of poultry litter, which far outweighs that available in the U.K., according to Fraser.

Fibrominn is 70% owned by Boston-based Homeland Renewable Energy and 30% owned by Fibrowatt, itself an affiliate of Energy Power Resources Ltd.

RELIANT READIES

(continued from page 1)

that Reliant was looking to simplify its capital structure, including flipping floating-rate debt into fixed-rate notes and moving Orion-related debt up to the holding company (PFR, 2/22). A financier at Barclays declined to comment and senior bankers at BofA, Deutsche Bank and Goldman did not return calls.

Reliant is looking to refinance its debt load in order to free up cash and give the company more financial flexibility. "A huge portion of its revenues is going toward paying off debt," says the banker. The company is also looking to reduce its secured non-recourse debt level's in the long term, he adds. The refinancing will be launched before year-end.

The refinancing should prove a positive filip for Reliant, especially if it can use the proceeds to pay down debt associated with its 2002 \$5.3 billion acquisition of merchant power producer Orion Power, which it most likely will do, says Hugh Welton, senior director at Fitch Ratings. "In 2003, they had to deal with the overhang of a very large bridge loan that was coming due," Welton says. "Obviously, they're trying to avoid having that situation [occur] again."

Reliant told lenders last month that it intends to pay down the \$350 million balance in its Orion Power New York project loan and also aims to pay off a \$900 million cross-collateralized Orion Power MidWest loan (PFR, 9/3). The \$900 million proceeds of Reliant's recently completed sale of a portfolio of upstate New York hydroelectric plants will go toward paying down the loans, which mature in November 2005.

Reliant nearly filed for bankruptcy in March 2003 when a 24-strong syndicate of lenders struggled to agree on the terms of a \$5.9 billion debt refinancing package (PFR, 3/27/03).

—Christine Buurma

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EDITORIAL

TOM LAMONT

Editor

STEVE MURRAY

Deputy Editor

PETER THOMPSON Executive Editor [Chicago]

(773) 525-6978

CHRISTINE IDZELIS

Reporter [New York]

(212) 224-3226 CHRISTINE BUURMA

Reporter [New York] (212) 224-3116

CHRIS GAUDIO

Development Editor
(212) 224-3278

WILL AINGER

Managing Editor, London Bureau Chief (44 20) 7303-1735

ARADHNA DAYAL Hong Kong Bureau Chief (852) 2912-8009

STANLEY WILSON Washington Bureau Chief

(202) 393-0728

JANA BRENNING, KIERON BLACK
Sketch Artists

PRODUCTION AJAN

DANY PEÑA

Director

LYNETTE STOCK, DEBORAH ZAKEN

Managers

MICHELLE TOM, ILIJA MILADINOV, MELISSA ENSMINGER, BRIAN STONE

Associates

JENNY LO Web Production & Design Manager

MARIA JODICE

Advertising Production Manager
(212) 224-3267

MIKE McCAFFERY

Online Publisher

(212) 224-3534

mmccaffery@iinews.com

PAT BERTUCCI, MAGGIE DIAZ,
TAMARA WARD
Associate Publishers

JENNIFER FIGUEROA Media Kits (212) 224-3895

PUBLISHING

ELAYNE GLICK Publisher (212) 224-3069

BRIAN McTIGUE Marketing Manager (212) 224-3522

(212) 224-3522 JON BENTLEY

European Marketing Manager [London] (44-20) 7779-8023

VINCENT YESENOSKY Senior Fulfillment Manager (212) 224-3096

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ ELECTRONIC LICENSES

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DAN LALOR
Director of Sales
(212) 224-3045

THOMAS GANNAGE-STEWART
Account Executive [London]

(44-20) 7779-8998 ADI HELLER

Account Executive [Hong Kong] (852) 2842-6929

GEORGE WITTMAN

Client Development Manager
(212) 224-3019

REPRINTS

AJANI MALIK

Reprint Manager (212) 224-3205 amalik@iinvestor.net

CORPORATE

CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Chief Executive Officer

DAVID E. ANTIN

Director of Finance and Operations

ROBERT TONCHUK

Director of Central Fulfillment

Customer Service: PO Box 5016,

Brentwood, TN 37024-5016. Tel: 1-800-715-9195. Fax: 1-615-377-0525 UK: 44 20 7779 8704 Hong Kong: 852 2842 6950 E-mail: customerservice@iinews.com

Editorial Offices: Nestor House, Playhouse Yard, London, EC4V 5EX, England. Tel: (44 20) 7303-1735 Email: wainger@euromoneyplc.com

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UBS Loses Western Trading Exec

Mike Grigsby, managing director and head of western power and gas trading at UBS in Stamford, Conn., has resigned from the bank. The former-Enron power trader is the second managing director to leave USB's energy group this month. Several weeks back Robin Eaves, head of oil trading, also departed (PFR, 9/20). At the time, Grigsby was appointed interim head of oil trading.

Market watchers says Grigsby left UBS Sept. 24 and is looking to head back to Houston. **Kris Kagle**, UBS spokesman, confirmed Grigsby's departure, declining further comment.

Grigsby joined UBS in 2002 as part of the bank's purchase of Enron's Houston energy trading business.

FortisAlberta Readies \$300M Bond Offering

FortisAlberta is planning to issue about \$300 million of senior unsecured bonds to repay short-term debt incurred as part of the wire company's acquisition by Fortis Inc. last May.

D. James Harbilas, cfo and v.p. of finance for FortisAlberta, which was formerly a division of Aquila Networks Canada, says the debentures will most likely be issued in two tranches of 10 and 20 years. The pricing of the issue will be determined after a road show, which will target institutional investors in Canada. "The offering isn't so big that we would need to tap the United States markets," Harbilas says.

Scotia Capital is leading a syndicate of Canadian banks that includes BMO Nesbitt Burns, CIBC World Markets, RBC Dominion Securities, National Bank Financial and TD Securities. FortisAlberta expects to launch the sale by the end of the year.

Fortis acquired Aquila Networks Canada for \$1.476 billion. The business consists of two utilities in British Columbia and Alberta. The latter owns a 70,000 mile power grid serving some 385,000 customers.

Nevada Power Seeks \$325M Revolver

Nevada Power and parent Sierra Pacific Resources are looking to arrange a \$325 million bank revolver to finance the acquisition of a partly completed 1,200 MW power station near Las Vegas. Proceeds will be used to fund the purchase of the Moapa Valley natural gas-fired combined-cycle power plant from Duke Energy (PFR, 6/28).

Union Bank of California, which is leading the financing, held a bank meeting in New York last week to launch syndication of the loan and is expected to close syndication on Oct. 20, says an official who attended the meeting. Calls to a

Union Bank of California official were not returned and pricing details could not be determined by press time.

On Sept. 17 Nevada Power announced that it received approval from the state's public utilities commission to proceed with the acquisition and financing of the power plant. The utility expects it will cost \$558 million to seal the purchase and complete construction, it said in a release.

Prospect Expands Investment Team

Prospect Energy has expanded its New York-based investment team in an effort to broaden the scope of transactions on the private investment boutique's radar screen. John Hopley, former managing principal for Greenwich Energy Capital Management, and Bart de Bie, former director with Cenatar Advisory Group, have joined the team. Also joining Prospect is Eric Klaussman, who previously served as a principal at MMC Energy specializing in origination, evaluation and the structuring of energy investments.

Prospect decided to make the hires to "address the scope of the opportunities we've been looking at," says Grier Eliasek, president and coo. "We're very excited by the breadth of opportunities available in the energy marketplace." The firm is evaluating upstream, midstream and downstream power assets, as well as products and services that are interrelated with the power industry. "We were looking for people with multiple skill sets and the flexibility to do different types of deals," explains Eliasek of the hires. Prospect is looking at several acquisitions after completing a \$105 million IPO last month (PFR, 9/17).

Power Trader Expands Into Midwest

ACES Power Marketing, a power trading and risk management outfit launched five years back by a group of utility cooperatives, is looking to hire five physical electricity traders. The appointments will swell its ranks to 25 hourly power traders.

ACES currently trades power in ERCOT and on the East Coast and the recruitment drive will allow it enter the Midwest's power markets, explains Mike Steffes, senior v.p. and coo. Alongside the appointments ACES intends to relocate its PJM trading desk to Indianapolis from Cary, N.C.

ACES' development of a Midwest presence partly mirrors the western expansion of the PJM's independent system operator, explains Steffes, adding that Midwest utility operators **Dominion Resources** and **AEP** are moving their wires networks into PJM this fall, while **Commonwealth Edison** joined in May.

The creation of a new desk also leaves ACES well positioned for the creation of the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO), which should emerge in Indianapolis in 2005, Steffes says.

Banks Launch Syndication Of Irish Plant Financing

Mandated lead arrangers and co-underwriters KBC Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland were set to launch syndication late last week of a EUR300 million (\$365 million) 15-year non-recourse loan package that's funding the construction of a 400 MW gas-fired power plant in County Galway. Market watchers say the two lenders were set to hold several conference calls at the tail end of last week to pitch the deal to potential sub-lenders.

One financier says the MLAs are seeking eight banks to join the syndicate and are offering EUR30 million loan tickets. The financing is split between a EUR260 million term loan and a EUR40 million letter-of-credit facility. Niall Murray, head of power at KBC in Dublin, declined to reveal the syndication strategy or pricing of the loan prior to the launch of syndication.

Project sponsors Mountside Properties and Turkish construction outfit Gamma Construction have inked a gas supply agreement with RWE Trading. RWE will also take 10% of the power. The remainder is being sold to Ireland's state-owned Electricity Supply Board under a long-term offtake contract (PFR, 9/3).

The project is being built on a 80:20 debt-to-equity basis, with Gamma providing 80% of the equity. Earlier this year Gamma doubled its stake after buying out Tynagh's third partner **Investec**.

PTC Extension Revives Empire State Wind Project

Capitol Hill's recent approval of an extension of the production tax credit (PTC) system has revived the prospects of the 300 MW Flat Rock Wind Power Project in upstate New York. "Now we're good to go," says Bill Moore, project manager and principal at Atlantic Renewable Energy, adding that the project had been put on ice because of a nine-month delay in enacting the legislation. "There's no way a facility this size could have gotten financed in the absence of the PTC."

With all of its permits in place, the \$350 million wind farm project is looking to seal construction financing this fall, Moore says. "So far a good number of [equity providers] have looked at the project," he adds, declining to name them. Moore hopes to have the farm operational by the end of next year. ARE will only begin looking to lever the project with debt financing once the farm is operational and hooked up to the New York electricity grid, he notes.

New York State recently announced the imposition of a

renewable portfolio standard that requires Empire State utilities to source some 25% of their power needs from renewable generation by 2013. That ruling was as important as the reenactment of PTC legislation in ARE's decision to go ahead wit the Flat Rock project, Moore notes.

New York has the largest wind potential east of the Mississippi, say Moore, noting that the state's proximity to the Great Lakes as well as its elevated farmland leaves it nicely exposed to wind currents.

ArcLight To Finance III. Purchase With Debt/Equity Combo

ArcLight Capital Partners will finance its \$173 million acquisition of an Illinois power plant from Allegheny Energy through a combination of debt and equity, says Robb Turner, senior partner at ArcLight in New York. The energy investment firm hopes to secure financing by the end of the year, Turner says. He declined to comment further on the financing. The 672 MW natural gas-fired facility is located in Manhattan, Ill.

ArcLight decided to acquire the plant because the firm was looking for a medium-term contract and liked the power market where the facility is located, Turner says. He declined to say whether ArcLight would bid on Allegheny's two remaining gas-fired peaking facilities in the MidWest – a 512 MW plant in Wheatland, Ind., and a 526 MW plant in Gleason, Tenn. – that are also on the block.

Allegheny announced last week that it has retained **Banc of America Securities** to advise on the sales of the Midwest peakers. The energy company, which has been selling assets over the past year in an effort to reduce debt, recorded a loss of about \$210 million on the Illinois plant sale.

Xcel Energy Launches \$600M Revolver

Midwest utility **Xcel Energy** is looking to arrange a \$600 million senior unsecured revolver, which among other things is earmarked to back the issuance of commercial paper. The five-year loan is being led by **Barclays Capital** and **J.P. Morgan**, says a banker close to the deal. Syndication was launched last week and commitments are due on Oct. 18.

The revolving credit facility carries an undrawn fee of 15 basis points and pricing of 87.5 basis points if fully drawn, says the banker. The new facility replaces Xcel's existing \$400 million revolver, which was set to mature next year. The company is taking advantage of vibrant market conditions by refinancing the deal early, the banker notes.

Corporate Strategies

Ameren Inks \$300M Refinancing

AmerenUE, a utility subsidiary of Ameren Corp. that provides power to eastern Missouri, last week issued \$300 million of senior secured notes to refinance old debt. The notes, which are due 2019, carry a 5.1% coupon and were priced at 99.75, according to Susan Gallagher, spokeswoman. AmerenUE will use the proceeds of the issue to pay down outstanding short-term debt, including \$188 million of mortgage bonds that came due Aug.1 and carried a 6.875% coupon.

BNP Paribas, BNY Capital Markets and Lehman Brothers underwrote the deal. Gallagher declined to reveal how the banks were selected, but says the banks targeted the offering at institutional investors.

MidAmerican Lands Wind Farm Deal

MidAmerican Energy issued \$350 million in unsecured notes last week, in part to help finance the construction of two large wind farms in Iowa. Karen Anderson, director at Fitch Ratings, explains the bond offering came fast on the heels of Congress ratifying a bill that extends tax breaks for wind farm operators. She notes the A-rated 10-year notes carry a coupon of 4.65% and adds ABN AMRO, J.P. Morgan and BNP Paribas underwrote the offering.

Allan Urlis, a MidAmerican Energy spokesman, says that the utility expects to spend some \$323 million building two wind farms in north-central and northwestern Iowa (see story, page 4).

Calpine Rolls Out \$1.5 Billion Balance Sheet Refinancing

Calpine issued a total of \$1.5 billion in secured and unsecured bonds and convertible notes last week, with \$725 going toward the repurchase of preferred equity and unsecured debt. The power generation behemoth issued \$725 million of unsecured convertible notes due 2014, priced well below par at 83.9% of face value. The notes will pay an annual interest rate of 6%, except in years 3-5, when the notes will bear a coupon of 6% of the principal amount but interest payments will be deferred. "It's a benefit to Calpine," says Katherine Potter, Calpine spokeswoman, of the three-year respite from interest rates. Potter declined to say how Calpine and the deal's underwriters arrived at the unusual cashflow profile of the debt offering.

The notes are convertible into cash and shares of Calpine common stock at \$3.85 per share. The stock was trading at \$2.95 last Wednesday, with a 12-month range of \$2.87-6.42. Calpine will use the proceeds from the deal to redeem

convertible preferred stock and unsecured convertible notes.

Separately, Calpine issued \$785 million of 9.63% first-priority senior secured notes in a private placement. The notes mature in 2014 and were priced at 99.2. Proceeds from the sale will be used to redeem or repurchase existing indebtedness through open-market purchases. Potter declined to comment further on the issue or reveal what debt is likely to be redeemed. Both the secured and unsecured issues were expected to close Sept. 30.



Middle East & North Africa

UAE Developer Inks Loan

The UAE Offsets Group (UOG), an Abu Dhabi-based state-development agency, has reportedly inked a \$1 billion three-year bank

loan that refinances the construction costs of Fujairah, a 620 MW power plant in Abu Dhabi. Market watchers say National Bank of Abu Dhabi has underwritten the financing and add the state-owned bank is presently syndicating the transaction among international and regional lenders. Tight pricing is likely to keep all but a few international banks outside the syndicate, says one official evaluating the deal.

The new bank loan replaces a two-year state guaranteed bridge loan arranged by UOG two years back when it began constructing Fujairah (PFR,2/12/02). At the time UOG awarded South Korea's **Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Co.** a contract to develop the plant and a pipeline linking it westwards to Al Ain.

Tractebel Retains BNP For Saudi Bid

Belgian utility **Tractebel** is evaluating bidding for Marafiq, a \$2.5 billion power and water desalination project in Saudi Arabia, and has retained **BNP Paribas** to advise on the process.

Saudi Arabia's Power and Water Utility Company for Jubail and Yanbu launched a request for proposals this summer for a plant developer to construct a 2.4 GW and 300,000 cubic meters of water per day power and desalination plant in the port city of Jubail. The utility has received 17 expressions of interest and recently shortlisted 10 bidders. A banker close to the matter says final bids are due by mid December.

BNP has a long track record of advising Tractebel in the Middle East. It recently advised Tractebel on it's bid to develop the Sohar power and water desalination project in the Oman, and is presently syndicating a \$400 million loan tied to the project (PFR, 9/18).



Generation Auction & Sale Calendar

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

| Seller | Plants | Location | MW | Plant Type | Advisor | Status |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| AEP | El Bajio | Mexico | 600 (50%) | Gas | WestLB | |
| AES | Wolf Hollow Granite Ridge | Texas N.H. | 730 720 | Gas Gas | N/A | Ongoing. |
| | Termomamonal Ottana | Colombia Italy | 90 140 | Gas Gas | None | Ongoing. |
| Allegheny Energy Supply | Armstrong Hatfield Mitchell | Penn. Penn. Penn. | 356 1,600 (75%) 442 | Coal Coal Coal | J.P. Morgan Citibank J.P. Morgan | Ongoing. |
| Aquila | Racoon Creek Goose Creek Crossroads | III. III. Miss. | 340 340 340 | Gas Gas Gas | Not chosen | Intention to sell. |
| ВР | Great Yarmouth | U.K. | 400 | Gas | J.P. Morgan | Intention to sell. |
| Black Hills Energy | Pepperell | Mass. | 40 | Gas | - | Intention to sell. |
| BNP -led bank group (Exelon developed plants) | Mystic River 7 Mystic River 8 Mystic River 9 Fore River | Mass. Mass. Mass. Mass. | 560 832 832 832 | Oil/Gas Gas Gas Gas | Lazard | Ongoing. |
| Citi & SocGen-led creditor group (TECO Energy developed plants) | Union Gila River | Ark. Ariz. | 2,200 2,300 | Gas Gas | Goldman | Ongoing. |
| CMS Energy | Ensenada CT Mendoza El Chocon | Argentina Argentina Argentina | 128 520 1,320 | Gas Gas Hydro | Not chosen J.P. Morgan J.P. Morgan | Announced intention to sell. |
| Citi-led bank group (NEG developed plants) | Lake Road La Paloma | Conn. Calif. | 840 1,121 | Gas Gas | Lehman Bros. Lehman Bros. | Seperate auction for each plant. |
| ConocoPhilips | Ingleside | Texas | 440 (50%) | Gas | None | Looking to sell stake by June. |
| Damhead Power | Damhead | U.K. | 800 | Gas | E&Y | Has agreed sale to ScottishPower. |
| Delta Power | Lowell Power | Mass. | 82 | Gas | None | Actively pursuing a sale. |
| Duke Energy North America | Lee Energy Bridgeport Energy Grays Harbor (in construction) Deming Energy (in construction) Griffith Energy (50%) Maine Independence | III. Conn. Wash. N.M. Ariz. Maine | 640 480 (67%) 650 570 600 520 | Gas Gas Gas Gas Gas | J.P. Morgan | Ongoing. |
| El Paso Europe | Enfield EMA Power Kladna | U.K. Hungary Czech Rep. | 396 (25%) 70 350 | Gas Coal Coal | No Advisor | Looking to exit Europe. |
| El Paso North America (Merchant assets) | Berkshire CDECCA Eagle Point Fulton Pawtucket Rensselaer San Joaquin | Mass. Conn. N.J. N.Y. R.I. N.Y. Calif | 261 (56.41%) 62 233 45 67 79 | Gas Gas Gas Gas Gas Gas | | Final bids due. |
| El Paso North America (Contracted assets) | Midland Cogen Prime | Miss. N.J. | 1,500 (44%) 66 (50%) | Gas Gas | Citigroup | Has sold majority of QF portfolio to ArcLight. |
| Endesa | Conatillor | Chile | 172 | Hydro | N/A | Ongoing. |
| EnCana | Cavalier Balzac Kingston | Alberta Alberta Ontario | 106 106 110 (25%) | Gas Gas Gas | HSBC HSBC HSBC | Launched sale in April. Looking to exit generation business. |
| Energy Investors Fund | Multitrade Crockett | Va. Calif. | 79.5 (60%) 240 (24%) | Biomass Gas | None None | Intention to sell. |

Generation Auction & Sale Calendar (cont'd)

| Seller | Plants | Location | MW | Plant Type | Advisor | Status |
|--|---|--|--|---|---------------------|---|
| Entergy Asset Management | Robert Ritchie Warren Power Top of Iowa RS Cogen Roy S. Nelson Harrison County Independence | Ark. Miss. Iowa La. La. Texas Ark. | 544 314 80 425 (49%) 550 (20%) 550 (70%) 842 (15%) | Gas/oil Gas Wind CHP Coal Gas Coal | | Ongoing. |
| EPRL | Glanford Thetford Ely Westfield Elean | U.K. U.K. U.K. U.K. U.K. | 14 39 13 10 38 | Poultry Litter Poultry Litter Poultry Litter Poultry Litter Straw | Rothschild | Ongoing. |
| Ernst & Young Corporate Finance (representing secured creditors) | Bear Swamp | Mass. | 599 | Hydro | E&Y | Exploring sale. |
| HSBC-led creditor group | Attala | Miss. | 526 | Gas | HSBC | Ongoing. |
| InterGen | Larkspur Energy Indigo El Bajio | Calif. Calif. Mexico | 90 135 600 (50%) | Gas Gas Gas | Citi Citi N/A | Ongoing. Ongoing. |
| KBC-led creditor group | Milford | Conn | 542 | Gas | Lazard | Ongoing. |
| LG&E Power | Roanoke Valley Gregory Power Palm Springs | N.C. Texas Calif. | 178 (50%) 550 (50%) 42 (50%) | Coal Gas Wind | N/A | Ongoing. |
| | Tyler Van Horn Tarifa | Minn. Texas Spain | 27 (50%) 41 (33%) 30 (46%) | Wind Wind Wind | N/A | Sent out RFP in April. |
| Mirant | Kendall Shady Hills West Georgia Bosque County Wichita Falls | Mass. Fla. Ga. Texas Texas | 270 474 640 538 77 | Oil Gas Gas Gas Gas | CSFB BofA | Ongoing. |
| Morrow Power | Boardman | Ore. | 28 | Gas | Marathon Capital | Is evaluating bids. |
| Nations Energy | Bayport Mungo Junction Southbridge | Texas Ohio Mass. | 80 32 7 | N/A | | Considering liquiditing the company. |
| National Energy Gas & Transmission (USGen New England) | Salem Harbor Brayton Point Manchester St. Connecticut River Deerfield River | Mass. Mass. R.I. N.H. Mass. | 745 1,599 495 479 89 | Coal/Oil Coal Gas Hydro Hydro | Lazard | Ongoing. |
| Oman (Ministry of Housing, Electricity & Water) | Rusail Ghubratt Wad AlJazzi | Oman Oman Oman | 730 507 350 | Gas CHP Gas | CSFB | |
| Reliant Energy | Carr Street Astoria Gowanus Narrows | N.Y. N.Y. N.Y. N.Y. | 95 1,276 549 281 | Oil Gas Gas Gas | Goldman | Ongoing. |
| SG-led bank group (NEG developed plants) | Athens Covert Harquahala Millennium | N.Y. Mich. Ariz. Mass. | 1,080 1,170 1,092 360 | Gas Gas Gas Gas | Blackstone | Assessing bids. |
| STEAG | Iskenderun Termopaipa IV | Turkey Philippines | 1,320 185 | Gas Gas | Morgan Stanley | Ongoing. Set to sell Guadalupe and Odessa to PSEG. |
| TECO Energy | Frontera Power Station Dell Power Station McAdams Power Station Commonwealth Chesapeak | Texas Ark. La. Va. | 477 540 599 315 | Gas Gas Gas Gas | Goldman | |
| Tractebel North America | Chehalis | Wash. | 520 | Gas | N/A | Looking to sell or swap. |
| United Utilities | Landfill Generation Portolio | U.K. | 50 MW | Landfill | RBC Capital Markets | Set to launch sale in May. |

WIND FARM

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(PTC) for wind farms. The successful vote came nine months after the previous federal subsidy expired.

The delay in extending the PTC has created a backlog of projects, most fully permitted and ready to break ground. Sam Enfield, v.p. of development at Atlantic Renewable Energy Corporation, says that of the 2 GW of wind farm projects originally slated to go ahead this year, only 200-300 MW have reached fruition so far because of the PTC delay. These projects can now forge ahead. Enfield calculates that pent up demand could easily lead to a record number of renewable megawatts coming on stream in 2005. He declined to give a figure, but says it should easily surpass 2003's record year, when 1.7 GW of wind energy were hooked up to the grid.

There is a lot of pressure on developers to break ground on their projects by the end of 2005 so they can be eligible for the tax break, says Jan Paulin, chief executive of wind farm developer Padoma Wind Power. "There's going to be a mad rush to get projects done."

Among those looking to move quickest is MidAmerican Energy. Last week the Warren Buffett-controlled utility

announced the siting of two Iowa wind projects with a combined 310 MW of capacity and tapped the bond market to fund their construction. Allan Urlis, spokesman, says the Midwest utility plans to spend some \$323 million building the projects in the north central and northwestern regions of Ohio. Each will involve the erection of 100 GE Wind Energy 1.5 MW turbines, he adds. The infrastructure near Storm Lake is essentially complete, he notes, saying it has only to set up towers and turbines. "That's a good indication that we were confident that the tax credit issue was simply a delay."

Padoma Wind Power is also accelerating some of its wind projects to ensure it can meet next year's deadline, says CEO Paulin, adding that it is currently working on four wind farms with its partner, **US Wind Force**. The joint venture is in advanced negotiations with three undisclosed parties to provide equity for a 300 MW project in Maryland and another 70 MW in West Virginia, Paulin says, adding the J.V. expects to choose an investor in the next six to eight weeks. It is also working on several smaller projects in Maryland, West Virginia and New Mexico.

Atlantic Renewable has several projects it expects to complete by 2005, including a 280 MW farm in upstate New York, says Enfield. The developer has already begun negotiations to finance the project, he says. —*Christine Idzelis*

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argues. "[Industry players] are sick and tired of being in this situation where it's stop and go, stop and go," says Paulin. Short-term tax breaks also make strategic planning and the early ordering of plant equipment nearly impossible, he adds.

Randall Swisher, executive director of American Wind Energy Association, notes that PTC legislation has expired three times in the last five years, each time creating unwelcome periods of limbo for wind farm developers. "That is not optimal. There is no question about that," he says.

While the new law will offer the tax break retroactively from last January—when the previous PTC law expired—Paulin says this extra window offers little benefit to most developers as "virtually no projects were going to ground earlier this year because of the [tax break] delay."

Paulin argues that another flaw of the PTC legislation is that it unduly benefits large wind farm developers, such as FPL Energy, PacifiCorp or Shell Wind Energy, over small players. This is because only established wind farm developers tend to generate the profits and associated tax liabilities necessary to reap the benefit of tax credits. Smaller developers are thus forced to bring in profitable partners that can take advantage of the tax breaks, explains Swisher.

As an alternative, the AWEA is advocating the adoption of a

federal renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that would require utilities to source a fixed percentage of their power from renewable generation. "That would create a market for wind power," says Paulin.

Such a system has twice been approved by the Senate, only to be turned down by the House of Representatives. The White House also has not been supportive of an RPS, argues Paulin, though ironically, President **Bush** signed an RPS into law in Texas when governor of the Lone Star State.

Maryland also has enacted an RPS requirement and New York announced Sept. 24 that it has adopted a ruling that 25% of its electricity must come from renewable energy by 2013.

Calls to Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), chairman of the Committee on Finance, were not returned. A deputy press secretary for Rep. Bill Thomas (R-Calif.), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, declined to comment. Both Congressmen were active in getting the tax extension passed, according to the AWEA.

—C.I.

Quote Of The Week

"There's going to be a mad rush to get projects done."—Jan Paulin, chief executive of Padoma Wind Power, commenting on the 15-month timeframe wind farm developers have to utilize the recently reinstated federal tax break (see story, page 1).