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Congress Makes Room For Grant Extension

Senate leaders have included an extension to the cash grant in a tax bill that will be voted on before Dec. 17.

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FINANCIERS FORECAST WIND REFI WAVE

Bankers are expecting a \$3.5 billion slug of wind generation refinancing over the next few years. The deals have already started flowing and are being driven by the fact that many 2008-era deals were typically under-levered mini-perms, with higher interest rates and shorter tenors than on offer today.

Edison Mission Energy is among the sponsors. "The pricing [on the 2009 financing] is not reflective of current market conditions," says a longtime financier, explaining Edison Mission's motivation. "Look around: it seems everyone is refinancing their credit facilities" from 2008 through this year. WestLB has



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Wanted: Good Ideas

PUGET EYES \$500M IN DEBT ISSUES

Puget Sound Energy expects to issue at least \$500 million in debt next year to fund the first phase of its 1.25 GW Lower Snake River wind farm and maturing bonds—and it's open to pitches from firms looking to take part.

The Puget Energy utility subsidiary will look first to relationship firms that have at least \$75 million committed to its credit facilities. They'll also need strong debt capital markets teams for lead underwriting roles. "That is provided they are competitive in pricing and they bring us good ideas," says Don Gaines, v.p. of finance and treasurer in Bellevue, Wash. Banks that don't have credit facility commitments but still present more competitive pricing or more innovative ideas than relationship lenders will have shots at underwriter roles.

The parent and subsidiary have about \$3.3 billion in bank debt. Barclays Capital, Bank

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NEXTERA PLOTS SOLAR PUSH

NextEra Energy Resources plans to build out its solar development pipeline. Subsidiary NextEra Energy Canada just moved into the Ontario market with an agreement to purchase a pair of 20 MW photovoltaic projects, Moore and Sombra, from First Solar. It's taking a technology neutral stance as it looks to bring 400-600 MW online by the end of 2014, with a capex of \$3-4 billion, according to an investor presentation on its Web site.

NextEra is open to selective, opportunistic purchases of early development projects that haven't reached the engineering stage yet, industry officials say. It wants to have full control over the development and engineering of the facilities. First Solar will remain on board as the EPC for the Ontario projects. Industry officials anticipate that NextEra will negotiate purchases itself.

The company owns about 150 MW of solar and is expected to expand mostly through

(continued on page 8)

Check www.iipower.com during the week for breaking news and updates.



At Press Time ArcLight Scales Back B Loan

ArcLight Capital Partners has shaved down its affiliates' term B loan to \$275 million from \$370 million. Commitments for the seven-year loan led by Barclays Capital and Credit Suisse were due Friday.

The loan backs seven U.S. generation projects and a dozen Spanish cogeneration plants that are all in operation. The sponsor downsized the deal after hitting investor pushback on the Spanish plants because of the perceived instability of the Spanish economy, a deal watcher notes. The smaller deal has been engineered to pay back the debt even if the Spanish plants don't put out the expected revenue.

ArcLight holding companies Race Point Power II, Race Point Power III, Race Point Power IV and NeoElectra Lux are the borrowers and also the owners of the plants. The LIBOR floor remains set at 175 basis points, with an original issue discount of 98.

Dan Revers, managing director of ArcLight in Boston, and a Credit Suisse official did not return calls. A Barclays official declined to comment.

Congress Includes Grant Extension In Tax Package

Congressional leaders have included a one-year extension to the deadline to start construction on projects that would qualify for the U.S. Department of Treasury cash grant in a proposed tax bill. The move came Thursday and would mean that developers have until the end of next year to start construction on renewables projects. The current deadline is by the end of this year.

The language was added to a tax package crafted by President Obama and Senate Republican leaders earlier this week (PFR, 10/8). The bill is expected to pass the Senate, which will adjourn by Dec. 17. Democrats in the House of Representatives have said that changes will have to be made to the bill before it comes to the floor for a vote, a project finance attorney in Washington notes. A spokesman for Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the House in Washington, D.C., did not return a call by press time and whether changes could affect the extension could not be learned.

Republicans had been forecast to potentially offer concessions, including the extension of the grant, to convince some Democrats to support the extenders bill. However, legislative analysts are increasingly doubtful that the grant or an amended program will be available Jan. 1, citing Congressional Democrats' unease with a tax extenders package that would prolong tax cuts at all income levels for two years.

Despite the odds, it appears that the program's best chance to be extended is before the Republicans gain control of the U.S. House of Representatives in January. Republicans largely opposed the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—the stimulus bill that launched the grant program—and are disinclined to support refundable tax benefits.

Roughly \$5.53 billion in grants have been awarded to eligible renewables projects since September 2009, according to DOT.

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EDITORIAL

STEVE MURRAY
Editor

TOM LAMONT
General Editor

PETER THOMPSON
Executive Editor [Chicago]
(773) 439-1090

SARA ROSNER
Managing Editor
(212) 224-3165

BRIAN ECKHOUSE
Senior Reporter
(212) 224-3624

HOLLY FLETCHER
Senior Reporter
(212) 224-3293

STANLEY WILSON
Washington Bureau Chief
(202) 393-0728

KIERON BLACK
Sketch Artist

PRODUCTION

DANY PEÑA
Director

DEBORAH ZAKEN
Manager

MELISSA ENSMINGER,
JAMES BAMBARA, DOUGLAS LEE
Associates

JENNY LO
Web Production & Design Director

ADVERTISING

PAT BERTUCCI
Associate Publisher
(212) 224-3890

ADRIENNE BILLS
Associate Publisher
(212) 224-3214

PUBLISHING

ALLISON ADAMS
Group Publisher

GAURI GOYAL
Business Director
(212) 224-3504

ANNA LEE
Marketing Director
(212) 224-3175

ISMAELA BEST
Senior Marketing Manager
(212) 224-3609

VINCENT YESENOSKY
Head of US Fulfillment
(212) 224-3057

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KEN LERNER
Account Executive
(212) 224-3043

REPRINTS

DEWEY PALMIERI
Reprint & Permission Manager
(212) 224-3675
dpalmieri@institutionalinvestor.com

CORPORATE

JANE WILKINSON
Chief Executive Officer

STEVE KURTZ
Chief Operating Officer

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 6910
E-mail: customerservice@iinvestor.com

Editorial Offices: 225 Park Avenue
South, New York, NY 10003.
Tel: (773) 439-1090
Email: pthompson@iinvestor.com

Institutional Investor Hotline:
(212) 224-3570 and (1-800) 437-9997 or
hotline@institutionalinvestor.com

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Project Finance

Duke Snags Wyo. Wind Financing

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, BBVA, Société Générale and Caja Madrid have wrapped a \$231 million financing backing Duke Energy's existing 200 MW Top of the World Windpower farm near Casper, Wyo.

The sponsor shrunk the size of the financing after interest rates inched up, says a deal watcher, declining to elaborate. The financing comprises a roughly \$193 million term loan and nearly \$38 million in letters of credit. The loan has a tenor of 18 years. The original size of the deal, pricing and the size of each bank's commitment could not be learned.

Charlotte, N.C.-based Duke is leveraging up the farm to finance other renewables investments, according to a spokesman. PacifiCorp is the offtaker for the roughly \$400 million farm, under a 20-year contract. The farm has been operational since October.

The Duke spokesman didn't make an official available. A BBVA official declined to comment, while officials at BoTM and SocGen didn't return calls. A Caja Madrid spokesperson didn't reply to an e-mail seeking comment.

Ormat Mandates Hancock For Geo Deal

Ormat Technologies has mandated John Hancock Life Insurance Company to arrange senior secured construction and term loan facilities for three geothermal plants it is building in California and Nevada.

The trio includes plants in Mammoth and Wister, Calif., and the Deadhorse Wells project in Mineral County, Nevada. The plants are expected to generate a combined 80-90 MW and be operational in 2013. The price of developing geothermal is roughly \$5 million per megawatt, bringing the combined price tag to \$400-450 million.

A call to Dita Bronicki, Ormat ceo in Reno, Nev., was directed to a spokesman who didn't return a call seeking comment. A John Hancock official in Boston also didn't return a call.

Ormat is seeking a U.S. Department of Energy loan guarantee of up to \$330 million for the projects under the department's Financial Institution Partnership Program. The guarantee would back up to 80% of a project finance loan. Ormat has received a draft term sheet from the DOE; a which is generally delivered to an applicant once the department has completed its initial evaluation and determined that negotiation is warranted, explains a DOE spokeswoman in Washington, D.C. She declined to release those terms.

Ormat is negotiating power purchase agreements for the

plants. The identity of the potential offtakers for the plants couldn't be learned.

Macquarie Snags Landfill Gas Debt

Macquarie Infrastructure Partners has wrapped a \$220 million financing backing the acquisition and expansion of three landfill gas-to-energy projects in Rhode Island and California. Bank of Nova Scotia, CIBC, CoBank, Union Bank and Caterpillar Financial Services participated in the deal.

Macquarie is buying the projects from Ridgewood Renewable Power for \$25 million and the purchase was contingent on Macquarie securing financing for the expansion (PFR, 9/7). The pricing, tenor and structure of the deal could not be learned.

The 5 MW Brea facility in California is being expanded to 38 MW and the 20 MW facility is being expanded by 19 MW. The City of Anaheim is the long-term offtaker for the California plant and Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Co-op is the offtaker for the Rhode Island plant. The expansions are set to be complete by 2012.

A call to an official at Macquarie was forwarded to a spokeswoman who declined to comment. A CIBC official and a Caterpillar spokesman did not return a call. A CoBank official declined to comment and officials at Scotia Capital, the investment banking arm of Bank of Nova Scotia, were not available to comment. Union Bank officials did not respond to inquiries by press time.

First Wind Wraps Maine Wind Financing

First Wind has scored a \$98 million financing from Key Bank and NordLB backing the 60 MW Rollins Wind farm in Penobscot County, Maine. The financing comprises an \$81 million non-recourse construction loan and a \$17 million letter of credit facility. JPMorgan subsidiary JPM Capital Corp. will take out the loan via tax equity when the farm initiates operation. The deal wrapped Friday.

The loan has a tenor up to 18 months. Pricing couldn't be learned. Officials at Key Bank and NordLB didn't return calls and a JPMorgan spokesman didn't make a banker available by press time. A First Wind spokesman in Boston didn't immediately address questions about the deal.

The \$130-150 million farm is under construction, with completion possible by year-end (PFR, 12/1). Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydro Energy have 20-year offtake agreements from the farm. Central Maine is buying 80%, with Bangor Hydro taking the balance.

Mergers & Acquisitions

Noble To Sell N.H. Project To Brookfield

Noble Environmental Power has agreed to sell its 99 MW Granite Reliable project in New Hampshire to **Brookfield Renewable Power** for an undisclosed amount. The project in Coos County, N.H., is expected to cost \$200 million to develop and is set to come online in December next year. The transaction is pending regulatory approval. Noble did not use an advisor.

Noble has been in talks with **WestLB** and other banks about financing Granite Reliable, which was to be its first financing since 2008 (PFR, 11/3). The project has offtake agreements with **Central Vermont Public Service** and **Green Mountain Power**. The status of those talks and whether Brookfield will continue them could not be learned.

Neither the timeline for closing the deal nor whether Brookfield used an advisor could be learned. A Noble spokeswoman declined to comment and a Brookfield spokesman didn't return a call.

Algonquin Lands Nat'l Grid Utilities, Scopes Debt



Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. has agreed to buy **National Grid's** regulated utility assets in New Hampshire for \$285 million. Algonquin will look to finance 52% of the acquisition next fall when the transaction is expected to close, says **David Bromicheski**, cfo in Oakville, Ontario.

It will consider several debt financing options including a private placement or a U.S. bond offering, says Bromicheski.

The acquisition of **Granite State Electric Co.** and **EnergyNorth Natural Gas** is Algonquin's initial regulated utility move in the Northeast and complements its existing portfolio of 23 hydro assets in New York and New England, says Bromicheski. The purchase price for Granite State and EnergyNorth is \$83 million and \$202 million, respectively. **UBS** advised National Grid; **Macquarie Capital Markets Canada** advised Algonquin.

National Grid acquired Granite State in 2000 and put the utilities on the block this year (PFR, 9/10). **Liberty Energy Utilities Co.**, an Algonquin subsidiary, will own and operate Granite State and EnergyNorth.

Algonquin is in the process of acquiring distribution assets in California from **NV Energy** for \$116 million as part of a joint venture with **Emera**. Algonquin issued a \$70 million private

placement this week to fund a portion of the purchase.

Calls to officials at **UBS** were not immediately returned. **Macquarie** and **Nat'l Grid** spokesmen declined further comment.

Third Planet Ices Merger, Talks With FCC

Third Planet Windpower has pulled the plug on finding a buyer after merger talks with Spanish construction company **FCC** fell through. The developer is not seeking other buyers right now, says a deal watcher, noting that there were timing issues regarding its nearest term projects. **Morgan Stanley** is advising Third Planet.

Third Planet expected to finalize a deal with **FCC** over the summer but extended the talks into the fall (PFR, 8/6). Third Planet has been looking for a buyer for the better part of two years, working first with **Marathon Capital** before switching to **Morgan Stanley** (PFR, 5/6).

Third Planet has a 20-year power purchase agreement with the **Omaha Public Power District** for its 40 MW project near Petersburg, Neb., and it is also developing the 150 MW **Reno Junction** wind project in Campbell County, Wyo. How those projects will be financed could not be learned.

A call to **Walter Kamp**, ceo of Third Planet in Palm City, Fla., was not returned. A **Morgan Stanley** spokeswoman declined to comment. An **FCC** official in Barcelona could not immediately comment.

Singapore Gov't To Take Duquesne Stake

The **Government of Singapore Investment Corp.** has agreed to buy a stake in **Duquesne Light Holdings** from **Diversified Utility & Energy Trusts**, or **DUET Group**. **GIC** will pay \$360 million for 29%, majority ownership of the Pittsburgh, Penn.-based utility holding company. **Macquarie Group** advised **DUET**. The transaction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2011 following state and federal approval.

Duquesne, the parent of **Duquesne Light Co.**, is owned by a consortium that includes **Macquarie Infrastructure Partners** and **Industry Funds Management**. Other owners include affiliates of **Macquarie**, the **Motor Trades Association of Australia** and pension fund **State Super** (PFR, 6/19). The existing owners had a month to buy the stake as a right of first offer once **GIC** signed a sale agreement in September.

GIC, the investment arm of the Singapore government, also owns a stake in **Oncor** through another affiliate. Whether **GIC** used an advisor could not be learned.

Corporate Strategies

Cleco Moves Up Issue For Low Rates

Cleco Power has moved up its planned bond issuance from the first quarter to take advantage of favorable rates. It issued \$250 million in 30-year, 6% unsecured notes—the lowest rate among the company's outstanding facilities of that tenor. The deal closed last month. **Standard & Poor's** rates the company BBB, while **Moody's Investors Service** rates it Baa2.

The **Cleco Corp.** subsidiary also doubled the package, from the \$125 million it anticipated issuing (PFR, 6/10), in light of the favorable rates. By issuing \$250 million, Cleco satisfied an issuance threshold necessary to lure institutional investors eager to launch a potential secondary market, says **Mike Sawrie**, Cleco manager of corporate finance in

Pineville, La.

Proceeds will help finance a smart meter project, take out about \$25 million in insured, 6.125% retail notes maturing in 2012, repay a \$50 million floating-rate bank loan led by **JPMorgan** and possibly fund Cleco's pension plan, Sawrie says.

JPMorgan, **Crédit Agricole** and **Key Bank** were joint book-running managers on the deal. **Bank of America** and **Credit Suisse** were co-managers. Cleco chose the lenders from its roster of relationship banks—and selected the three leads, particularly JPMorgan, for its “obvious experience in underwriting,” Sawrie explains. Bank officials or spokespeople declined to comment, didn't return messages or didn't make officials available by press time.

Project Finance Deal Book

*Deal Book is a matrix of energy project finance deals that PFR is tracking in the energy sector. The entries below are of new deals or deals where there has been change in their parameters or status. To report updates or provide additional information on the status of financings, please call Senior Reporter **Brian Eckhouse** at (212) 224-3624 or e-mail beckhouse@iinews.com.*

Live Deals: Americas

Sponsor	Project	Location	Lead(s)	Loan	Loan Amount	Tenor	Notes
ArcLight Capital Partners	Various (Gas and Transmission)	TBA	Barclays, Credit Suisse	Term Loan	\$370M	TBA	Loan priced at 600 bps (PFR, 11/22).
BP Wind Energy, Sempra Generation	Cedar Creek II (250.8 MW Wind)	Weld County, Colo.	TBA	TBA	\$400M	10-12-yr	Banco Sabadell and Mizuho to participate (PFR, 11/8).
Caithness Energy, GE EFS	Shepherds Flat (909 MW Wind)	Oregon	BoTM, WestLB, RBS, Citi	TBA	TBA	TBA	Sponsor seeks \$135 million term loan, \$231 in letters of credit (PFR, 11/22).
Catalyst Renewables	Unknown (37-40 MW Biomass)	New York	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Sponsors reaches out to banks for biomass financings (PFR, 12/6).
Duke Energy	Top of the World (200 MW Wind)	Casper, Wyo.	BoTM, BBVA, SocGen, Caja Madrid	Term Loan	\$193M	18-yr	Sponsor reaches financial close (see story, page 4).
Edison Mission Energy	Various (362 MW Wind)	Neb., N.M., Texas	WestLB	TBA	\$265M	10-yr	Sponsor seeks refinancing for Viento Funding II portfolio (see story, page 1).
enXco	St. Isidore (12 MW Solar PV)	Nation, Ontario	Dexia	TBA	TBA	TBA	Union Bank named a co-lead on deal (PFR, 11/22).
EverPower	Highland North (73 MW Wind)	Krayn, Penn.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	EverPower reaches out to lenders about financing (PFR, 11/29).
First Solar	Various (90 MW Solar PV)	Ontario	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Sponsor scouts portfolio financing (PFR, 11/15).
First Wind	Rollins (60 MW Wind)	Penobscot County, Maine	Key Bank, NordLB	TBA	\$81M	18-mo	Deal wraps; JPMorgan takes tax equity stake (see story, page 4).
GWF Energy	Tracy (314 MW Combined Cycle)	Tracy, Calif.	MUFG	TBA	\$305M	10-yr plus construction	Deal wraps (PFR, 12/6).
Invenergy	Le Plateau (138 MW Wind)	Quebec, Canada	Natixis, RBC	TBA	TBA	TBA	Natixis and RBC snag mandates (PFR, 11/15).
	White Oak (150 MW Wind)	McLean County, Ill.	TBA	TBA	\$300M	TBA	Sponsor scouts financing (PFR, 11/1).
NextEra Energy Resources	Blythe Energy Center (500 MW Gas-Fired)	Blythe, Calif.	Crédit Agricole, Lloyds TSB	TBA	\$305M	7-yr	At least five banks eye refinancing (PFR, 12/6).
Northland Power	Mont Louis (100 MW Wind)	Mont Louis, Quebec	Manulife	TBA	\$102M	20-yr plus construction	Closing is imminent (PFR, 11/22).
Ormat Technologies	Various (80-90 MW Geothermal)	California and Nevada	John Hancock	TBA	TBA	TBA	Hancock mandated to lead deal (see story, page 4).
Project Resources Corporation	Lakeswind (100 MW Wind)	Fargo-Moorhead, Minn.	TBA	TBA	\$200M	TBA	PRC in talks with MUFG about sales-leaseback (PFR, 11/15).
SkyPower	Various (30 MW Solar PV)	Ontario	Deutsche Bank	TBA	TBA	TBA	Sponsor mandates Deutsche Bank to leading financing (PFR, 11/15).
Tenaska	Various (250 MW Solar PV)	California	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Tenaska scouts debt for two solar plants (PFR, 11/15).
Western Wind Energy	Windstar (120 MW Wind)	Tehachapi, Calif.	TBA	TBA	\$264M	TBA	Closing nears with four principal lenders (PFR, 11/22).

For a complete listing of the Project Finance Deal Book, please go to iipower.com.

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 **Holly Fletcher** at (212) 224-3293 or e-mail hletcher@iineews.com.*

Seller	Assets	Location	Advisor	Status/Comments
Brick Power	Tiverton (265 MW Natural Gas) Rumford (265 MW Natural Gas)	Tiverton, R.I. Rumford, Me.	Deutsche Bank	A mix of strategic and financial players will submit final bids next month (PFR, 11/22).
Capital Power Income Fund	Various (1.4 GW in U.S. and Canada)	Various	CIBC, Greenhill & Co.	Sellings its fleet of 19 facilities (PFR, 11/29).
Complete Energy	Batesville (837 MW natural gas-fired)	Batesville, Miss.		Creditors, including JPMorgan, Monarch Alternative Capital and Stark Investments, are in a foreclosure process (PFR, 12/6).
First Solar	Sombra (20 MW solar photovoltaic) Moore (20 MW solar photovoltaic)	Ontario Ontario	TBA TBA	NextEra Energy Resources is buying the projects as it looks to fill out its development pipeline (see story, page 1)
Invenergy	St. Clair (570 MW, CCGT) Raleigh (78 MW wind project)	Ontario Ontario		The deadline for the final bids for the natural gas plant is being pushed back (PFR, 12/6).
JPMorgan	Triton (550 MW NatGas)	Jackson, Mich.	JPMorgan	JPMorgan is flipping a facility that unit Arroyo Energy Investors just bought from Kinder Morgan (PFR, 10/4).
Noble Environmental Power	Granite Reliable (99 MW wind)	Coos County, N.H.	No advisor	Brookfield Renewable Power is buying the project that's set to start construction next year (see story, page 5).
PSEG	Guadalupe (1 GW, CCGT) Odessa (1 GW, CCGT)	Marion, Texas Ector County, Texas	Goldman Sachs	Bids due Oct. 22 (PFR, 10/25).
Raser Technologies	Thermo 1 (14 MW Geothermal, development assets)	Thermo, Utah	Bodington & Co.	Raser has entered into an early agreement with Evergreen Clean Energy (PFR, 11/8).
Royal Dutch Shell	Shell Wind Energy (stakes in 1.1 GW) 50% Rock River (50 MW) 50% White Deer (80 MW) 50% Top of Iowa (80 MW) 50% Cabazon (41 MW) 50% Whitewater Hill (60 MW) 50% Brazos (160 MW) 50% Colorado Green (162 MW) 50% NedPower Mount Storm (264 MW) European wind (200 MW)	U.S. and Europe Wyoming Amarillo, Texas Joice, Iowa Palm Spring, Calif. Palm Spring, Calif. Lubbock, Texas Lamar, Colo. Grant County, W.Va. Various	Morgan Stanley	Second round bids due (PFR, 11/15).
Stark Investments	Wolf's Hollow (730 MW Gas)	Hood County, Texas	JPMorgan	Second round bids coming due (PFR, 11/1).
Terra-Gen Power	Alta 1 (150 MW wind)	Tehachapi, Calif.	No advisor	Initial bids for the first phase of the 3 GW Alta wind project were due earlier this month (PFR, 10/25).
U.S. Power Generating Co.	Boston Generating Mystic 8 (801 MW Gas fired) Mystic 9 (801 MW Gas fired) Fore River (801 MW Gas fired) Mystic 7 (560 MW Gas fired) Astoria Generating (1.28 GW Natural Gas) Gowanus (542 MW Fuel, oil and gas-fired) Narrows (276 MW Fuel oil and gas-fired)	Greater Boston area New York City New York City New York City	JPMorgan Goldman Sachs	Constellation Energy's \$1.1B bid won the auction (11/22). Sale is postponed to 2011 (PFR, 11/15).

PUGET EYES

(continued from page 1)

of Nova Scotia, CoBank, Commerzbank, Export Development Canada, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Macquarie Bank, Mizuho Corporate Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland, Siemens Financial Services, Union Bank, US Bank and Wells Fargo are among the lenders. The size of their commitments could not be learned. Bank officials and spokesmen either declined to comment or did not return calls.

PSE will look to issue at least \$250 million in senior secured notes early next quarter as it has a \$260 million package of 7.79%, 10-year notes maturing in February and at least another \$250 million later in the year to fund the first phase of Lower Snake River. The utility will seek either 10-year notes to fill holes in its maturities schedule or 30-year notes, depending on pricing, Gaines says. He declined to specify pricing sought on the deals, adding that

the company will start looking for underwriters early next quarter.

The first 343 MW phase of Lower Snake River in Columbia and Garfield Counties, Wash., is slated for operation in April of 2012. PSE is funding the project with a mix of debt issues, internally generated cash and equity from Puget Energy. It is also applying to the U.S. Department of Treasury for a cash grant. PSE will be the offtaker for the project.

Separately, Barclays Capital, Bank of America and JPMorgan were joint-bookrunners managers on Puget Energy's maiden \$450 million 144A private placement of 10-year notes late last month. Macquarie Capital, RBS Securities, Scotia Capital and Wells Fargo were among the co-managers. "We wanted the expertise of bankers who have experience in this type of issuance, in all industries and all market conditions," Gaines says.

The company issued the 6.5% notes to take out part of a \$1.225 billion floating-rate term loan associated with its merger

under Macquarie-led consortium and extend that debt which comes due in 2014. The private placement was upsized from \$350 million, to take advantage of a favorable coupon for a company below investment grade, Gaines explains. **Moody's Investors Service** rates the holding company and the issuance Ba2. **Standard & Poor's** rates the company BB+. The issuance closed Dec. 6.

—Sara Rosner & Brian Eckhouse

NEXTERA PLOTS

(continued from page 1)

greenfield development, especially on the larger solar thermal and parabolic trough projects, says a banker, noting that it doesn't want to "buy someone else's mistakes." The developer's emphasis is on the desert Southwest, with an eye on projects that will need transmission build-out, says a banker, referencing the 500 miles of transmission it built to connect its wind projects in Texas (PFR, 12/28).

The financing strategy, particularly for PV projects, is anticipated to closely resemble its wind model: construct on balance sheet and refinance later to free up cash. It has put out feelers about financing at least one solar thermal plant (PFR, 10/21).

The Ontario projects are expected to start construction in the first quarter and be online by year's end. They have power purchase agreements with the **Ontario Power Authority**. Calls to a spokesman and **Edwin Moses**, executive director in Juno Beach, Fla., were not returned. A First Solar spokesman could not immediately comment.

—Holly Fletcher

FINANCIERS FORECAST

(continued from page 1)

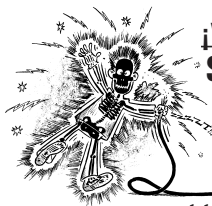
launched the EME deal, a roughly \$265 million package backing farms owned by Edison subsidiary **Viento Funding II**. Edison Mission is eyeing an early 2011 closing. Pricing starts at 250-275 basis points over LIBOR, with a tenor of 10 years.

WestLB and **BNP Paribas** led the original financing, in 2009, with **Dexia Crédit Local**, **Investec**, **Key Bank**, **Scotia Capital**, **Siemens Financial Services** and **Union Bank** participating. The banks priced the loan at 375 bps over LIBOR, which was flexed to 387.5 bps due to difficult market conditions. The original deal had a seven-year tenor, with 12 banks taking pieces (PFR, 7/2/09).

EverPower is aiming to refinance a loan it secured in 2009 from **Banco Espirito Santo** and **Key Bank** that backs its 62.5 MW Highland Wind Project near Krayn, Penn. (PFR, 11/24). **First Wind** landed a refinancing backing its 125 MW Cohocton wind farm in Steuben County, N.Y., in September (PFR, 9/13). **NextEra Energy Resources** may also be considering refinancings for its Heartland wind portfolios.

A syndicator in New York anticipates that most sponsors will

Alternating Current



¡Viva El Sol!

Spanish Woman Claims The Sun

Solar developers beware: another cost could be eating into profits in the form of a fee to use the sun as **Angeles Duran**, a 49-year-old Spaniard, has claimed ownership. It is the first time an individual has done so in the sun's 4.5 billion-year existence.

Duran had her local notary in Salvaterra do Mino issue a document declaring her "the owner of the Sun," in a preliminary step to charging everyone who uses the spectral star, from PV developers to sunbathers. "When you have a property, it makes sense to make use of it," Duran told *El Mundo* newspaper. "Power companies profit from the rivers which belong to everyone, so I hope to take advantage of the sun."



Angeles Duran

The **United Nations** Outer Space Treaty of 1967 forbids governments from claiming celestial bodies, but not individuals and Duran contends that in this light, her star-grab is legally sound. A spokesman at the UN in New York did not respond to an inquiry regarding the claim.

wait longer to refinance—but before the loans come due—in hopes of snagging pricing close to 200 bps over LIBOR. Another banker notes that sponsors typically seek a refinancing at least two years after a project is operational to demonstrate a strong revenue stream before negotiating the terms of a new deal.

For a list of deals that bankers are eyeing for refinancing, please visit www.iipower.com.

—B.E.

Quote Of The Week

"That is provided they are competitive in pricing and they bring us good ideas."—**Don Gaines**, v.p. of finance and treasurer of **Puget Sound Energy** in Bellevue, Wash., on how relationship banks can secure spots on the company's expected bond issuance next year (see story, page 1).

One Year Ago In Power Finance & Risk

ArcLight Capital Partners was in the running for five generation and transmission assets put on the block **Energy Investors Funds**. [**Bank of America** and **Barclays Capital** wrapped a \$220 million B loan backing ArcLight's purchase, after a dispute between EIF and one of the plant's off-takers delayed the close by several months (PFR, 6/16).]