

Power Finance & Risk

Exclusive Insight on Power M&A and Project Financing

● MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Buyer found for Texas CCGT stake

A buyer has emerged for a majority stake in a combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Texas. [Page 7.](#)

● PROJECT FINANCE

Leeward finances Illinois wind repowering

Leeward Renewable Energy has secured debt and tax equity for an Illinois wind repowering project. [Page 8.](#)

● PEOPLE & FIRMS

Stern retires from Northwestern Mutual

Howard Stern has retired from Northwestern Mutual after spending more than 21 years at the firm. [Page 10.](#)

Irradiant, Pine Gate finance Michigan solar pair

Alfie Crooks

Irradiant Partners and **Pine Gate Renewables** have closed financing on a pair of solar projects totaling 40 MW in Michigan.

The assets are the MacBeth and Lyons Road solar projects in Muskegon County and Shiawassee County, respectively. **US Bank** committed tax equity financing for the assets while **Key-Bank** provided construction and permanent financing.

Construction is underway on both facilities to bring them online by early 2022. Once online, they will power 6,300 homes in Montague, Muskegon County and Owosso, Shiawassee County through 20-year power purchase agreements with **Consumers Energy**.

Blue Ridge Power is the engineering, procurement and construction contractor for both assets. [PAGE 8»](#)



PE firm preps A&E for Rhode Island gas-fired project

Taryana Odayar

A private equity firm is arranging an amend-and-extend deal on the project finance loan associated with its gas-fired project in Rhode Island.

The Carlyle Group is aiming to close an updated \$319 million financing package for its Rhode Island State Energy Center (RISEC) by the end of

January, *PFR* has learned.

Investec is the sole bookrunner on the revamped seven-year deal, which comprises a \$274 million term loan A and \$45 million revolver.

The pricing on the loan, at 250 bp over Libor, is unchanged from a previous \$329 million amend-and-extend package [PAGE 8 »](#)

Stalking horse bidder emerges for ERCOT peaker pair

Alfie Crooks

A Houston-based private equity firm has emerged as the stalking horse bidder for a pair of gas-fired peaking power plants in Texas.

Rockland Capital is understood to have submitted a \$64.1 million bid to **Agilon Energy**, the independent power producer affiliate of **Castleman Power Development**, for the Victoria City and Victoria [PAGE 6»](#)

Baker Botts brings in Barajas

Alfie Crooks

Baker Botts has hired veteran project finance attorney **Dino Barajas** as a partner in its global projects department based out of Los Angeles.

Barajas had been a partner and co-head of US infrastructure and projects at **DLA Piper** as well as co-head of Latin America corporate for the last two years ([PFR](#), [3/19/20](#)).

In his new role, he will [PAGE 9»](#)



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● PPA PULSE

TRANSALTA NABS PPAS FOR OKLAHOMA WIND FARM

TransAlta Corp has secured a pair of power purchase agreements with an investment-grade offtaker for a 300 MW wind complex in Oklahoma.

The White Rock East and White Rock West wind farms, collectively known as White Rock Wind, will sell their output to an undisclosed offtaker with a AA credit rating from **S&P Global Ratings**.

Construction is expected to start on White Rock Wind in late 2022 to bring it online in the second half of 2023.

TransAlta expects to invest between \$460-470 million to construct the project, which will be financed with existing liquidity and tax equity. The project is fitted with 51 **Vestas** turbines.

"This project is another step towards executing our recently announced Clean Electricity Growth Plan of delivering 2 GW of capacity by 2025," said **John Kousiniotis**, president and CEO of TransAlta. "White Rock East and West will collectively be the largest wind project we have undertaken and are excellent additions to our Company's expanding wind portfolio." ■



"This project is another step towards executing our recently announced Clean Electricity Growth Plan of delivering 2 GW of capacity by 2025."

John Kousiniotis, president and CEO of **TransAlta**

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1120 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10036
Power Finance & Risk is a general circulation newsweekly.
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Institutional Investor, LLC ISSN# 1529-6652
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Do you have questions, comments or criticisms about a story that appeared in **PFR**? Should we be covering more or less of a given area? The staff of **PFR** is committed as ever to evolving with the markets and we welcome your feedback.

Feel free to contact **Taryana Odayar**, Editor, at (212) 224-3258 or taryana.odayar@powerfinancerisk.com

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
8minute	Southern Bighorn (300 MW Solar, Storage)	Nevada	OnPeak Capital	Second round bids are being taken as of late October (PFR, 11/01).
Actis	Aela Energia	Chile	Credit Suisse	Binding offers were received on December 10 (PFR, 12/20).
AES Corp	Mountain View (67 MW Wind, 25%)	California		AIMCo has struck a deal to buy the interests as of early November (PFR, 11/8).
	Laurel Mountain (125 MW Wind, 25%)	West Virginia		
Agilon Energy	Victoria Port (100 MW Gas), Victoria City (100 MW Gas)	Texas	ERM Capital	Rockland Capital submitted a \$64.1 million stalking horse bid for the plants as of January 4 (see story, page 1)
Apollo Global Management	Fairview Energy Center (1,050 MW Gas, 25%)	US	Macquarie Capital	DL Energy has agreed to buy the stake as of late December (PFR, 12/27).
Atlantic Power	Chambers (262 MW Coal, 40%)	US		Starwood Energy Group has agreed to buy the stake as of late December (12/27).
Beacon	Beacon Solar	US		BayWa r.e. has purchased the company as of early December (PFR, 12/13).
Bernhard Capital Partners	Bernhard	US	JP Morgan Securities, Macquarie Capital USA	DIF Capital Partners has closed the purchase of the firm as of early December (PFR, 12/20).
BlueWave	BlueWave	Massachusetts	Scotiabank	The sale process has entered its second round, with bids due at the end of January (PFR, 12/20).
Biwo Renewables, LatSolar Energy Investments	Portfolio (200 MW Solar)	Chile		SUSI Partners has agreed to acquire the portfolio as of late October (PFR, 11/01).
Buenavista Renewables	Los Santos I (15.8 MW [DC] Solar)	Mexico		MPC Energy Solutions has agreed to buy the asset as of early November (PFR, 11/15).
Casa dos Ventos	Sento Se I, II (850 MW Wind)	US		Acciona has agreed to buy the assets as of late November (PFR, 12/6).
Castleton Commodities International	Granite Shore Power (1,110 MW, fossil fuel)	New Hampshire		The seller has agreed to sell its share in the fossil fuel joint venture to Atlas Holdings as of October 20 (PFR, 10/25)
Cemig	Renova Energia	Brazil		AP Energias Renovaveis has inked a deal to buy the firm as of November 12 (PFR, 11/22).
Clearway Energy	Clearway Community Energy	US	Bank of America, TD Securities	KKR & Co has struck a deal to purchase Clearway Energy's thermal power business as of late October. It will close in mid-2022 (PFR, 11/01).
Community Energy Solar	Community Energy Solar	US		AES Corp has bought the firm as of late December (PFR, 12/27).
Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative	AL Pierce Generation (84 MW Gas)	Connecticut		Hull Street Energy bought the asset as of January 4 (see story, page 5).
Distributed Power Partners	Portfolio (18 MW Solar)	Chile		Sonnedix has purchased the portfolio as of mid-December (PFR, 12/27).
Dynamic Energy Solutions	Portfolio (70 MW Solar)	Maine		Goldman Sachs Asset Management's Renewable Power Group has agreed to buy the portfolio (PFR, 12/20).
Eolus North America	Cald (120 MW Storage)	California		Aypa Power has agreed to buy the asset from the sponsor (see story, page 5).
esVolta	Project Monarch (900 MWh Storage)	California	Citi	Teasers were distributed in early October (PFR, 11/01).
Focus Energia Holding Participacoes	Focus Energia Holding Participacoes	Brazil		Eneva is absorbing the company as of mid-December (PFR, 12/27).
I Squared Capital	Cube District Energy	US	Moelis & Co, Houlihan Lokey	Fiera Infrastructure has purchased the platform as of late December (PFR, 12/27).
Macquarie Capital	Savion	US	Guggenheim Securities	Shell New Energies has emerged as the winning bidder for the platform (PFR, 12/20).
NextEra Energy Resources	Portfolio (2,520 MW Wind, Solar, Storage, 50%)	US	TD Securities	OTPP has agreed to buy the stake as of late November (PFR, 12/6).
OnPeak Power	Portfolio (1.1 GW Solar)	Texas, Idaho	Green Giraffe	Ashtrom Group and Kenlov Renewable Energy have agreed to buy the portfolio as of late December (PFR, 12/27).
Osaka Gas USA, Diamond Generating	Tenaska Gateway (845 MW Gas, 67.8%)	Texas	Whitehall & Co	Tenaska Energy has agreed to buy a combined 67.8% stake in the plants from Osaka Gas USA and Diamond Generating in two separate transactions (see story, page 6).
Otter Tail Power Co	Coyote Station (420 MW Coal, 35%)	North Dakota		The company plans to sell its stake in the asset (PFR, 9/13).
Partners Group	Sentinel (850 MW Gas, 25%)	California	BNP Paribas	The sponsor was to take first round bids in early November (PFR, 11/15).
Renewable Energy Systems	Blue Sky (369 MW (DC) Solar)	Illinois		Scout Clean Energy purchased the project from RES as of early January (see story, page 5).
Rialma Administracao e Participacoes	Rialma Transmissora de Energia III	Brazil		Argo agreed to buy the company as of November 4 (PFR, 11/15).
Rio Grande Do Sul	CEEE-G (66%)	Brazil	EY, Banco Genial	Rio Grande Do Sul will auction off CEEE-G with bids starting at R\$1.25 billion (\$220 million) (see story, page 9).
	Sulgas (51%)		BR Partners, EY	Compass Gas bought a majority stake in the platform as of early January (see story, page 9)
Rockland Capital	Rabun Gap (18 MW Biomass)	Georgia	Thorndike Landing	Teasers were distributed earlier this month (PFR, 10/25)
Solek	Portfolio (150 MW Solar)	Chile	Moonvalley Capital	Nala Renewables along with two minority investors have agreed to buy the portfolio as of mid-December (PFR, 12/27).

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

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
Arevon Energy	Townsite (193.95 MW Solar)	Nevada	Goldman Sachs	Tax Equity			The sponsor secured tax equity as of early December (PFR, 12/13).
Avangrid Renewables, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners	Vineyard Wind (800 MW Wind)	Massachusetts	Bank of America, JP Morgan, BBVA, NatWest, Santander, Crédit Agricole, Natixis, BNP Paribas, MUFG	Construction loan	\$2.4b	C+7yr	The syndication was launched on October 7 (PFR, 10/18).
The Carlyle Group	Rhode Island State Energy Center (583 MW Gas)	Rhode Island	Investec	Amend-and-extend	\$319m	7yr	Carlyle is aiming to close the updated financing package by the end of January (see story, page 1).
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	Bridge loan	\$90m		The banks expect to close the financing before the end of the year (PFR, 12/20).
	Portfolio (215 MW Solar)	Colombia	Bancolombia	Bonds	\$35m	12-yr	The bonds were issued in late November (PFR, 12/6).
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, Bloom Energy	Portfolio (33 MW Fuel cell)	US	Silicon Valley Bank, ING Capital, Rabobank	Construction-to-back-leveraged term loan	\$225m		The sponsor is raised financing over the summer (PFR, 10/25).
Enel Green Power	Wsyra I (132 MW Wind)	Peru	IDB Invest	Construction loan	\$85m	15-yr	IDB Invest is expected to review the financing on December 7 (PFR, 11/15).
Engie	Santo Agostinho (434 MW Wind)	Brazil	BNDES	Construction loan	\$262.3m	22-yr	The sponsor has inked the debt package as of early December (PFR, 12/20).
Genneia	Sierras de Ullum (80 MW Solar)	Argentina	Banco Macro, Macro Securities, Balanz, BACS, Banco Hipotecario, Banco Santander and Nuevo Chaco Bursatil	Bonds	\$40m-\$80m		The sponsor was preparing to issue the bonds on December 21 (PFR, 12/27).
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		
Invenergy	Number Three (104 MW Wind)	New York	NordLB, Natixis, Export Development Canada	Construction loan			The sponsor secured the loan as of early January (see story, page 7).
Irradiant, Pine Gate Renewables	MacBeth and Lyons Road (40 MW Solar)	Michigan	KeyBank	Construction loan			US Bank committed tax equity financing for the assets (see story, page 1).
			US Bank	Tax Equity			
Leeward Renewable Energy	Crescent Ridge (54.4 MW Wind)	Illinois	Wells Fargo, Santander	Construction loan	\$92m	5-yr	The repowered project came online on January 6 (see story, page 8).
			Wells Fargo	Tax Equity			
Lightsource bp	Black Bear (130 MW [DC] Solar)	Alabama	US Bank	Tax Equity	\$100m		The sponsor has secured the debt as of late December (PFR, 12/27).
			SMBC, Santander	Construction loan			
Lucayas Solar Power	Grand Bahama (11 MW (DC) Solar)	Bahamas	IDB Invest	Construction loan	\$12m		The sponsor is looking for debt for the asset as of September 21 (PFR, 10/25).
Madison Energy Investments	Portfolio (100 MW Solar)	US	Fifth Third Bank, Natixis, Societe Generale	Portfolio financing	\$250m		The sponsor secured the portfolio financing in early January (see story, page 6).
Matrix Renewables	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 was arranging financing for the asset as of the third week of May (PFR, 5/31).
NextEra Energy Partners	Portfolio (1,260 MW Wind, Solar, Storage)	US		Convertible equity	\$816m	10-yr	Apollo has reached first close on a convertible equity financing supporting an NEP renewables portfolio (see story, page 6).
Posigen	Platform	US	Magnetar Capital	Preferred equity	\$100m		The sponsor secured the investment as of early January (see story, page 7).
Rockland Capital	Port Comfort (100 MW)	Texas	Investec	Term loan			The sponsor is arranging the financing and expects to close it by the end of 2021 (PFR, 12/6).
	Chammon (100 MW)			Revolver	\$30m		
Soleco Energy	Portfolio (11.25 MW DG Solar)	Jamaica	IDB Invest		\$25m		The sponsor is looking for debt for the asset as of August 27 (PFR, 10/25)
Soventux Guayana	Portfolio (2.5 MW [DC] Solar, Storage)	Guyana	IDB Invest	Construction loan	\$5m		The sponsor requested the debt as of late August (PFR, 11/8).
Taaleri Energia	Portfolio (Wind, Solar)	Texas			\$49m		The sponsor secured funds as of mid-December (PFR, 12/27).

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NORTH AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS ●

Hull Street snaps up Connecticut peaker

Private equity firm **Hull Street Energy** has closed its acquisition of a simple-cycle dual-fuel peaking plant in Connecticut from an electricity cooperative.

The asset changing hands is the 84 MW AL Pierce Generating facility in Wallingford, which Hull Street had agreed to buy from **Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative** (CMEEC) last October (PFR, 10/7).

Troutman Pepper provided legal counsel to Hull Street on the deal, while **Pierce Atwood** advised CMEEC.

The project came online in 1955 and was shuttered in 2000 before being repowered in 2007

by CMEEC. The company was the plant's offtaker until 2014, when it entered into a contract with **Energy New England**.

With this acquisition, Hull Street now owns 53 renewable, gas-fired and dual-fueled generation assets in the US totaling more than 1,200 MW of capacity. ■

Scout snaps up Illinois solar project

Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners portfolio company **Scout Clean Energy** has bought a utility-scale solar project in Illinois.

The firm has bought the 369 MW (DC) Blue Sky solar project in Grundy County from its original developer, **Renewable Energy Systems** (RES). The asset is expected to receive its full interconnection agreement in the third quarter of 2022 and is due online in 2024.

Scout expects to invest over \$400 million to construct the

project, according to its founder and CEO, **Michael Rucker**.

"The Blue Sky project is one of the largest solar projects approved to date in the PJM and is the second Midwest solar project Scout has added to its expanding renewables portfolio this year," said Rucker. "Blue Sky is a uniquely located project enabling the supply of significant solar power to the Greater Chicago region."

This is the second utility-scale solar project that Scout has ac-

quired in the last three weeks, after the renewables developer purchased a 112 MW (DC) solar asset from **Azimuth Renewables** in late December (PFR, 12/23).

"Blue Sky Solar is among our first utility-scale solar projects and is another major step in Scout's rapid growth as a leading US renewable energy developer, owner and operator" added Rucker. "We expect to announce further project investments and closings of PPAs in early 2022." ■

Blackstone's Aypa to buy California battery asset

Blackstone portfolio company **Aypa Power** has struck a deal to acquire a standalone battery storage asset in California.

The Canadian energy storage developer has agreed to purchase the 120 MW Cald battery storage facility in Los Angeles from **Eolus North America**.

The deal was inked on December 31, 2021. Construction is slated to start on the asset in late 2022 with an eye to bringing it online by 2024.

"Cald BESS is an important milestone for Eolus, as it is the first stand-alone energy storage development asset sold by us," said **Hans-Christian Schulze**, Eolus North America's country manager. "We are proud to estab-

lish this new relationship with Aypa and hope to expand on this in the future."

As part of the deal, Eolus will continue to provide development services to the project.

"We are thrilled to have reached a successful closing on the Cald project, located in the Los Angeles Basin, where California utilities need extensive new flexible capacity resources to offset thermal generation retirements and better integrate renewable energy generation," said **Moe Hajabed**, Aypa's CEO, "Aypa is poised to materially contribute to California's renewable energy and storage goals, and the Cald project will expedite our operational presence in the state." ■



"We are proud to establish this new relationship with Aypa and hope to expand on this in the future."

Hans-Christian Schulze, Eolus North America's country manager

Recurrent inks build-transfer for Virginia solar

Canadian Solar subsidiary **Recurrent Energy** has signed a build-transfer deal with a utility company for a 150 MW solar project in Virginia.

Recurrent will offload the 150 MW Firefly Energy project in Pittsylvania County to **Appalachian Power** once it comes online in 2024, under the terms of the deal.

"We are pleased to have been selected through a competitive process and to be a part of Appalachian Power's major solar energy expansion," said **Shawn Qu**, chairman and CEO of Canadian Solar.

The project's siting agreement was approved by the **Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors** in December. Construction is set to start in early 2023, pending local and state permits and other regulatory approvals.

The acquisition is part of Appalachian's plan to meet its clean energy requirements under the Virginia Clean Economy Act. The **American Electric Power** subsidiary has one million customers across Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee.

"This will be our largest solar project yet in our journey to deliver clean, reliable power to our customers," said **Chris Beam**, Appalachian's president and chief operating officer. ■

● NORTH AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Stalking horse bidder emerges for ERCOT peaker pair

«FROM PAGE 1 Port projects, each of which is 100 MW in size.

The offer comes after Agilon mandated **ERM Capital** to take stalking horse bids for the two plants in October, following the IPP's decision to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on June 27, 2021, as previously reported ([PFR, 10/7](#)).

Rockland submitted the bid through its Texas Peaker Power II holding company, including certain stipulations in the sub-

mission which could see the bid's total either increase or decrease, *PFR* understands.

A deadline for other potential bidders to match Rockland's offer has been set for January 26. Should competing bidders emerge, they would have to pay a 4% break-up fee and an auction would ensue on February 3.

Both projects are located in Victoria County. The Victoria Port project was the first of the two to come online, in late 2019,

with Victoria City following soon after in early 2020.

The plants sell their electricity into the **ERCOT** market on a merchant basis. They were previously contracted with **Shell Energy North America** under the terms of five-year hedges, which were terminated last year.

It is understood that neither plant has any debt attached, as previously reported ([PFR, 10/7](#)). **Prudential Capital** had underwritten the construction

and term financing for the assets, split between first and second lien debt ([PFR, 2/25/19](#)).

In September, Rockland purchased two other plants from Agilon in Texas, namely the 100 MW Port Comfort plant in Calhoun County and the 100 MW Chamon plant in Houston ([PFR, 11/24](#)). The acquisition of the plants, now collectively called Texas Peaker Power, is being supported with a debt package being provided by **Investec** ([PFR, 11/24](#)). ■

Buyer found for Texas CCGT stake

A buyer has emerged for a majority stake in a combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Texas that was put up for sale last April.

Tenaska Energy has agreed to purchase a 67.8% stake in the 845 MW Tenaska Gateway Generating Station, which it already holds a 10% stake in, from a subsidiary of **Mitsubishi Corp Americas** and **Osaka Gas USA** in two separate transactions.

Under the terms of the deals, Tenaska will buy a 27.8% stake from Mitsubishi Corp's **Diamond Generating** subsidiary and a 40% interest from Osaka Gas USA.



Tenaska Gateway Generating Station

Mitsubishi has requested **US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** (FERC) approval for the sale of its stake by February 7, while Osaka Gas has requested for approval by February 18, according to paperwork filed with FERC.

Whitehall & Co distributed teasers on behalf of Diamond Generating and Osaka Gas USA in April 2021, as previously reported ([PFR, 5/6](#)).

Once the deals close, Tenaska will own a 77.8% interest in

the Gateway project in Rusk County. **Tyr Energy** and **JERA Co** own the remaining interest in the plant, with an 11.1% portion apiece.

The plant has a tolling agreement with **Shell Energy North America** for its full output through January 2024, at which point it will sell its output into the **ERCOT** and **SPP** markets. It is understood the plant will be able to switch dispatch between the two grids.

The project came online in July 2001 and is fitted with **General Electric** 7FA turbines.

BNP Paribas and **Calyon** re-financed the plant in 2007 with a \$350 million bond deal. The original \$375 million financing closed in August 1999 ([PFR, 5/8/07](#)). ■

● NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

Stonepeak-backed C&I solar shop nabs portfolio financing

Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners-backed solar developer **Madison Energy Investments** (MEI) has secured a \$250 million senior credit facility to support the buildout of its US solar and energy storage fleet.

Fifth Third Bank acted as lead

arranger on the construction and term financing, alongside joint lead arrangers **Natixis** and **Societe Generale**. The deal closed in December 2021.

Meanwhile, MEI has also structured forward tax equity commitments to support the next two years of project development

and construction.

MEI, which was founded in 2019 after the former distributed solar development team at **WGL Energy** teamed up with Stonepeak, has accumulated a more than 200 MW portfolio of contracted solar assets spread across 19 US states.

This latest financing is the most recent transaction between the commercial and industrial-scale solar shop and Fifth Third, after MEI secured financing from the bank for a contracted portfolio of distributed solar assets with a total value of \$50 million early last year ([PFR, 4/15/20](#)). ■

NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE ●

Apollo reaches first close on convertible equity financing with NextEra

Apollo Global Management has reached first close on an \$816 million convertible equity financing supporting a 2.5 GW portfolio of **NextEra Energy Partners** (NEP) renewable energy projects.

The investment, provided by a mix of pensions and insurers, will go toward a 13-project portfolio of wind, solar and solar-plus-storage projects spread across nine US states.

Late last year, **NextEra Energy Resources** agreed to drop a 50% stake in the portfolio into its yield company, NEP, for \$849 million. Under the terms of the deal, the yieldco agreed to finance the stake, totaling about

1,260 MW of capacity, with an \$824 million 10-year convertible equity financing with Apollo, as previously reported (*PFR*, 10/22).

Separately, a deal was also reached to sell the other half of the portfolio to the **Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan** for \$849 million (*PFR*, 11/30).

The assets are contracted with various investment-grade offtakers and have an average remaining weighted contract life of 19 years.

"This transaction showcases our ability to bring bespoke, scaled investment opportunities to our institutional partners, while serving as a solutions partner to NextEra, helping them to

redeploy capital into new, earlier stage renewable energy opportunities," said **Craig Farr**, a partner at Apollo and the company's head of capital solutions.

Allen & Overy and **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison** acted as legal counsel to Apollo's funds on the first close.

The assets in the portfolio are:

- 501 MW White Mesa Wind wind generation facility in Texas
- 301 MW Irish Creek Wind wind generation facility in Kansas
- 300 MW Hubbard Wind wind generation facility in Texas
- 213 MW Cool Springs solar project fitted with a 40 MW storage facility in Georgia
- 251 MW Little Blue Wind wind

generation facility in Nebraska

- 200 MW/ 50 MW Dodge Flat solar-plus-storage project in Nevada
- 200 MW Elora Solar project in Tennessee
- 150 MW Quitman II Solar project in Georgia
- 100 MW/ 25 MW Fish Springs Ranch solar-plus-storage project in Nevada
- 107 MW Minco Wind Energy III generation facility in Oklahoma
- 99 MW Ensign Wind Energy generation facility in Kansas
- 99 MW Borderlands Wind project in New Mexico
- 49 MW Quinebaug Solar project in Connecticut ■

Invenergy finances New York wind project

Invenergy has closed construction financing for a 104 MW wind farm in New York state which will form part of the renewable generation portfolio of the \$11 billion Clean Path New York infrastructure project.

NordLB, Natixis and **Export Development Canada** acted as lead arrangers on the financing for the Number Three Wind Energy Center in Lewis County. The debt package comprises

a letter of credit facility and senior secured construction loan.

"The completion of construction financing for the Number Three Wind project is a significant milestone and a testament to the collaboration with our valued lender partners," said **Meghan Shultz**, Invenergy's senior vice president of finance and capital markets.

The asset is due online in late

2022. It will be the third large-scale renewables project to break ground as part of New York's Clean Path project, which aims to deliver more than 7.5 million MWh of renewables-powered electricity within the state.

This includes more than 3.4 GW of new wind and solar projects in upstate New York as well as a 174-mile HVDC transmission line with a capacity of 1.3 GW.

Invenergy, energyRe and

the **New York Power Authority** (NYPA) are developing the Clean Path project, as previously reported (*PFR*, 9/24).

More than half of the generation from the new renewable projects will be developed by Invenergy.

The Number Three wind farm was one of a handful of renewable energy projects to secure **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** (NYSERDA) funding in 2016. ■

Resi solar shop clinches \$100m pref equity raise

Louisiana-based residential solar company **Posigen** has closed a \$100 million preferred equity raise.

The company, which provides energy efficiency and solar solutions to low- and middle-income households, will use the growth capital to support its expansion and development efforts in the US, as well as for investments in its core technology infrastructure.

Magnetar Capital's energy and infrastructure group was the lead investor in the financing and will nominate two new

directors to join Posigen's board.

"The opportunity to scale Posigen's operations into many underserved markets in the United States is significant," said **Eric Scheyer**, head of energy and infrastructure at Magnetar.

Existing Posigen investors, including **Emerson Collective, Irradiant Partners, Activate Capital, The Builders Fund, SJF Ventures** and **The Kresge Foundation**, also participated in the raise.

"Working with the Magnetar team to structure this transaction

has reinforced our view that partnering with the right lead investor with extensive experience and strong relationships matters," said **Tom Neyhart**, Posigen's CEO. "We are excited to partner with them to grow the Posigen platform at a national level to achieve our shared vision."

The advisers on the financing are:

- **Marathon Capital** – financial to Posigen
- **Wilson Sonsini** – legal to Posigen

• **Kirkland & Ellis** – legal to Magnetar

• **PLEXUS Solutions** – diligence to Magnetar

Late last year, Posigen recruited **Vivint Solar's** chief commercial officer and head of capital markets, **Thomas Plagemann**, as its CFO, as well as Vivint's chief legal officer, **Dan Black**, as previously reported by *PFR* (*PFR*, 11/12).

Since its inception in 2011, the New Orleans-headquartered shop has served over 19,000 residential customers in the low-to-moderate (LMI) income bracket. ■

● NORTH AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

PE firm preps A&E for Rhode Island gas-fired project

«FROM PAGE 1 that Investec closed for RISEC in December 2019 (PFR, 1/2/20).

That financing comprised a \$284 million term loan A and \$45 million revolver. At the time, the amendment included a tightening of the margin on the loan by 25 bp to 250 bp.

The previous \$363 million seven-year debt package was signed in July 2018 (PFR, 7/23/18). Investec

was the sole bookrunner on the deal, which was more than twice oversubscribed.

Located in Johnston, the 583 MW RISEC project has been online since 2002. Carlyle bought it from **Entergy Corp** in 2015, financing the deal initially in the term loan B market (PFR, 11/12/15). The term loan B was refinanced with the July 2018 loan.

HEDGE TOGGLE TWEAKED

The 2018 loan included a “hedge toggle” feature, which automatically adjusts the margin on the loan depending on whether future revenues are supported by a power hedge or other contractual arrangement.

Under the terms of the deal, the margin on the loan would have stepped up by 100 bp if Carlyle did not come up with a way to ex-

tend the project’s contracted revenues beyond its existing tolling agreement with **Shell Energy North America**, which was due to expire in December 2021.

Carlyle had since extended the tolling agreement with Shell by an additional year, and now as part of its latest amend-and-extend package is pushing out the tenor by another three years to 2025. ■

Irradiant, Pine Gate finance Michigan solar pair

«FROM PAGE 1 “In recent years, Michigan has shown an increased appetite for building out its renewable energy plans for the future and we’re excited to be

working with the leaders of this beautiful state to bring MacBeth and Lyons Road online,” said Pine Gate’s CEO, **Ben Catt**.

In late 2020, Pine Gate and Ir-

radiant announced they were working on 14 projects totaling 40 MW across the state, all of which are now operational. The assets have 20-year PPAs with

Consumers Energy.

The two companies are developing an additional 22 projects in Michigan totaling more than 400 MW, all of which are also contracted through similar 20-year agreements with Consumers Energy. ■

Leeward finances Illinois wind repowering

Leeward Renewable Energy has secured debt and tax equity financing for a 54.4 MW wind repowering project in Illinois.

Wells Fargo acted as coordinating lead arranger, administrative agent and collateral agent on the \$92 million debt package for the Crescent Ridge wind project, and has also committed to provide tax equity financing.

Santander acted as joint lead arranger on the deal, which comprises a construction-plus-five-year term loan, tax equity bridge loan, and a letter of credit facility.

The repowered project was brought online on January 6. The upgrades include the decommissioning of nine turbines, the repowering of 24 legacy turbines

and the construction of four additional **Vestas** turbines in Bureau County, near Tiskilwa.

Amazon will purchase the output of the repowered project, which will help it to meet its Climate Pledge commitments to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040 and power its operations with 100% renewable energy by 2025.

“This project gave Leeward the opportunity to work with multiple new and existing partners,” said **Chris Loehr**, Leeward’s CFO. “We were thrilled to continue our strong relationship with Wells Fargo and Santander in financing the construction and ongoing operations.”

The Crescent Ridge wind farm initially came online in 2005. ■

● NORTH AMERICA LEGAL & REGULATORY

New York governor outlines \$500m offshore wind investment

New York governor **Kathy Hochul** has outlined plans to strengthen offshore wind generation in the state, including a \$500 million investment in offshore wind projects and infrastructure.

Gov. Hochul announced plans to invest \$500 million in the ports, manufacturing and supply chain infrastructure needed for offshore wind development in her 2022 State of the State address on January 5.

The proposal also includes

launching **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority’s** (NYSERDA’s) offshore wind procurement process for 2022, which is expected to result in at least 2 GW of new projects.

To prepare the New York grid for the injection of offshore wind generation, state agencies will

conduct a New York State Cable Corridor Study to identify strategic offshore wind cable corridors and key points of interconnection.

“With this investment, New York will lead the nation on offshore wind production, creating green jobs for New Yorkers, and powering our clean energy future,” said Hochul. “We must harness the potential of offshore wind to fuel our economy for-

ward and meet our ambitious climate goals.”

The state’s first offshore wind farm, namely **Orsted** and **Ever-source’s** South Fork project, received approval from the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** (BOEM) in November to start construction (PFR, 11/24).

Construction will start early this year and the project will supply its electricity to Long Island. ■

LATIN AMERICA MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Sulgas privatization closes

The state government of Rio Grande do Sul has completed its sale of a 51% stake in state gas company Sulgas, marking the privatization of the distributor.

Compass Gas – a subsidiary of **Cosan** – acquired the stake on January 3 for about R\$927.8 million (\$165 million). The sale is the result of an auction process held in October 2021, where Compass had been the sole bidder for the company.

Sulgas operates a 1,311 km (roughly 815-mile) distribution network and serves 42 municipalities in Rio Grande do Sul.

As part of the sale, Compass is expected to expand Sulgas' network to more areas within the state. The buyer plans to invest around R\$300 million (\$52.8 million) in Sulgas over the next five years.

"This is an important step for Rio Grande do Sul and for Brazil," said

Carlos Ivan de Colon, president of Sulgas. "As a private company Sulgas will become more agile, making new investments viable. It will have more tools to grow and to find new supply sources, making Rio Grande do Sul a more competitive state."

Development bank **BNDES** structured the privatization.

The remaining 49% stake in Sulgas is owned by **Gaspetro**, a holding company with interests in 19 local gas distributors. Last July, Compass signed a separate deal to

acquire the majority stake in Gaspetro from **Petrobras**, though that deal has not yet closed.

The advisers to BNDES and the state government on the privatization are:

- **BR Partners** – financial
- **EY** – financial
- **LMDM Consultoria** – consultancy
- **Lefosse Advogados** – legal
- **Vernalha Pereira Advogados** – legal

Advisers to Compass Gas:

- **Mattos Filho** – legal ■

Rio Grande do Sul to privatize state generator

The Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul has announced an auction for its electricity generation company, **CEEE-G**.

Rio Grande do Sul will auction the company on February 15 with the minimum bid value set at R\$1.25 billion (\$220 million).

CEEE-G owns:

- Five hydro plants
- Eight small hydro plants
- Two small hydro generators

The plants have a combined output of about 1 GW. In addition, the company holds interests in joint ventures that have

a combined capacity of 345 MW.

Rio Grande do Sul holds a roughly 66% stake in CEEE-G, while Eletrobras owns a 32.65% stake, with the remainder owned by minority shareholders.

The privatization was modelled by development bank **BNDES**,

which has supervised the privatizations of Rio Grande do Sul's other state-owned power companies ([PFR, 9/1](#)).

The advisers to BNDES and the state government are:

- **EY** – financial
- **Banco Genial** – financial
- **Machado Meyer** – legal
- **Thymos Energia** – technical ■

Chile launches solar project tenders

The **Chilean Ministry of National Assets** (MBN) has launched a dozen tenders for the construction of solar projects across the country.

The process includes a consultation period that will run until January 17, followed by an application window spanning March 12 to 23.

The concessions will be awarded on May 10. The 12 tenders cover:

- Michilla Bajo – 20.79 hectares available in Mejillones, Antofagasta province, about 1.3 km northeast of the Esperanza substation and close to 88 kW transmission lines
- Quebrada de Tames – 20.79 hectares available in four lots in the same location
- Acceso Sur Mejillones – 2,368.42 hectares available in the same location
- Quebrada Pallinga – 1,351.31 hectares available in the commune of Calama, Antofagasta province, 23 km south of the Conchi substation
- Yalquincha 1 y 2 – 70.12 hectares available in two separate lots located in Calama, Antofagasta province, about 8.6 km northeast of the Mantos Blancos substation, and

close to transmission lines

- Calama Oeste, Lote A – 25.63 hectares available in El Loa commune, Calama province, close to transmission lines
- Oficina María Elena Norte – 30.08 hectares available in Maria Elena commune, Tocopilla province, 9 km west of the Crucero substation and close to the La Cruz substation
- Vergara – 90 hectares available in Maria Elena commune, Tocopilla province, close to transmission lines
- Quebrada Saco – 29.88 hectares available in Antofagasta, Antofagasta province, 8.6 km northeast of the Mantos Blancos

cos substation, and close to transmission lines

- Quebrada de Mateo 1 y 2 – 56.2 hectares available in two lots in Antofagasta, Antofagasta commune, 8 km south of La Negra sector, and close to transmission lines
- Palestina – 166.24 hectares available in two lots in Antofagasta, Antofagasta province, about 55.96 km from La Negra sector, and close to transmission lines
- Yungay – 26 hectares available in Antofagasta, Antofagasta province, 6 km west from the Llanos Aguas Blancas transmission line ■

Itau increases stake in AES Brasil renewables unit

Itau Unibanco has announced plans to increase its stake in **AES Brasil**-owned wind and solar power company **Guaimbe Solar**.

The buyer plans to upsize its 19.9% stake to 23.72%. The additional shares are valued at R\$360 million (\$63.3 million).

Guaimbe is owned by **AES Brasil Operations**, a subsidiary of AES Brasil.

Its assets include the Alto Sertao II wind park and the Guaimbe solar complex.

The deal was approved by the Brazilian antitrust agency

(**Cade**) on December 16, but its completion is still subject to other conditions.

As part of the deal with Itau, AES plans to move its stake in Ventus Subsidiaries and AGV Subsidiaries into Guaimbe (from elsewhere in the AES sphere),

meaning that Itau will indirectly hold a stake in these holdings.

The acquisition reinforces Itau's commitment to fostering energy generation from renewable sources.

Itau initially acquired 19.9% of the subsidiary's capital from AES Brasil in March 2021 ([PFR, 3/22](#)). ■

● LATIN AMERICA PROJECT FINANCE

Matrix completes private placement for Chilean DG solar

Matrix Renewables has completed a \$290 million private placement to finance a distributed generation portfolio in Chile.

The proceeds will be used to finance a 328 MW portfolio of PMGD (*Pequenos Medios de Generacion Distribuida*) assets developed by the sponsor and to repay an existing bridge loan from **BNP Paribas**.

The French bank acted as placement agent on the deal, and also signed a credit agreement with Matrix Chile comprising two facilities:

- a working capital revolving facility – to fund short-term working capital needs between draws under the private placement

- a letter of credit facility – to fund the company's debt service and O&M reserve requirements

The deal represents the largest portfolio of PMGD projects ever financed in Chile, as well as the first use of a long-term US private placement for a project of this nature.

Matrix Renewables is a portfolio company of private equity firm **TPG**. Since its launch in July 2020, the firm has expanded rapidly across Latin America, specifically in Chile and Colombia.

White & Case acted as legal adviser to BNP and the initial purchasers. ■

● PEOPLE & FIRMS

Stern retires from Northwestern Mutual

Howard Stern has retired from Northwestern Mutual after spending more than 21 years at the firm.

Most recently, he had been a managing director leading a team that invested in private debt, private mezzanine and di-

rect private equity on behalf of several clients including **Northwestern Mutual Life**.

His focus was on the energy and infrastructure sectors where he spearheaded efforts in project finance and energy and infrastructure equities. This included

the launch of a new asset class in infrastructure equity at Northwestern, eight years ago.

In his roughly 36 years of industry experience, Stern spent seven of those at **GE Capital** where he held a variety of roles within the energy project finance unit, in-

cluding business development, deal structuring and underwriting, portfolio management, and workouts.

He also worked at **Heller Financial** as senior vice president, head of credit and underwriting and at **American General** as vice president and head of project finance. ■

GSAM promotes MD in sustainable investment group

Goldman Sachs Asset Management has elevated a vice president in its sustainable investment group to the rank of managing director.

Vivek Kagzi, who joined Goldman in 2015, has been promoted to MD within the group. Before joining Goldman, Kagzi spent

nearly a decade at **Citi** where he was a director in the bank's municipal structured products, derivatives and alternative energy

finance practice.

He began his career at financial analytics company **Novantas**, now branded as **Curinos**. ■

Baker Botts brings in Barajas

«FROM PAGE 1 act as co-chair of Baker Botts' project finance practice group. He will focus on domestic and international project development and finance, with an emphasis on infrastructure projects, debt financings and M&A deals.

"Dino's practice is focused around clients who are growing the power, renewables and other energy transition spaces where Baker Botts has deep experience and complementary skills," said **Jason Bennett**, department chair of Baker Botts' global projects practice.

"Dino will further strengthen



Dino Barajas

our project finance and renewables teams and also expand our offerings in California, Mexico and other Latin American countries," added managing partner **John Martin**.

Before joining DLA in 2020, Barajas had spent nearly a decade as a partner at **Akin Gump**. Prior to that, he had been partner and co-head of the Latin American Group at **Morgan Lewis**, and before that, partner and co-head of the Latin American Projects Group at **Paul Hastings**.

He began his career at **Milbank** in 1993, spending just over a decade at the firm. ■



"Dino will further strengthen our project finance and renewables teams and also expand our offerings."

John Martin, managing partner, **Baker Botts**