



The TREIA Newsletter

Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association

JUNE 1988

TREIA Update

At the May 7 Board of Directors meeting in Austin, the resignation of Steve Pomroy was accepted. Steve intends to remain an active member of TREIA, but his current employment makes it difficult to continue on the Board.

The Board has appointed Marshall Blalock to complete the balance of Steve's term. Marshall is General Manager of Southwest Photovoltaic Systems, Inc. in Houston. SPSI is a new member of TREIA, and is the authorized dealer for Solarex in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. They handle navigational aides, cathodic protection and telecommunications equipment, and systems for farm, ranch and other remote monitoring and logging applications.

Another new member is Solar Contractors, Inc. Representatives Gene Hoffman and Fred Crawford have been in renewables for 15 years, forming SCI in 1983. SCI manufactures pump-jack type solar powered waterpumps capable of lifting from as deep as 600 feet. Their office is in Dallas, with manufacturing in Whitney. Their basic unit is the Hummer I, which is noted for its design simplicity and high efficiency, making it ideal for Third World applications. They are currently designing a new high efficiency unit.

Earth Energy Systems has also joined since the last newsletter. They are represented by Al Davies. Al tells us they specialize in earth coupled heat pumps, and are the Texas and Louisiana distributor for Commandaire water source heat pumps out of Waco. All of the utilities in their territory are said to be proponents of their equipment which Al says offers up to 25% savings for cooling and 60% for heating. EES has been in business for eight years, and has seven employees servicing dealers. They have reported new sales records in each passing quarter.

(Continued, Page 2)

Member Update

Solar Services of Texas, has acted as consultant for Gulfway Municipal District in the installation of 7500 sq. ft. of unglazed solar collectors to heat a swimming pool. Marcus McGarry, of SST say they have also done their own installation of a 960 sq. ft. pool heating system used for bathing horses at Heritage Ranch.

Jay Carter, Sr. of Carter Wind Systems, Inc., has announced the sale of six 300 kW machines with enough spare parts to make a seventh, to the government of India. They are also finalizing a contract, with their joint venture partner, Mann of Germany, to sell forty 300 kW machines for installation in the Altamont Pass in California.

The City of Austin has approved financial participation in the planned 300 kW photovoltaic power system on the new 3M facility in west Austin. The system is designed and manufactured by Entech, Inc. of Dallas, and according to Bob Walters, is scheduled for completion by early 1989.

Solar SignAge, in Stafford, has recently installed the first solar powered billboard in the nation's Capital. The 950 W photovoltaic power system illuminates a double faced billboard within sight of the Capitol Dome and the Washington Monument. Each 14' x 48' face will be lit for 6 hours per night. Sufficient battery reserve is built in to provide up to 10 days of power. Payback on the system, according to Kevin Conlin, was immediate since the cost of running power across a railroad right-of-way was one and a half times the cost of the solar power system. Additionally there was a \$3000 annual utility fee. Kevin also tells us SSA has supplied two complete lighting systems for the Woodland Park development, which is also in the Washington, D.C. area.

TREIA Update, Cont'd.

Our most recent new member is W. H. Geissler, Manager of Generation Planning, City Public Service of San Antonio. We are pleased to see this show of interest on the part of an electric utility company.

New Member Addresses

Al Davies
Earth Energy Systems
7005 Woodway, Ste. 207
Waco, TX 76712

Gene Hoffman
Solar Contractors, Inc.
P. O. Box 743064
Dallas, TX 75374

Marshall H. Blalock, Jr.
Southwest Photovoltaic
Systems, Inc.
9810 Sugar Tree Court
Houston, TX 77070

W. H. Geissler, Manager
Generation Planning
City Public Service
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

Emerging Energy Technologies in Texas Rousing Success

The EETT conference, March 10-12, was quite a success with 225 registrants, over 40 speakers and 15 exhibitors. Activities at the meeting stimulated several articles in newspapers and newsletters (one such is excerpted in this issue). A video-tape of the "Planning Workshops" Summary Session, has been running regularly on Austin Community Television Channel 6 for several weeks. Additionally, tape cassettes featuring the speeches of both Mack Wallace and Henry Cisneros, are available from TREIA (order form elsewhere this issue).

Financially, both TREIA and TX-SES came out very well for their sponsorships. Both groups were able to add \$ 3,917.03 to their accounts after expenses. TREIA owes a resounding vote of thanks to Russel Smith for the long hours put into this meeting. There were many calls for a repeat performance in 1989.

House Select Committee on a Statewide Energy Plan

The House Select Committee on a Statewide Energy Plan has been holding open hearings across the state. Among those testifying at the Houston hearing in April was Bob Batho. He reports that all seven Committee members who were present stayed and listened to his late day testimony. Hearings have been held in El Paso (May), and in Lubbock (June). Still to come are two hearings scheduled for Austin on July 15 and August 12.

House Members on the Committee are Rep. Terral Smith, Chrm., Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, and Rep. Larry Don Shaw. Public Members are Bruce Connall, Thomas Hagan, Cathy Lee Jordan, Steve Ledbetter, Henry Umscheid, Eddie Watson, Mike Williams and John Wing. Anyone wishing to testify need only show up at the Hearing site and sign up. Be prepared to spend a good bit of the day however. TREIA members are encouraged to participate. For more detailed information contact Greg Ellis at 512/463-0802

Huge New Wind Turbine In Texas (Excerpted from article, Amarillo Daily News)

The infamous Texas Panhandle wind subsided to a gentle breeze...for the dedication of a 165 foot tall experimental wind turbine at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation and Production Research Laboratory at Bushland.

The Vertical Axis Wind Turbine Test Bed, designed by engineers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., is unique in the field of wind energy research, said Dr. Virgil Dugan, director of advanced energy technology at Sandia. Current wind turbines in California are producing power at a cost of 10 cents per kilowatt hour, Dugan said. Researchers hope the Bushland turbine can produce energy at four or five cents per kilowatt hour.

The center of the turbine is a rotating aluminum column that measures 10 feet in diameter and rises about 16 stories. Two bowed, aluminum blades, 110 feet apart at their widest point, are attached at the top and bottom of the column. The turbine is capable of producing 500 kilowatts per hour with a 28 mph wind. That is enough electricity to supply half the hourly power needs of the Bushland community.