



# The TREIA Newsletter

Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association

March, 1986

## RENEWABLE ENERGY HEARINGS TO BE IN EL PASO

The Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee has announced that it will hold hearings in El Paso which will include the status of renewable energy in the state. The Committee is chaired by Sen. Tati Santiesteban of El Paso. According to Jane Polachi of the Committee staff, the first hour of the April 17 hearing will be devoted to renewables testimony by several invited speakers. The public will then be allowed to testify.

Among the invited speakers will be PUC Chairman Peggy Rosson; TREIA Board member Bobby Farris, **Valley View Energy Corp**; Drs Robert Reid and Andy Swift, U.T. El Paso; and Ron Hadquist from the Texas Dept. of Agriculture.

A significant portion of the hearing will be devoted to water issues. This will be the last opportunity to testify on renewable energy before this important committee until the 1987 Legislative Session. The hearing will be held at the El Paso Hilton-Airport, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Plans are underway for other TREIA members and Board representatives to attend and testify.

## TREIA MEETS WITH TEC LEADERS

TREIA Board members Michael Osborne, Ron Radke and Bobby Farris and Executive Director Russel Smith met on March 14 with representatives of The Association of Texas Electric Cooperatives at TEC's Austin headquarters. Attending for the TEC were Jim Norris, Executive Vice-President; Neal Johnson, Director of Governmental Relations; Mike Thomasson, Asst. Dir. of Gov. Relations; and Dennis Engleke, Dir. of Rural Development.

Following frank and open discussions on a wide range of issues of mutual concern and interest, the groups agreed on several areas for future cooperation. These center on consultation on issues at the Public Utility Commission, ways to help bring the benefits of conservation and efficiency programs undertaken by their

supplier utilities down to the Cooperatives, and opportunities for TREIA to participate in periodic TEC seminars for their Directors of Member Service Education, and other information and education efforts.

## TEC REQUIRES FILING OF CONTRACTS

On Thursday, February 27, 1986, the PUC adopted, on an emergency basis, an amendment to Substantive Rule §23.66 concerning "Quality of Service" and specifically "Arrangements Between Qualifying Facilities and Electric Utilities" which would require utilities to file cogeneration contracts with the commission.

At the time the rule was filed with the Texas Register, a simultaneous proposal for permanent adoption was filed. The earliest possible date of adoption is 30 days after publication in the Texas Register.

The rule reads as follows: "Copies of all presently effective and future contracts executed by a generating electric utility, including municipally-owned generating electric utilities or their affiliates, for the purchase of power by an electric utility from a qualifying facility shall be filed with the Commission."

A specific date for an open meeting to hear comments and to permanently adopt has not been set.

## DARE COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The City of Austin Resource Management Department has announced its Designing for Area Resource Efficiency (DARE) competition.

The DARE competition goal is to promote innovative resource efficient building and landscape architecture by increasing designers' awareness and understanding of the energy and water issues that affect the hot-humid and hot-arid regions of the Southwest.

The products of the competition will be a set of prototypes for future resource efficient architecture and land development.

The competition is open to professionals and students in architecture, landscape architecture, planning, and



land development. The two DARE categories are building and site design of multi-family housing and single-family residences. The professional awards will be \$1,000.00 for the winning entry in each category, and \$400.00 for honorable mention. Student awards will be \$400.00 and \$200.00, respectively.

Submissions are due June 16, 1986, and will be judged by five jurors: Elizabeth Chase, AIA and Manager at the Solar Energy Section of the Tennessee Valley Authority/Architectural Branch; Michael Corbett, Principal of Town Planners and Developer of Village Homes in Davis, CA; Robert Floyd, AIA and Principal of ARC, Inc; Patrick Horsbrugh, AIA; Past Dean of Architecture at Notre Dame University and Chairman of the Board of Environic Foundation International; and Eric Schmidt, AIA and ASLA, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. The presentation of awards will be July, 1986, and display of awards will be during July and August, 1986.

TREIA is a co-sponsor of the competition.

## SUN TO COOL WINERY

The SCRC Winery, in Fort Stockton, a new enterprise in Texas Agriculture, has contracted **Rainmaker Cooling, Inc.** of Houston to design and install an evaporative spray-roof cooling system which will utilize wastewater from the winemaking process to cool the building down. The roof-spray system, a descendant of systems developed in the 1930's, simply provides a brief spray of fine mist to the roof and waits for that to dry before reinitiating another spray cycle.

Aside from eliminating 80% of the heat gain through the 56,000 sq. ft. roof, the Rainmaker system also solves a wastewater problem. According to Rainmaker vice president, Leonard Bachman, "Like many businesses in the food process industry, the winery will use a tremendous amount of water during the harvest. Our system utilizes a small, existing evaporation reservoir to hold this water until it can be evaporated on the roof."

A microprocessor monitors the entire system operation, checking roof temperature, system operation and outdoor climate conditions. It even decides when to backwash the filters or "blow down" the entire roof spray

system with compressed air to avoid freeze damage.

Rainmaker expects the system to be operational by early April — in plenty of time for the harvest.

## COGENERATION RULES GET BACKING

Austin—The Texas Consumers Association said Monday it endorses regulation of electric co-generation by the Public Utility Commission. Brad Weiwei, the association president, said in a statement that commission rules should provide for full disclosure of contractual terms between co-generators and utilities. Weiwei said co-generation has great potential for low cost power production but unless the commission adopts such rules the public may never realize those benefits. He said the public has a right to know how much a utility is paying for electricity from a co-generator as well as from the companies' own power plants. He said that without a requirement for disclosure, the "temptation for sweetheart contracts between the utilities and co-generators will be great."

*Dallas Morning News*, Feb. 11, 1985

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

An ad hoc State Fair Committee, with representatives of TREIA, TX-SES, and the Energy Efficiency Division of the PUC, has met in Dallas and Austin. A proposal for and exhibit on renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation is being presented to State Fair of Texas officials in April.

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TREIA Executive Director Russel Smith has had a one-on-one meeting with S. David Freeman, new General Manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority. Following discussion of issues of ways in which the LCRA might help promote the use of renewables, plans were made for Mr. Freeman to meet with TREIA Board representatives in early May.

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The City of Austin Electric Utility Department has announced that construction of the 300w photovoltaic power plant is scheduled to get under way in June, with completion expected mid-Fall.

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