Hydro facility offers backdrop for national discussion on renewables

With his visit to Voith Siemens’ turbine manufacturing plant in York, Pennsylvania, presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) put a national spotlight on the hydropower industry and cited his support for all renewable energy technologies.

During the visit, Obama spoke to plant workers and Voith Siemens officials, toured the facility, and held a “town meeting” event. During that event, he described his commitment to renewable energy.

“That's where this facility comes in,” Obama said. “We've got to learn to harness clean, renewable energy. And that means solar, that means wind, that means bio-diesel, that means geothermal, and it means hydro.”

Sen. Obama responded to the frustrations raised by plant workers and managers that hydropower too often is left out of the policy debates on renewable energy. “You're not going to hear me forget to mention hydro anymore,” Obama said.

To bolster that pledge, Senator Obama then handed out his card to Bob Silknitter, a longtime Voith employee who had voiced his frustration on hydro's lack of visibility. Obama told Silknitter to call him if he forgets.

Sen. Obama said he chose Voith Siemens because it embodies two major facets of his platform: The hydroelectric power for which the plant manufactures components fits in with his proposed funding of programs to promote clean, renewable energy. And the recent addition of jobs there illustrates the type of economic renewal he intends to create, Obama said.

NHA’s executive director Linda Church Ciocci responded to the Obama event stating, “We applaud Senator Obama for making this visit and underscoring hydropower’s role in the energy mix. We’re pleased for every opportunity we have to reach out to all public officials where we can provide them with information about America’s largest renewable energy resource.”

Church Ciocci said she hopes both candidates will make the time to view other water-powered facilities and meet with other hydropower industry workers too.

“NHA members have facilities throughout the country – from some of the oldest power-generating plants in the United States to the newest, cutting-edge technologies,” she said. “We invite both candidates to see any or all them. As they learn more about hydropower’s benefits – and as the public hears how hydropower serves the country’s energy, economic, and environmental goals – we know that hydropower will be a solid part of both their energy strategies.”

NHA is conducting outreach to the campaigns of both Sen. Obama and Sen. McCain.
In additional to educational and information pieces on the benefits of hydropower, NHA staff hopes to have the opportunity to speak in person with the campaigns’ energy advisors to discuss hydropower’s growth potential and the policy supports needed to see that potential realized.

Energy issues first up on September agenda for Congress

With the August recess and political conventions behind us, Congress is returning to Washington this week to finish work on several key policies left outstanding – and energy issues top the list.

In the House, Democratic leaders have indicated that a vote on a new energy package could come as early as Thursday. Provisions on offshore drilling and the renewable portfolio standard will be included. Uncertain at this time is whether the package will contain the renewable energy tax incentives (PTC and CREBs program).

On the Senate side, a bipartisan group of Senators have issued their own energy proposal, which includes OCS drilling, energy efficiency measures, and many others. Importantly, it does include an extension of the PTC and CREBs program. NHA is still reviewing the language, but it appears the tax provisions mirror earlier versions and would include a multi-year extension of the PTC, inclusion of the new hydropower at non-powered dams language, inclusion of marine and hydrokinetic technologies, and $2 billion for the CREBs program.

In addition, on Friday, the Senate will hold an energy summit that was sought by Senators from both sides of the aisle. Senator Bingaman (D-NM), chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has taken the lead on the coordination of the meeting.

NHA encourages members to stay tuned to the Listservs for more information on the various energy proposals as they become available and be ready to respond to NHA action alerts if necessary.

In addition to the work on an energy package, the Congress still needs to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government. If not passed by the end of the month, the government will be forced to shut down.

The CR presents another opportunity for passage of the tax incentives. Discussions and strategies are ongoing to include the PTC and CREBs extension in the CR. Regardless of which bill is the legislative vehicle for the tax provisions, the exact details remain unclear. A multi-year extension remains a possibility. However, a shorter 1-year extension that fills the gap and prevents a lapse at the end of this year is also an option.

As has been the case all year, the path forward on the extension of the incentives remains in flux. The situation is particularly complicated at this time as the Congress has only three weeks to conclude its work before leaving town for the campaign season. It remains to be seen if the two parties can find a way to clear the logjam.
However, this time does present an opportunity for hydropower interests and supporters to check in with their congressional delegation and remind lawmakers of the policy support needed by the industry.

NHA reminds members that NHA’s legislative action center can be accessed from the website at www.hydro.org. The site contains all of the bills NHA is monitoring, past action alerts issued, and contact information for every member of Congress. We encourage the membership to utilize this resource in the weeks and months ahead. For more information on NHA’s legislative activities, please feel free to contact NHA’s Linda Church Ciocci or Jeff Leahey.

NHA to MMS: OCS rule needs improvement

On Sep. 8, NHA filed comments on the Minerals Management Service’s (MMS) notice of proposed rulemaking establishing its program to grant leases, easements, and rights-of-way for alternative energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The MMS OCS program would set up a system for leasing and licensing offshore ocean wave and current projects.

While recognizing the continued progress of the Service on its proposed rules, NHA expressed serious reservations and concerns with the direction of the program.

From redundant review procedures to the unduly burdensome financial security requirements to uncertainty regarding licensing timelines and agency jurisdiction and standards for decision-making, NHA found that the OCS program as proposed requires significant modification.

NHA makes several recommendations to address various issues of concern. In particular, the comments reiterate previous comments to the MMS to allow OCS developers to receive priority to project study sites and to allow developers to sell power to the grid during testing and research stages.

The comments also stress the importance of cooperation between the MMS and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to avoid the promulgation of duplicate regulations that will cost the industry tremendously in time, dollars and other resources.

NHA cautions that an ill-developed MMS OCS program will only serve to stifle rather than stimulate development on the OCS.

NHA commits to working with the Service, in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, organizations and stakeholders, to finalize a program that facilitates the development of ocean energy resources in a way that is expeditious, thorough and environmentally responsible.
NHA attends Green Energy Council events

Last week, the International Green Energy Council (IGEC), an educational non-profit based in Washington, DC, invited NHA to participate in two events that focused on the IGEC’s Energy Master Plan (EMP).

Described as a “young, maverick” organization by President Ralph Avallone, the IGEC strives to become a “facilitative group” that can offer advice and opinions on all issues affecting the both the international and U.S. “green” industry and serve as a clearinghouse for information on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green living practices.

The IGEC acknowledges that fossil fuels will be a part of America’s energy portfolio in the future, but supports policies that will increase renewable energy production to 20 percent of U.S. energy consumption by 2020.

As a result, NHA staff attended a drafting session for the EMP, a list of ten action items for policymakers to implement that, taken together, will educate the public about renewable energy, energy efficiency and green living and support the deployment of renewable energy technologies. In fact, the EMP calls on government to provide subsidies for all renewable energy resources at a level equal or greater than existing subsidies for fossil fuels.

On Thursday, Sep. 4, the IGEC revealed the EMP to the public at a press conference at the National Press Club.

Mr. Avallone began the event by remarking, “Today America finds itself at an energy cross roads. America needs renewable energy.”

During his speech, Mr. Avallone also unveiled the IGEC’s Education Initiative which will promote green living habits and energy sources at all educational levels. The IGEC will tailor its education materials to reach student of different age groups. For example, coloring books are planned for elementary students, while IGEC will create a video game for high school students and encourage them to form national chapters at their schools.

Furthermore, IGEC staff members briefed the audience on two other initiatives. The Green Job Corps will provide training for jobs in the green energy sector, while the National Energy Security Agency (NESA) will serve as a separate think tank to implement the EMP and create an atmosphere that necessary for energy security and economic growth through renewable energy.
Bureau of Reclamation dam safety program lacking, report finds

A new report from the National Research Council (NRC) has found that a terrorist attack on a dam above a major population center could result in devastation that would rival or exceed that caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The report Assessment of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Security Program assesses the security program at Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) dams across the country. The Bureau requested the NRC to evaluate its security program regarding its ability to “deter, respond to, and recover from malicious act to its infrastructure and to the people who use and manage it.”

To assess the Bureau’s security program, a 14-member committee of experts in security and dam related fields gathered information through briefings and discussions with senior executives at the Bureau and other federal organizations as well as the Bureau’s Security, Safety, and Law Enforcement Office (SSLE).

Based on these discussions, the committee ultimately concluded that the Bureau lacks a well-integrated security program. While the committee acknowledged the Bureau has taken steps to protect infrastructure and personnel since 9/11, the Bureau’s focus on tactical issues such as intelligence gathering has led it to neglect other important features of an effective security program.

“It is now time for Reclamation to take a more strategic approach to its security program,” the report states.

In total, the committee issued 21 recommendations to improve security and address the 31 findings it made through site visits, discussions, reviews of reference materials, and briefings with Bureau personnel.

The 21 recommendations focus on distinct aspects of a fully-integrated security plan. For example, the committee recommends that all personnel who would respond to a security-related incident should train together to enhance effectiveness during an emergency. In addition, a clear chain-of-command should be established to both delineate responsibility and transfer authority in the case of an emergency.

Other recommendations focus on how to obtain an adequate level of resources to develop a robust security program. In its evaluation of the security program, the committee found the Bureau lacks the staff, expertise, and funding to sustain an effective program. It also recommended bringing stakeholders into the process by establishing procedures that would split reimbursable project costs for security activities between the Bureau and its stakeholders.

To read the report, visit http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12463#toc

Grant County PUD celebrates new license
The outside deck of the Wanapum Hydroelectric project was the scene of a celebration of the recently issued 44-year license for the Priest Rapids and Wanapum dam projects, which together generate nearly 2,000 MWs of hydroelectric power in central Washington State.

Grant County Public Utility District, owner of the two-dam system, hosted the celebration on Aug. 21 to recognize the hard work and collaboration among all involved in the relicensing of these projects. Joining in the celebration was: the Wanapum Band of Indians, U.S. Representative Doc Hastings, past and present PUD Commissioners, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and Grant County Public Utility District employees. Also attending were representatives of the Yakima National Tribal Council and the Colville Confederated Tribes.

Leslie Eden, past president, attended the ceremony on behalf of the National Hydropower Association and delivered a letter of congratulations from the Association.

The licensing represents a new era of project improvement. Grant County is in the middle of an upgrade of the facility’s turbines that add 138-MWs of capacity. Voith Siemens Hydro Generation supplied the turbines.

In addition, the PUD recently completed the construction of a new $34 million fish bypass system that will further improve fisheries survival at the Wanapum project. Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, indicated that survival rates are already improving, especially the endangered steelhead salmon population.

Not only does the license issuance signal an important milestone for Grant PUD, but also for the hydropower industry as a whole. Grant PUD’s investment in the demonstration of the advanced hydropower turbine is a successful example of the private-public partnership between the Department of Energy’s waterpower R&D program and the hydropower industry – one that NHA hopes to build on in the coming years.

With a revitalized DOE program, NHA looks forward to many more projects, like Grant PUD’s, that can be used to promote advanced technologies in both conventional hydropower and the new ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic industries.

Staff changes at the Bureau

The Bureau of Reclamation has announced a series of staff changes in various offices and program areas over the last couple of weeks.

Brian Becker has been named the new Chief of the Dam Safety Program at the Bureau. Becker had been serving as the Acting Chief for the Dam Safety Program since 2006. Before being promoted to that position, he served as Deputy Chief.
Becker originally joined Reclamation in 1985 as an engineer in the Concrete Dams Branch of the Technical Service Center. He left Reclamation in 1992 to work at the Fish and Wildlife Service. He returned to Reclamation in 2004. Becker has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University.

Reclamation Commissioner Robert Johnson has also announced that Jonne Hower has been selected to serve as the first Western States Water Council Federal Liaison Officer. Hower will be based in Midvale Utah, where she will focus on water management issues facing the West.

In her new position, Hower will serve as the intergovernmental program coordinator for the Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) and assist the Executive Director of the Western Water States Council in the formulation and implementation of council policies, practices and programs as they relate to intergovernmental relations.

Hower is a native of Idaho and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry and a Master’s Degree in Communications. She has over 25 years of experience working in the Federal government.

Also announced, former Deputy Commissioner Kris Polly has been tapped to become the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in the Department.

In this position, Polly will act as the Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science focusing his attention on Bureau of Reclamation issues. Polly comes to the position from the Bureau where he was Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Finally, Ryan Serote, Reclamation's current Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs will assume the responsibilities of Kris’ position, in an acting capacity, as Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs.

DOI grants seek to minimize future conflicts over water use

Water has become a major western policy issue that has received greater attention as a growing population and climate change have both increased demand and threatened supply in the region.

To promote water conservation, the Department of the Interior (Interior) announced on Aug. 13 that it has approved $4.5 million in Water 2025 Challenge Grants for water conservation projects throughout the West.

“These grants will help quench the West’s thirst for water in eight states by providing funds to 15 projects that will improve the efficient use of existing water supplies,” said Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior.
The Challenge Grant Program is part of Interior’s Water 2025 Initiative, which in the long term seeks to avoid crises and conflicts over water in the West. The program provides a 50/50 cost-share funding to irrigation and water districts for projects focused on water conservation, improved efficiency, and water marketing. When accounting for matching contributions from non-federal partners, the selected projects represent a combined investment of more than $31.8 million in water management improvements.

Having issued the Challenge Grants, the agencies and groups that proposed the 15 projects will now work with the Bureau of Reclamation to secure cooperative agreements and complete regulatory processes. Commencement of the projects is slated for the end of September. Once groundbreaking has occurred, the projects must be completed within two years.

Meanwhile, water security continues to be an important issue for Interior. In the future, the Challenge Grant Program will be part of Interior’s Water for America Initiative, which aims to address issues related to 21st century water challenges. The Water for America Initiative comprises three strategies. The Bureau of Reclamation will focus on two of them – “Plan for our Nation’s Water Future” and “Expand, Protect, and Conserve our Nation’s Water Resources.” The U.S. Geological Survey will tackle the third strategy – “Enhance Our Nation’s Water Knowledge.”

**DHS to offer infrastructure protection workshops throughout the fall**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will hold three workshops this fall that specialize in educating public and private safety officials about threats to infrastructure including dams. All workshops are free of charge, but space is limited.

The course *Soft Target Awareness Training for Facility Managers, Supervisors, and Security and Safety Personnel* is designed to improve individual and organizational security awareness by providing attendees with a basic education of terrorism awareness, prevention, and protection information. An additional two modules with focus on the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) in regards to measures associated with the program and how to respond if facilities are attacked.

This course will be held in Sacramento, CA on Sep. 23 and in San Diego, CA on Sep. 26. Please contact Glen Sadler in Sacramento at 916-324-9223 or glenn.sadler@ohs.ca.gov. Erika Foxworth is the contact person in San Diego. She can be reached at 858-499-7926 or Erika.Foxworth@ic.fbi.gov.

Later this fall, DHS will offer a 2-day course, *Protective Measures Training for Executive and Employee Level Personnel in the Public / Private Sector*, for executive and employee personnel in the private sector. During this course, attendees will participate in five modules that will teach them how to identify vulnerabilities at their project and select the appropriate measure to protect those vulnerabilities.
The Protective Measures course is slated for Nov. 12 and 13 in Nashville, TN. For more information, please contact Heidi Jordan at 615-880-2950.

A third course Surveillance Detection Training for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource Operators and Security Staff provides attendees with instructions for mitigating risks to critical infrastructure. Attendees will learn how to detect and deter potential threats to critical infrastructure and key resources and the basics for detecting surveillance activity.

The course will be held at various locations around the country. For more information contact NHA’s John Rastler at john@hydro.org

NHA has learned . . .

1) Pemberton Power Corp (PPC) is actively looking to acquire or to partner on a renewable power project located in the Americas with a preference for Western North America.

PPC is a Vancouver, Canada-based corporation, privately funded and seeking an economically viable grassroots project which would enable the company to seek a listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The focus their search is on small hydro (i.e. run of river) and geothermal power projects with a future installed capacity of 5 to 50 MW.

Core competencies are:

- Strong financing ability for small to mid-sized projects
- Experience in launching, operating and managing public companies
- Sourcing expertise in project management and engineering
- Assessing the economic viability of a project
- Significant mining exploration and mining industry knowledge and contacts
- Cultural intelligence (North America, Latin America and Asia)

Please contact us if you are interested to discuss about a potential project. 
Contact: Joel Jeangrand - President - Pemberton Power Corp
Tel: (778) 329-4443 ext 328
Direct: (604) 761-4525

2) St. Louis-based Ameren Corporation has a job opening for a Supervisor, Power Production/Engineering (006967), located at the Taum Sauk Plant in Annapolis, MO. The position is responsible for supervising plant work forces in the daily operation and maintenance of power plant equipment, project grounds and buildings.

Key responsibilities include:
• Lead plant in troubleshooting instrument and controls, electrical, and mechanical equipment and system failures
• Support Hydro Engineering & Dam Safety and/or Power Operations Support by coordinating support activities with plant personnel and performing engineering duties
• Assist in equipment inspections and implementing plant improvements. Review and analyze plant operating data, computer generated reports. Be available for emergency callouts and serve as the on-call supervisor. Promote safe working conditions by monitoring adherence to company policies, safe work practices, greater safety awareness, proper tooling, job safety briefs, and the use of personal protective equipment.
• Plan and schedule work activities including ordering of parts, materials, supplies, vendor support, WPA, work instructions, and procedure development.
• Schedule craft training, vacations, and overtime.
• Assume the duties and responsibilities of the Plant Superintendent when assigned.

REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from an accredited college or university required. May consider candidates with other technical degrees.

Experience: Five or more years power plant experience required. Will also consider new college graduates with Engineering degrees (in lieu of the power plant experience) for engineering position. Previous summer internships or co-op experience in power plants or similar industrial setting desired but not required.

Other: Knowledge of commonly accepted operating processes, operating systems, and Local, State and Federal Regulations regarding the operation of a power plant preferred. Working knowledge of the Local 148 union contract also preferred. Must have good leadership, organization, decision making, human relations, and communication skills. Must be able to work in a physically and mentally challenging environment, often under pressure to achieve results. Desire to work and live in rural area will contribute to being successful in this position. Subject to 24 hour callout. May be required to stay on site during threats of inclement weather. May be scheduled to work backshifts, weekends, or holidays. After preliminary review, selected applicants must take the First Line Supervisor Test and obtain a recommended status in order to be eligible for additional selection procedures (e.g., interview) designated for this position.

Please visit [www.ameren.com/jobs](http://www.ameren.com/jobs) for further details and to apply online.

In order to match candidate interest, experience, and skills with current openings, we only accept resumes for current vacancies through eRecruit, Ameren's online application system. We encourage you to frequently review the job openings posted on Ameren's website at [www.ameren.com/jobs](http://www.ameren.com/jobs), and use eRecruit to apply on-line for any position that matches your qualifications and interest.

3) USDA Forest Service, the Intermountain Region will soon be advertising an inter-regional Hydropower Assistance and Ditch Bill Team Leader position.
This position serves as a supervisory Team Leader for the Inter-regional Hydropower Assistance and Ditch Bill Team for the Northern, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern and Intermountain Regions. The incumbent develops integrated, coordinated solutions for principal program managers, including natural resource specialists and physical scientists at the regional and forest levels; provides agency advice for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of hydropower projects; and supervises the processing of applications for permanent easements under the Colorado Ditch Bill.

The position is located in Salt Lake City, Utah. An announcement for this position will soon be posted on the U.S. Government’s official website for employment opportunities (www.usajobs.opm.gov) as either a GS-401-13 or a GS-1301-13.

Interested applicants, or those desiring further information, may contact either Jeanne Evenden, Director of Lands, at (801) 625-5150 (jevenden@fs.fed.us) or Gerrish Willis, Interregional Ditch Bill/Hydropower Team Leader, at (801) 236-3469 (gwillis@fs.fed.us). Please send notice of your interest and/or the attached outreach response form to Jeanne by Oct. 3, 2008.

4) The Introduction to Wave Energy Conversion, a 1-day training course will be held in Whistler, Canada on Nov. 21, 2008.

The course is designed for professionals who wish to increase their knowledge of wave energy and wave energy conversion. A detailed overview of the fundamental principles behind the main technological solutions to convert ocean wave energy into electricity will be given, along with the key methodologies to evaluate both wave and device data. Hydrodynamic modeling techniques and conversion mechanisms will also be discussed.

If you wish to register for this event please send an e-mail to training@garradhassan.org or call 1-613-230-3787. Andrew Brown is the contact person for registration. More information can be found at www.garradhassan.com.

5) The Hydro 2008 – Progressing World Hydro Development -- Conference and Exhibition will take place from Oct. 6-8, 2008 (Technical Tours, October 9-11) at the Cankarjev Dom Cultural and Congress Centre in Ljubljana. Registration for this event can be done online at: www.networkevents.ltd.uk/events/hydro2008.

At the conference, there will be strong emphasis on accelerating hydro development in parts of the world where the potential and needs for extra capacity are greatest. There will also be important discussions on managing, maintaining and upgrading existing hydro assets, on social and environmental aspects, on innovations in technology, and on climate change studies and implications for water infrastructure.

The Final Bulletin for HYDRO 2008 includes full details of the technical and social programme, technical tours, the exhibition, accommodation and a registration form. It
6) The Climate Control Regimes in California & the West conference will take place from Sep 17-19, 2008 in San Francisco, CA.

Large-scale mandatory climate control regimes are on the verge of being implemented in California. As a consequence, the value of California's carbon market is expected to increase substantially – enormous opportunities for profit will be created. This could also affect the operations and profitability of existing carbon emitters in the electric generation, cement, petrochemical, and transportation industries.

However, as with most regulatory actions, the problem is in the details. Only those with a deep understanding of the systems will be able to position their organizations to profit. At this conference, leading industry representatives and regulators will provide the latest information on the rules emerging to govern allowance allocation and trading, as well as offset protocols and markets.

If you would like to register you may do so by calling (201) 871-0474. You may also register via fax, (253) 663-7224, or by e-mail, register@pmaconference.com. The registration form can be found at http://www.pmaconference.com/9.17.08ic.pdf


This conference will explore what it takes to successfully develop a renewable energy project, and in particular what is required to secure financial support from the investment community. In attendance will be project developers and technology companies, as well as lenders and private equity funds active in the renewable energy sector, including:

-Jeffrey Sterba, Chairman, President and CEO of PNM Resources
Jeffrey Holzschuh, Chairman, Morgan Stanley Environmental Committee
Mark Gabriel, Author of Visions for a Sustainable Energy Future, and Principal with R.W. Beck

Please be advised that this event is full. If you would like to put your name on the waiting list please e-mail Renee Stake at renee.stake@troutmansanders.com.
8) The National Dam Safety Program is a 3-day technical seminar sponsored by the National Association of State Dam Officials that will be held twice in 2008. The first seminar will take place from Nov. 5-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains, NY. The second seminar will run Dec. 2-4 at the Sheraton Suites Galleria Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

The objective of this course is to provide a general understanding of conduits, valves, and gates. Emphasis will be placed on issues related to the design, construction, and performance of conduits, valves, and gate types commonly used at dams. This is an introductory course intended for those with minimal to moderate experience in the design, inspection, and operation of dams.

If you wish to register you may do so online at www.damsafety.org. If you have any questions please contact Susan Sorrell at (859) 257-5146.