

OWPI Installs Tower in River Springs, OK

In June OWPI and Western Tower Services installed a 31 meter tower with instruments at 10 and 31 meters to collect wind data in the community of River Springs, Oklahoma. River Springs is a new community being developed in Cotton County by the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Development Corporation (SORD). Data will be collected and analyzed for at least one year, and if the conditions appear favorable SORD would like to purchase wind turbines to provide some of the community's electricity. For more information about SORD or River Springs, please contact Robert Smith at 405-476-6180 or swregionaldevelopment@yahoo.com.



L to R: Mike Klatt (OWPI), Robert Smith (SORD), and Matt Waswo (Western Tower Services).

OSU-OKC to offer Renewable/Sustainable Energy Degree

To prepare for one of the most important fields of study for the next century, OSU-Oklahoma City will begin offering the Renewable/Sustainable Energy Associate in Applied Science degree to students in fall 2010.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to work in a number of different related fields ranging from onsite solar and wind energy systems, to geothermal heating and cooling systems, residential energy auditing and advanced green building systems including an understanding of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

"OSU-Oklahoma City is proud to build on its leadership in 21st century energy education by adding the Renewable/Sustainable Energy degree," said Dr. Larry Edwards, OSU-OKC Academic Affairs vice president. "The new program gives students another option in the engineering field where they can currently choose from job-ready career paths such as Wind Turbine Technology, Electrical Power Technology and Construction Technology."

The Renewable/Sustainable degree program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and hands-on experience they will need to enter and excel in their chosen career path. "Programs like this will fill the demand for educated and skilled individuals for the rapidly evolving renewable energy industry," said Edwards.

Striving to provide training opportunities for students looking to enter the energy workforce, OSU-OKC is leading the way in Oklahoma to provide an educated workforce that will be able to meet the demands of tomorrow's industry. The new Engineering Technology Building, currently under

construction, will be a renewable energy education hub for the state, housing programs focused on the new industry's needs.

For more information about the program, contact Terry Clinefelter at (405) 945-3362 or clinefe@osuokc.edu, or visit www.osuokc.edu/engineering. To enroll or see available course times, visit www.osuokc.edu/schedule.

Editor's Note: The above is a press release from OSU-OKC on June 10, 2010.



No Renewable Electricity Standard in Senate Energy Bill

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid released details of a newly drafted energy bill on July 27th.

After a strong push by the renewable energy industry – lead by the wind industry – the latest Senate bill does not include a national target for renewable energy. It also excludes an extension of incentives like the production tax credit (which expires at the end of next year) and the Treasury grant program (which expires at the end of this year). Along with a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES), both of those items are on the top of the priority list for industry advocates.

The bill sets aside \$15 billion for energy efficiency programs, water conservation and new transportation technologies based on natural gas and electricity. The bill also raises the liability cap on offshore oil drillers if they spill oil. That provision addresses a politically-charged issue, but does little to help the grow wind, solar, geothermal, hydro and biomass technologies that can help shift the energy equation, say industry groups.

On July 27th the American Wind Energy Association released figures showing that 2nd quarter wind figures had dropped 71% from the same time period in 2009. The poor economy, the lack of a national RES, and the uncertainty around the Treasury grant program have all been factors.

"We need these passed. Otherwise, we risk severely hurting this industry," said AWEA CEO Denise Bode in a conference call yesterday.

As industry and environmental groups have pushed for an increasingly unpopular comprehensive climate bill, the opportunity to pass these smaller programs has been diminished. With fall mid-term elections coming up, the window for any action on such items has been virtually closed.

Editor's Note: The above is from RenewableEnergyWorld.com on July 28, 2010.