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## Obama energy goal hard to meet: energy secretary

Wed Jan 14, 2009 7:12pm EST

By Tom Doggett

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President-elect Barack Obama will have a hard time significantly increasing America's alternative energy production, outgoing U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman said on Wednesday.

As part of his economic stimulus plan, Obama wants to double output of alternative energy over the next three years.

"I think it's going to be extremely difficult to get there in three years," Bodman said in a final briefing with reporters before he leaves office next week.

Renewable energy sources, which include solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, biofuels and other biomass, accounted for 7 percent of U.S. energy supplies in 2007, according to the Energy Department.

Bodman said boosting solar energy "would be easier" because there are more companies that make solar panels, while increasing wind power will be more challenging because of tight manufacturing capacity to build wind turbines.



"I'm not saying you can't do it," Bodman said of Obama's goal. "It depends on how much money you spend. We have spent a lot of money, but could you spend even more and can you throw more (government) money at it? You could. I don't think it's wise myself, because I think we're spending about at the rate which makes sense."

Steven Chu, Obama's pick to be the next energy secretary, told a Senate committee on Tuesday he was committed to developing more wind, solar, geothermal and other renewable energy sources.

Officials with the trade groups of the solar and wind industries said on Wednesday their members could meet Obama's goal.

They said to double solar and wind energy production Congress should use the economic stimulus package, which may have a \$25 billion energy component, to modify existing energy tax credits so they are refundable to companies that are not making a profit in these hard economic times.

"We need to come up with an innovative approach," said Rhone Resch, president of the Solar Energy Industries Association.

(Reporting by Tom Doggett; editing by Jim Marshall)

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January 17, 2009

## Stimulus package includes wind power tax credit extension

By *PHILIP BRASHER*  
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**Washington, D.C.** — Iowa's wind industry could get a jolt from the huge economic stimulus package being put together by House Democrats.

The legislation would extend for three years a tax credit that subsidizes the power from new wind farms. The tax credit applies for a project's first 10 years. However, future projects may not be eligible for the subsidy unless the credit is renewed beyond this year.

Even that tax incentive hasn't been enough to get some projects going during the recent economic downturn, because potential investors don't owe enough in taxes to benefit from a credit, industry officials say.

So the stimulus package would create an alternative way to fund projects: Companies could instead get a grant directly from the government for 30 percent of their projects' cost.

"Anything that assists with the financing of a wind farm project such as this would be very, very attractive to the industry," said Harold Prior, president of the Iowa Wind Energy Association. Iowa is the nation's third-largest producer of wind energy, behind Texas and California.

Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Ia., had proposed a seven-year extension of the wind tax credit but said Friday that a three-year renewal was good, considering the competing spending priorities in the bill. The industry has been struggling in recent years to get even one-year extensions of the credit because of its cost. The three-year renewal would cost taxpayers \$13 billion.

Rep. Leonard Boswell, D-Ia., said the wind incentives and other renewable energy provisions would "work to make our country more energy-independent, along with saving money for both consumers and businesses."

President-elect Barack Obama wants to use the stimulus package to double the production of renewable energy production within three years and increase energy conservation. "The need for this action has never been more urgent," he said during a visit Friday to a plant in Ohio that makes bolts for wind turbines.

The energy measures also are seen as a first step in the incoming administration's plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Missing from the stimulus package are policy changes to deal with another major barrier to the industry's growth - a lack of long-distance transmission lines for carrying power from Iowa wind farms to urban centers out of state.

Those measures will have to wait for later legislation, said Greg Wetstone, senior director of governmental and public affairs for the American Wind Energy Association.

The stimulus bill was expected to offer little to the ethanol industry despite its ongoing financial struggles. However, the House measure would include an expansion of a tax credit for service stations that sell E85, a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The limit on the credit would likely be raised from 30 percent to 50 percent of the cost of the equipment, up to a cap of \$50,000, said Phillip Lampert, executive director of the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition.

The House could vote on the stimulus bill as early as next week. The Senate version is still being developed.

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January 14, 2009

## DOE to Invest US \$6M to Reach 20% Wind Energy

Washington, D.C., United States [RenewableEnergyWorld.com]

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced a new Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for up to US \$6 million over two years (FY09-FY10), subject to annual appropriations, to address the technical challenges of wind development and market acceptance barriers that were outlined in the 20% Wind Energy by 2030 report that was released last year.

The funding will be available for projects in six different topic areas that include turbine research, development and testing, distributed wind technologies, market acceptance efforts, environmental research and siting strategies, transmission analysis, planning and assessments as well as workforce development.

In May 2008, DOE issued the 20% Wind Energy by 2030 report. The report outlined the fact that the U.S. possesses affordable wind energy resources far in excess of those needed to enable a 20% scenario.

However, DOE also identified major challenges that need to be overcome and require action for this to be possible:

- Major investments in transmission need to be made so that power generated in Midwest locations can be delivered urban centers at great distance
- Larger electric load balancing areas, in tandem with better regional planning and use of complementary generation and storage, so that grid operators can better integrate wind generation into the electric utility grid
- Continued reduction in wind turbine capital costs through technology advancement and improved manufacturing capabilities
- Improved wind turbine performance and reduction of operating and maintenance costs through improved reliability
- Addressing concerns about local siting, wildlife, and environmental issues within the context of electricity generation
- Develop an abundant and skilled workforce to supply the growing renewable energy industry.

Completed FOA applications are due by March 3, 2009. The complete FOA can be viewed at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov). DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for award by the end of April 2009 and making awards by the end of September 2009.

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=54490>

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**GLG News<sup>SM</sup>**  
What Experts Think Is Important

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## **US Great Lakes Wind Energy Market Begins to Take Shape**

<http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20090115/FON0101/90115125/1985> | Utilities and Power Generation

### **PSC: Great Lakes wind energy likely part of Wisconsin future**

| Mark Burger - Kestrel Development Company

#### **Implications:**

Even though US wind power potential has only begun to be scratched on land, serious attention is being given to offshore developments. Plans and actions presently focus on the Atlantic offshore region. Now the Great Lakes will get greater scrutiny with the release of a state regulatory agency-sponsored study for large-scale wind power development off Wisconsin's shores in Lakes Michigan and Superior.

#### **Analysis:**

Developing the Great Lakes for wind power has had several studies in varying levels of detail, the most notable one being an analysis of Lake Erie potential off Northeastern Ohio. Now a more detailed study from Wisconsin's Public Service Commission looks at the potential from the state's Lakes Michigan and Superior locations.

The report does a thoughtful examination of the benefits, costs and issues installing up to 1,800 MW of capacity. It borrows extensively from present work done offshore while realizing that two important aspects are new territory. First that present offshore development is in relatively shallow waters, of which the Great Lakes have relatively little of without being placed very close to shore. Secondly, that the development takes place in stormier salt water, whereas the freshwater and less stormy (at least compared to the North and Baltic Seas) Great Lakes may have advantages.

The study also reveals that the limits of access of the St Lawrence Seaway means that much of the shipping assets needed for installation and servicing may have to be locally built. Last, but not least, a whole raft of regulatory issues have to be addressed. The report however, demonstrates the feasibility of Great Lakes development which may commence in earnest in the next decade, with a potential market of thousands of megawatts.

#### **Relevant Subject**

Utilities and Power Generation

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For more information, please visit <http://www.glgroup.com> or email [glgnews@glgroup.com](mailto:glgnews@glgroup.com).

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# THE PLAIN DEALER

## Cardinal Fastener & Specialty Co. in Bedford Hts. fired up about Obama visit

Obama's planned stop at Cardinal in Bedford Hts. fires up employees, energizes green jobs industry

Friday, January 16, 2009

John Funk

Plain Dealer Reporter

Bedford Heights -- Cardinal Fastener & Specialty Co. makes bolts for the energy industry. And jobs.

Today, its 65 workers will help President-elect Barack Obama make a bit of history.

Obama will visit the company before beginning a journey to Washington, D.C., for his inauguration. The president-elect is expected to talk more specifically about his Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

The Obama administration wants to help U.S. industry create 3 million to 4 million jobs, many of them tied directly to the nation's new emphasis on renewable energy such as wind turbines and solar panels.

Cardinal is already a success story in those areas.

The company makes high-strength bolts for products such as wind turbines and oil drilling platforms.

Gov. Ted Strickland introduced its president, John Grabner, and Cardinal as an example of green jobs to an audience of more than 800 last month at a meeting of the American Wind Energy Association held in Cleveland. The governor plans to attend today's event.

Since Cardinal's foray into the wind business two years ago, it has added 15 jobs, not counting the two people hired this week, Grabner said Thursday at the plant, as a swirl of workers tried to prepare for Obama's visit.

The mood at the small company ran from tense to excited to jubilation. Phones rang constantly. Staffers ran in and out of Grabner's chilly office worrying about Secret Service agents and whether press kits for more than 100 reporters would arrive in time.

Out back, a worker with a floor scrubber the size of a Zamboni scrubbed the oily plant floor. Workers were setting up displays of Cardinal's products - custom-made bolts of any length not only for oil rigs and wind towers but also for bridges, heavy equipment and industrial machines. All of it from the best U.S.-made steel.

Some workers were still turning out bolts that had to be shipped Thursday. And Brandon "Smokey" Delafosse, a 14-year veteran who supervises forge production of the bolts, worried about his role today introducing Obama.

"I am thoroughly excited," he said. "If you had asked me earlier, I would not have been able to respond."

Asked what he might say personally to Obama if given the chance, Delafosse, an African-American, said, "I am proud of him, and it is an honor to be able to introduce him to millions of people in the world."

Grabner also was swept up by the whirlwind.

He seemed as bemused as he was worried, juggling appointments and canceling calls while trying to tell the story of a company that began with 11 people in 1983 when he bought the equipment of a company that had gone out of business.

The work force grew to 50 by 2006 - and then came a small, emergency order for a few bolts manufactured to exacting specifications.

"We got it out in a week," Grabner recalled. It turned out that the customer was a turbine maker in Iowa. Cardinal geared up for the emerging market.

Grabner sees much faster job growth if the government steps in.

"If our growth goes as expected this year, we'll add another 40 jobs," he said. "And we expect a similar annual percentage growth through 2013."

The company, with \$10 million in annual sales, runs three shifts, said Wendy Brugmann, chief operating officer, but the second and third shifts have much smaller work crews and could be expanded.

The company projects its annual revenue will grow to \$40 million to \$50 million in the near future.

The success story is not a windfall, insisted Grabner. Cardinal is an example of what happens when a company's embraces "Lean Thinking," a workplace culture perfected by Toyota.

The system, which Grabner acknowledges is "counterintuitive," scraps specialization and cross-trains every employee, from secretaries to sales reps to machinists.

It's a culture change, Grabner said - one that has made the company extremely efficient, able to design, make and ship an order in as little as the same day.

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## **PSC Issues Final Report on Great Lakes Wind Energy Study**

NAW staff, Friday 16 January 2009 - 09:37:21

A final report on the feasibility, economic potential and environmental impacts of developing wind energy on the Great Lakes was issued by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin. The study found that offshore wind projects in the Great Lakes are feasible and could likely be a part of Wisconsin's energy future.

The report, which is the result of an initial investigation into Great Lakes wind development, identifies options for addressing the most significant barriers to the development of offshore wind should the state of Wisconsin decide to pursue this alternative energy source.

"Wisconsin has abundant renewable energy potential, and this report is a road map that puts us on course to tapping one of Wisconsin's tremendous energy resources in the Great Lakes," says PSC Commissioner Mark Meyer. "Offshore wind, by no means, is without its challenges; however, this study is an important step forward that could eventually make offshore wind a reality in Wisconsin, keeping Gov. [Jim] Doyle's vision of energy independence for our state in the crosshairs."

The study group that prepared the report comprises of a diverse member roster representing utilities, environmental organizations, customer and community groups, Native American tribes and state agencies.

All three PSC commissioners agreed that the next likely steps would be to collect wind resources, wildlife and other ecological data, and further study research and development on deep water foundations; initiate discussions with other states and Canada on procuring a construction vessel for the Great Lakes; and begin working with the Wisconsin Legislature to consider legislative changes that would facilitate the development of offshore wind on the Great Lakes.

The final report is available at [psc.wi.gov](http://psc.wi.gov).

SOURCE: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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( [http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107\\_plugins/content/content.php?content.3391](http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.3391) )

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Posted: Monday, 19 January 2009 1:12PM

### RMT Wraps Up Michigan Wind 1 Construction

Madison, Wis.-based RMT Inc. has completed construction of Michigan Wind 1, located near Ubly.

With a total capacity of 69 megawatts, Michigan Wind 1 is the largest commercial-scale wind farm in Michigan. It began commercial operation in mid-December, and will produce enough electricity to power more than 20,000 homes per year and avoid over 124,000 tons per year of CO2 emissions if this power were to come from fossil fuel plants.

RMT's WindConnect team provided construction of the civil and electrical services for the site, including erecting 46 GE 1.5-megawatt SLE wind turbines and constructing the substation, collector system, access roads, crane pads and crane paths, tower foundations, and associated civil infrastructure.

John Deere Renewables acquired Michigan Wind 1 from Noble Environmental Power in October 2008.

"This is the second commercial-scale wind energy facility we've built with RMT in Michigan," said David Drescher, vice president of John Deere Wind Energy. "This project had a very tight schedule. It was nice to work with a company that could help us safely and efficiently expedite the project by providing site development, design, and complete civil and electrical construction services in time to meet the project deadline."

RMT has more than 700 employees located in offices throughout the United States, the United Kingdom and France. RMT's WindConnect team has provided construction, engineering, design, and development services for over 3,100 megawatts of wind energy across the U.S. RMT is a unit of Alliant Energy Corp. (NYSE: LNT), an energy holding company. Visit [www.rmtinc.com](http://www.rmtinc.com).

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