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Reno company takes stake, to spearhead N.M. solar plant

Remote Energy Solutions of Reno last week entered into a partnership with Warm Springs Renewable Energy Corp. of New Mexico to push forward Warm Springs' plans for a solar power plant in south central New Mexico.

RES, which specializes in renewable energy development and management, will guide the Warm Springs project through feasibility studies and into construction, which is expected to begin in 2011. RES will act as management partner and minority owner on the project, coordinating permitting, transmission and interconnection studies, financing and other details of advancing the solar facility.

Permitting for the plant is targeted for completion by the end the year. The facility is scheduled to come online with a generation capacity of 20 megawatts, with eventual

expansion to more than 80 megawatts as demand increases.

Warm Springs plans to make available initial power generated from the solar facility for use at a nearby copper, molybdenum, gold and silver mine being planned by British company Mercator Gold. Mercator Gold also would hold a 70 percent majority interest in the solar production plant.

Ann Carpenter, RES president, has been named chief operating officer for Warm Springs Renewable Energy Corp.

"This project has the potential to change the way mines look at energy consumption," Carpenter said. "With this current project, the scale of electricity savings alone for mining operations has the potential to be very significant."

— NNBW staff

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Foam-panel manufacturer adds jobs

ACH Foam Technologies will expand production of structural insulated panels at its plant east of Sparks.

The move by the Denver-based company will result in four additional jobs at the facility, which previously employed 25.

The panels produced by the ACH plant at McCarran consist of expanded polystyrene insulation laminated to oriented strand board to create a structural panel used to create walls, roofs and floors.

The company says use of the panels can

cut 30 to 40 percent from builders' labor costs.

ACH Foam Technologies will supply construction markets in the West from the northern Nevada plant.

Frank Kiesecker, senior vice president of sales and marketing for ACH, said the company selected the McCarran plant for the new work because it's the company's newest.

The company, which previously operated a plant in Sparks, moved into the facility in mid-2007.

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BLM to fast-track Ormat plant in Pershing

Ormat Technologies of Reno has been awarded "fast-track" status by the Bureau of Land Management for construction of its 15 megawatt Jersey Valley geothermal project in Pershing County.

The Jersey Valley facility will produce a total of 30 megawatts once a second phase is completed and will include a 120-kilowatt transmission line. Power from the facility

already is contracted to Nevada Energy.

Ormat began exploration on its Jersey Valley project in 2007. The plant is expected to come online later this year, with a second plant planned for the following year. The development will cover about 8,470 acres of land.

Fast-track status expedites BLM's environmental review and public participation processes.

Jersey Valley is BLM's second geothermal fast-track project in Nevada. Nevada Geothermal Power's 49.5 megawatt Blue Mountain geothermal plant in Humboldt County came online in October.

— NNBW staff

Corrections

We strive to report the news fairly and accurately. We correct significant errors of fact and clarify misleading information.

If you believe we have made an error, please contact Editor John Seelmeyer at

Campground contract award