



*The Laboratory's permanent site near South Table Mountain will soon expand with the addition of an administrative support building, wood-fired boiler plant and more.*

**NREL to Expand Facilities, Capabilities in 2007**

The new year holds great promise for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Several construction projects are in the works that will expand the Laboratory's research capabilities and offer greater visibility for NREL's work.

Three projects are scheduled for next year. A new 30,000 – 70,000 sq. ft. **Research Support Facility (RSF)** is expected to be built across from the Solar Energy Research Facility to house administrative staff now in leased buildings in the Denver West Office Park. This is the first of several modules that will be built over time. It will provide offices for 130 – 250 people and is expected to cost between \$9.9 million and \$18 million.

The RSF will integrate energy-saving design and building practices and showcase the latest renewable energy and energy efficiency technology advances. The contract to design and construct the RSF began in August

and construction is scheduled to be completed in July 2008.

The **Renewable Fuels Heating Plant (RFHP)**, to be located behind the Field Test Laboratory Building (FTLB), will reduce NREL's use of natural gas to heat its buildings by using local wood waste to produce hot water.

The proposed RFHP project is anticipated to reduce natural gas consumption on NREL's South Table Mountain site by up to 80 percent. The 2,500 sq. ft. building will be constructed of architectural cement blocks with a finish to match the existing FTLB. Construction is scheduled for spring 2007.

In addition to the planned building construction, the Laboratory has funding for a \$2.5 million **infrastructure upgrade project** to support current and future South Table Mountain site development. It may include utilities, roads and other

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**Laboratory Addresses Noise Issues**

In September, NREL hired a consultant to take sound level readings to define noise coming from the Science and Technology Facility's (S&TF). Readings were taken at NREL's property line in three locations: near the Site Entrance building, the Thermal Test Facility and the Alternative Fuels User Facility (AFUF).

The noise coming from the S&TF is caused by exhaust air leaving the exhaust stacks. While the sound level readings were not above any legal limits, the Laboratory is moving forward on the consultant's proposed solution to reduce the noise by installing mufflers in each of the six S&TF exhaust fans.

The mufflers are expected to decrease the exhaust fan noise by 15 decibels. Installation is expected by June 2007.

At the west end of the NREL site, a faulty exhaust fan at the AFUF was replaced in mid-December. Noise is expected to be reduced.

Please contact Kerry Masson at 303-275-4083 if you have noise concerns.

**NREL Contact:** If you have any questions about NREL's activities, contact Public Relations Director Kerry Masson at 303-275-4083.

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**Community Tours New Research Facility, Hears Future Plans**

NREL and DOE's Golden Field Office (GO) hosted a Community Meeting on Nov. 14, inviting community members to learn about the Laboratory's 2007 outlook and site development plans. More than 90 community members attended and toured NREL's newest building, the Science and Technology Facility.

Copies of presentations made by NREL Deputy Director Bill Glover and GO's Assistant Manager for Laboratory Operations Jeff Baker are available online at [http://www.nrel.gov/visitors\\_center/community\\_news.html](http://www.nrel.gov/visitors_center/community_news.html).

During the meeting, NREL collected pledges from community members to support the ENERGY STAR *Change a Light, Change the World Campaign*. Packages of ENERGY STAR light bulbs were given to two lucky visitors who took the pledge. Congratulations to Duane Dettmann and Craig Delgado for winning.

**NREL Visitors Center Public Programs**

NREL's Visitors Center is offering themed programs throughout the year that will include monthly Visitors Center Power Lunch presentations. Bring your lunch and learn more about renewable energy and energy efficiency. Call the Visitors Center at 303-384-6565 to sign up.

**January – February 2007**

**Program Theme - Hydrogen**

Power Lunch: Tuesday, February 13 -- Noon – 1:00 p.m.

"Biological Hydrogen Production from Water Using Sunlight" by Maria Ghirardi

**March – April 2007**

**Program Theme – Wind**

Power Lunch: Thursday, March 1 -- Noon – 1:00 p.m.

"Wind for Consumers" by Trudy Forsyth

*Facilities Expansion Continued*  
improvements. Construction has not been scheduled.

Ongoing Environmental Assessments (EA) will evaluate the environmental impacts of these projects. The public is invited to provide input. Scoping letters will be mailed to the community and will be available in the DOE Golden Field Office electronic reading room ([www.eere.energy.gov/golden](http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden)). Drafts of the EAs also will be posted as they become available. For more information, contact Steve Blazek at 303-275-4723.

**Free Workshops Offered at National Western Stock Show**

NREL will host free workshops on solar, wind and biomass energy for the farm, ranch and home at the 2007 National Western Stock Show. Workshops will be presented at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13 and one at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 21 in the Beef Palace Auction Arena - underneath the Hall of Education. Contact Wendy Larsen at 303-384-6497 for more information.

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