OEI News

March/April 2015

SECURING ARMY INSTALLATIONS WITH ENERGY THAT IS CLEAN, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Energy Resiliency & Earth Day

In May of last year, Sarah Light, Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics at the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, published a paper entitled The Military-Environmental Complex1. While her title pays reference to President Eisenhower's 1961 farewell address in which he warned of influence from the military-industrial complex, Professor Light discusses how the military is leveraging private financing rather than taxpayer funds to drive innovation and that such public-private partnerships among the military, private financiers, and technology firms are an essential form of collaboration with the potential to transform our nation's energy profile for the better. In April I have been invited to speak on the topic of Professor Light's article at the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review, moderated by Professor Light which will include the topics of innovation, climate risk, and military security.

Those who are familiar with the Army Office of Energy Initiatives know that our mission is to improve the energy resiliency of our Army installations so they may continue to conduct their critical national security missions in times of limited access to electrical power from the grid due to natural disasters or national emergencies. Due to existing financial limitations, cooperation with private industry is the most suitable and expeditious method to bring large scale generation stations on-line. However, some may not realize that the United States Army has

[1] 55 Boston College Law Review, page 879 - http://bclawreview.org/files/2014/05/04_light.pdf

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long recognized that if we are to be successful in our mission we have an obligation to ensure that our Soldier today – and the Soldiers of the future – have the land, water, and air resources they need to train; a healthy environment in which to live; and the support of the local communities of the American people. This combination results in a natural and logical confluence in renewable energy as a solution to achieve sustainability.

There are, however, instances when renewable energy and environmental projects seem to be in conflict. In particularly wooded areas of the United States, clearing of trees may be the only option to find suitable acreage for large utility scale solar arrays. When a forested area is identified as the best suitable option for a renewable energy project at an Army installation, several actions take place: an environmental study is undertaken to verify no endangered wildlife are put at risk; timber harvesting is done to maximize value of the wood product to offset harvesting that would otherwise be done elsewhere; and, when feasible, reforesting of replacement native trees is undertaken. For example, the GA 3x30 project at Forts Benning, Gordon, and Stewart harvested trees on 791 acres. To replace the harvested lumber, we will plant 1033 acres of indigenous longleaf pine on the three installations in FY15, and another 1150+ acres in FY16, as part of the Army's Environmental Enhancement and Protection program.

Sustainability and environmental stewardship do not start nor end at the OEI. Today's Army evaluates energy, water, and land use in every decision as it not only effects the true life cycle cost of operations, but lack of adequate evaluation of these impacts could place at risk America's most precious resource – its sons and daughters.

– **Amanda Simpson**, Executive Director, Army Office of Energy Initiatives

~57,000 Solar Panels are now Operational at Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Currently, the project supplies 17.3 MW Direct Current (DC) or 13.6 MW Alternating Current (AC). Upon completion in 2015, the project will supply approximately 18 MW AC.

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Project Updates

Fort Huachuca, Arizona

Ribbon Cutting Event – Commencement of Commercial Operations

On February 11, 2015, a Ribbon Cutting Event at Fort Huachuca celebrated the official commencement of operations for a large-scale renewable energy project on the installation.

(Left to Right) Col. Thomas A. Boone, Garrison Commander, Fort Huachuca, Ms. Amanda Simpson, Executive Director, Army Office of Energy Initiatives, Maj. Gen. John B. Morrison, Jr., Commanding Gen. U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command and Deputy Commanding Gen. U.S. Army Cyber Command, HON Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Mr. David Hutchens, President and Chief Executive Officer UNS Energy and Tucson Electric Power, Mr. Samuel Morris, III, Acting Pacific Rim Regional Administrator, General Services Administration and Dr. Christophe Jurczak, Global Director, E.ON Solar cut the ribbon for the solar project on February 11, 2015.

The project's ~57,000 solar panels will provide roughly 25 percent of Fort Huachuca's total energy requirement.

The ~18 megawatt (MW), alternating current (AC), solar energy project is the result of a successful collaboration between the OEI, GSA, Fort Huachuca and Tucson Electric Power. TEP funds, owns, and operates the solar energy project, and contracted with industry partner E.ON Climate & Renewables for the system's design, engineering, procurement and construction management.

This project established a new and streamlined path for innovative partnering between the military, other federal agencies, private industry and the utility service provider.

Fort Detrick, Maryland

Contract Award – March 13, 2015

The Defense Logistics Agency Energy, in coordination with the OEI and Fort Detrick, awarded a 26-year, ~15 MW AC (~18.6 MW direct current) solar renewable energy contract to Ameresco, Inc. on March 13, 2015.

Ameresco will build, own, operate, and maintain the solar project. The contract is projected to provide Fort Detrick with renewable energy at or below current and projected utility rates.

The facility will be designed to be micro-grid compatible. All electricity from the solar facility will be consumed by Fort Detrick.

This is the third project in the OEI portfolio to reach a Contract Award. An April 1st Groundbreaking Event signifies the start of construction and the project is expected to be operational by the spring of 2016.

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Fort Benning, Georgia

Legal Document Signing & Upcoming Groundbreaking Event

The OEI, Fort Benning, the General Services Administration and Georgia Power are developing a 30 MW AC (~41.5 MW DC) solar project on Fort Benning. This project is part of the Army's plan to develop three, 30 MW AC solar projects, one each at Forts Benning, Gordon and Stewart, and is collectively referred to as the Georgia 3x30 project.

The project includes a 35-year easement. The Army will continue to purchase power through the existing GSA Area-wide Public Utility Contract. There will be no change to the Army's utility rates or costs resulting from this project. Georgia Power will develop, finance, design, install, own, operate, and maintain the solar project.

A Groundbreaking Event is planned for April 17, 2015 and the project is expected to be operational in Spring 2016.

MATOC Awards – March 19, 2015

The U.S. Army awarded additional wind and biomass technology firms authorized to bid on renewable energy contracts on Department of Defense installations through the existing Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC).

The U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, established the MATOC to streamline the acquisition process for the procurement of large-scale renewable energy projects on Department of Defense installations. These projects will provide reliable, locally-generated renewable and alternative energy utilizing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or other contractual equivalents.

The MATOC has a contract ceiling / capacity of $7 billion dollars, which refers to the total dollar value of energy available for purchase, under all Power Purchase Agreements task orders, for the entire term (up to 30 years). This is not an award for a $7 billion contract.

These additional awards bring the total number of MATOC to 94 in the four renewable energy technologies (i.e., solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal).

U.S.ARMY

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