



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 3, 2009

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UPDATE:
**AMERICAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION SALUTES
KEY 2009 WIND ENERGY ACHIEVEMENTS**

WINDPOWER 2009, CHICAGO, IL -- The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) today announced an expanded list of 2009 Awards recipients, adding to the list three utilities who are national leaders in wind energy.

- **AWEA Investor-Owned Utility of the Year** – Xcel Energy, the utility with the most wind on its system (2,906.4 megawatts)
- **AWEA Municipal Utility of the Year** – City Public Services San Antonio the municipal utility leader (501.8 megawatts)
- **AWEA Rural Electric Cooperative Utility of the Year** – Great River Energy, a Minnesota coop, was the electric cooperative using the most wind (318.7 megawatts)

The utility awards will be presented during a special reception on Wednesday, May 6 at 5pm at the McCormick Place Convention Center (room S505a).

Each year, AWEA honors wind industry leaders, advocates and others for their outstanding efforts on behalf of wind energy. The winners will be recognized during the WINDPOWER 2009 Conference & Exhibition, the world's largest annual wind energy industry event, to be held in Chicago, Ill., from May 4-7.

"The wind energy industry experienced another record year in 2008 and the AWEA Awards honor those who have made this success possible," said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. "All of our honorees have worked to advance wind energy, whether through political advocacy, technical development and application, policy implementation or environmental stewardship."

The previously announced 2009 AWEA Award Recipients are:

- **Outstanding Contribution to the Wind Industry / Industry Person of the Year:** T. Boone Pickens

T. Boone Pickens has moved the wind industry forward through his vision and leadership. His "[Pickens Plan](#)" calls for a change in our energy policy and provides a

blueprint for reducing foreign oil dependence by harnessing domestic energy alternatives including wind and natural gas. Pickens's public campaign has helped increase recognition of wind energy as a mainstream energy option.

- **Lifetime Achievement:** Randy Swisher, AWEA

Randy Swisher has been involved with renewable energy advocacy since 1975, when he served as Executive Director of the D.C. Public Interest Research Group. Swisher was the Executive Director of the American Wind Energy Association for nearly two decades, from 1989 until 2008. During his time with AWEA, the wind industry experienced tremendous growth, twice tripling production in three years, and the U.S. became No. 1 worldwide in terms of wind power capacity and generation. Swisher also tirelessly advocated for the many extensions of the federal wind energy production tax credit (PTC) that has been vital to wind industry success.

- **Special Achievement:** American Wind Wildlife Institute team (Wayne Walker, Abby Arnold, Laurie Jodziewicz, Tom Weis, John Rogers, Ron Helinski, Jim Walker)

In November of 2008, 20 of the nation's top science-based conservation and environmental groups and wind energy companies announced the creation of the American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI), establishing a first-of-its-kind, jointly-governed 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on proactively guiding responsible development of the wind industry in relation to wildlife and habitat. AWWI facilitates timely and responsible development of wind energy while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. AWWI serves as an example for other energy sectors by proactively addressing potential biodiversity impacts as wind energy is more widely deployed.

- **State Leadership:** Public Utilities Commission of Texas (Paul Hudson and Barry Smitherman)

Paul Hudson and Barry Smitherman's pioneering renewable energy zone policy for proactive transmission development and their commitment to successful implementation has made Texas a leader for the rest of the nation in making transmission for renewable energy a reality. The state has provided a real-life example of the enormous benefits to ratepayers that flow from investing in transmission lines for renewables.

- **Achievement in Operations:** Gary LeMoine, Iberdrola

Through his leadership in AWEA's Safety Committee, Gary LeMoine has made tireless efforts and contributions to the industry. The industry's record of safety is excellent, and the Safety Committee is working to further strengthen that record as wind energy grows. The Committee includes members from all sectors of the turbine industry: owners, manufacturers, suppliers, construction contractors, and others. The Committee meets regularly and has a number of ongoing initiatives to support safety in the wind industry. Safety conferences, discussions with agencies like OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and other trade associations, technician training and community college programs are all aimed at supporting a consistently safe and reliable wind business.

- **Commercial Achievement:** 3Tier

3Tier has made contributions to the wind industry through the development and public offering of the FirstLook website—a free online tool providing wind and solar prospect and assessment data for developers, manufacturers, and landowners.

- **Outstanding Contribution to the Small Wind Industry:** Andy Kruse, Southwest Windpower

Serving as chair of the Small Wind Turbine Committee, Andy Kruse is a dedicated advocate of small wind issues including the ITC and small wind standards. With a federal incentive now in place for small wind, this popular, clean energy solution has become more affordable for people who want to invest in small wind for their home or business.

About WINDPOWER 2009: From May 4-7, 2009, more than 15,000 wind industry leaders, government officials, and business executives; and over 1,200 exhibitors, including wind power plant developers, turbine manufacturers, and the full range of supply chain manufacturers and service providers, will convene at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center for the world's largest annual wind energy industry event. The WINDPOWER Conference program includes over 300 speakers and moderators, 170 poster presentations, and 50 sessions on leading wind energy topics organized into tracks with policy, business, and technical focuses. The Exhibition at WINDPOWER will be an impressive display including the leading companies from all facets of the wind energy industry. For media accreditation information, visit http://www.windpowerexpo.org/press_media.cfm . For more information about WINDPOWER 2009, see www.windpowerexpo.org.

About the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA):

AWEA is the national trade association of America's wind industry, with more than 1,900 member companies, including global leaders in wind power and energy development, wind turbine manufacturing, component and service suppliers, and the world's largest wind power trade show. AWEA is the voice of wind energy in the U.S., promoting renewable energy to power a cleaner, stronger America. Look up information on wind energy at the [AWEA Web site](#). Find insight on industry issues at AWEA's blog [Into the Wind](#). Join AWEA on [Facebook](#). Follow AWEA on [Twitter](#).