

RVT attended the recent 2010 Wind Energy Conference in Texas – congratulations to AWEA for another great show! There were nearly 20,000 attendees and 1,400 companies exhibiting, making it the largest energy trade show and the largest wind energy conference in the world! (Stats courtesy of AWEA.) Just one of the many highlights includes a speech by former President George W. Bush, which included his thoughts on both Texas's success in wind energy and the future of American wind energy in general. A sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to visit with us during this event!

## IN THE NEWS...

### Google-Eyed for Green

Google has added wind energy to its list of clean energy interests, investing \$38.8 million dollars in two North Dakota wind farms. Although the farms have already been built, Google's tax equity investment will be used to fund other renewable energy projects.

### Texas Caught Up in a Whirlwind of Success

The state of Texas recently filed an ERCOT report announcing that they have met their renewable energy goals an astonishing 15 years ahead of schedule, almost all of which comes from wind energy. With another 50,000 MW of wind projects in the works, Texas clearly leads the way for America.

### Kansas Missing the Mark on Wind Energy?

Although second only to Texas in its potential for wind energy, Kansas has fallen from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> place in a state ranking of installed capacity. A 2009 reform plan included provisions to improve the state's interconnectivity to the power grid, but the staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission has recommended leaving details up to each utility to figure out in lieu of following a uniform standard. The controversy has led at least one company to publicly announce that they were abandoning plans to build in Kansas.

## Things You Should Know:

### Topic 2: Important Things to Remember – Startup

As with most things, how a construction project ends often depends on how it begins. Following the proper steps from the start can prevent delays and lost revenue. Due to their size, complexity, and varying characteristics, it's crucial for wind farms to start off on the right foot. Following are a few of the issues RVT focuses on to help improve the chance for success.

For us, one of the first and most important aspects of wind project start-up is allowing the materials consultant to be part of the project team. Take the time to discuss your needs and expectations; this allows us to efficiently adapt our service to your requirements, instead of us guessing about the critical success factors for the project. For example, it is important for us to know the construction schedule so we can assign enough manpower to meet project needs. Significant delays (and added expense!) could occur if only two technicians are onsite when the contractor expected to complete concrete for four turbines per day.

For contractors, RVT believes that developing a relationship with one or two testing firms greatly benefits all projects, from conception on through completion. The benefits include: 1) less time and effort expended by many contractors in preparing, sending, and reviewing RFP's, 2) no time spent continuously "retraining" testing consultants from project to project, and 3) a lower potential liability for the project because of a reduced uncertainty about materials testing concerns. Keep in mind, by selecting the cheapest firm and not considering other factors, a contractor can end up with a testing firm applying a "cookie cutter" approach and misunderstanding the contractor's preferences, among other undesirable occurrences. Getting to know and working with just a few testing firms can be the start of a beautiful thing.