

BREEE News V35

Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group

<http://boulderenergy.org>

8/15/05

Last week in the news... "President Bush to sign a 12 billion dollar energy company bill with 15 plus billion in tax breaks and subsidies to hard-strapped power conglomerates. Consumers to get an extra month of Daylight Savings in case they can't afford to keep the lights on."

- Michael Feldman

## **Amendment 37 Update**

By Ken Regelson

Expect *Action Items* in the next week. For now, this update...

The process we are following is:

A 37 > PUC Rules > Utility Plan > Rebates

We are in the "rules" phase.

For the last 6 weeks, members of Core37, Xcel staff, and others representing various interests in Colorado have been meeting to develop a set of compromise rules to submit to the PUC for approval. Literally hundreds of hours of hard work have gone into these meetings.

While there are some key sections in the rules where we have achieved compromise, sadly, there are many sections where agreement was not reached.

**IMPORTANT** part one: The PUC may change any part of the rules including the parts where compromise was reached.

**IMPORTANT** part two: The following is my interpretation. I am not a lawyer. Other interpretations may apply.

In what follows, "Xcel" should be read as "Xcel and Aquila" -- the two investor owned utilities in Colorado. Although A 37 does have requirements for some of the municipal and rural cooperative electric companies, these rules mostly do not apply to these public power companies.

The good news:

1. Rebates:

- Consist of 2 parts. A \$2 per watt rebate plus a performance rebate. The amount of the performance rebate is to be determined. It is well known that to move the solar market the total rebate must be in the \$4 per watt range. *Xcel has not agreed to nor disagreed with this high a total rebate, and in the end, Xcel sets the rebate.*
  - Retroactive to 12/1/2004. Both rebate parts apply to PV systems installed 12/1/2004 and later that are installed on residences and businesses and are less than 10 kW in size.
  - On-grid PV systems installed prior to 12/1/2004 and off-grid systems will qualify for the performance part of the rebate in a program that will be offered at-least one-time. This offer must occur on or before 3/31/2006.
  - May be applied to expansions of existing systems.
2. "To facilitate installation of these small systems, all procedures, forms, and requirements shall be clear, simple, and straightforward to minimize the time and effort of homeowners and small businesses." "Small systems" means 10 kW or below.
  3. True retail net metering with carryover of excess PV production from month-to-month and a settlement at the end of the year. Single meter unless the customer agrees to 2 meters for systems 10 kW and below. Xcel pays for the meter. Fees and rates will not change for a customer adding PV (e.g., a residential rate customer that adds PV will stay at the same fees and rates as any other residential customer).
  4. Different rules apply for rebates for systems:
    - Below 10 kW.
    - 10 kW to 100 kW
    - 100 kW to 2 MW

The bad news is that there are 8 major sections where "No agreement has been reached here." This leaves the rules incomplete. Even in these sections with no agreement, a large amount of information has been exchanged. Hopefully, Xcel will propose rules that are not too far from what has been discussed.

It is worth looking at the rules themselves:

[http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Comments/05R-112E\\_ConsensusRuleSections08-15-05.pdf](http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Comments/05R-112E_ConsensusRuleSections08-15-05.pdf)

"Pages" below refers to the page number in the PDF (the page numbers that are printed in each section start over in the one PDF).

Pages 1 to 5 are the cover document to the PUC and definitions (many can skip these).

Pages 5 to 11 are the rules and are the most interesting.

Pages 11 to 22 have to do with interconnection (most can skip these).

Pages 22 and up include sample applications and agreements.

Western Resource Advocates submitted a summary that speaks for most or all of Core37:

[http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Comments/05R-112E\\_Core37WRA08-15-05CommentsPartStipl.pdf](http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Comments/05R-112E_Core37WRA08-15-05CommentsPartStipl.pdf)

CoSEIA (Colorado Solar Energy Industry Association) submitted comments as well:  
[http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Comments/05R-112E\\_COSEIA08-15-05SuplCommentsOnStipl.pdf](http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Comments/05R-112E_COSEIA08-15-05SuplCommentsOnStipl.pdf)

In the next week we will be strategizing the optimum response and action items.

These action items will probably include: 1) writing letters to the PUC in support of the compromise rules where agreement was reached, and in support of Core37 where compromise was not reached; and, 2) appearing at the PUC's public hearing currently scheduled for 8/30 from 4 to 6 PM. There is no question in my mind that the reason we have gotten this far is because of your strong and clear letters to the PUC.

For now, stay tuned. Feel free to pass this message on to others. Send your thoughts, questions, and requests to be on an email list (if you are not already) to [regelson@mac.com](mailto:regelson@mac.com)

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*Hot Picks*

### **Boulder: No Fatal Flaws in Municipalization**

Front page of the Daily Camera.

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/county\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2423\\_4003257,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/county_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2423_4003257,00.html)

Presentation to City Council This Tuesday Night (8/16) Agenda Item #7.

<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/clerk/agenda/2005/081605/Cover.htm>

The report itself:

<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/clerk/agenda/2005/081605/7a.pdf>

From Doug Grinbergs

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### **Free Energy Audits for Boulder Businesses**

Sponsored by the City.

<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/environmentalaffairs/energy/BPES.html>

From Carolyn Weinreich

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## **The Energy Policy Act of 2005: Efficiency & Renewables Provisions** *Christmas in August?*

Some general articles:

Solar Granted a Major Victory

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=34850>

New Hybrid Cars Get Federal Tax Credits

[http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2005-07-31-energy-credits-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2005-07-31-energy-credits-usat_x.htm)

More credits on efficiency and renewables.

<http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/epact-05.htm>

More specifics on the solar provisions for SEIA.

<http://seia.org/getpdf.php?iid=21>

Download the energy bill itself (all 1700+ pages)

[http://energy.senate.gov/public/\\_files/ConferenceReport0.pdf](http://energy.senate.gov/public/_files/ConferenceReport0.pdf)

See bottom of page 1147 for a new net metering requirement in PURPA.

And, closer to the truth than most:

<http://www.theonion.com/news/index.php?issue=4132>

From Charlie Stevens, Carolyn Weinreich, Larry Kinney, and Ken.

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To Submit to BREEE News – email [Regelson@mac.com](mailto:Regelson@mac.com). Put BREEE News in the Subject. Suggest a title and a 2 or 3 sentence summary. Include a link to the original article or a web page, or provide your email address, for more information.

Edited and distributed by Ken Regelson. Articles that do not list who submitted them are probably from Ken.

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*From Boulder & Colorado:*

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**Pueblo Chieftain: Aquilla a Bargain, City Told**

Aquilla, an investor owned utility, is trying to sell its Colorado assets. The city of Pueblo is looking at buying them in effect municipalizing their electric system, keeping money in the city, reducing risks from future rate increases, insuring that their values are reflected in their electric provider, and allowing much easier change in their electricity system if their values are not reflected. (mini-editorial by Ken)

<http://www.chieftain.com/metro/1123605962/1>

From Ross Vincent and Macon Cowles.

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### **Pueblo Chieftain Acknowledges Global Warming and Climate Change**

<http://www.chieftain.com/editorial/1123436003/1>

From Ross Vincent.

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### **Denver Post: Xcel Asks to Do Away With Penalties For Outages**

[http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci\\_2927296](http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_2927296)

Some of the penalties paid by Xcel (\$5.6 Million dollars) that Xcel wants to do away with are detailed in the following article on a power outage in Beacon, Colorado. Note that Beacon's franchise with Xcel extends to 2021 (they will be with Xcel for 15 more years).

<http://www.windsorbeacon.com/localnews/stories/20050811/2190307.html>

From Rick Gilliam & Doug Grinbergs.

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### **Renewable Energy Job Opening at the PUC**

<http://www.gssa.state.co.us/announce/job%20announcements.nsf/ce0b9624fedb373587256499006e77a4/10195b8167b95e468725704c005e2a1d?OpenDocument>

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### **Denver Post Editorial: States Must Lead on Coal**

[http://www.denverpost.com/editorials/ci\\_2911665](http://www.denverpost.com/editorials/ci_2911665)

From Ross Vincent.

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### **Minnesota to Xcel: More Wind**

"...at least 2800 MWs by 2020 and eliminate new investments in natural gas."

[http://wcco.com/consumer/local\\_story\\_214120904.html](http://wcco.com/consumer/local_story_214120904.html)

From Charlie Stevens.

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## **Post: The Future on Your Street**

Living with fewer resources. Article on a more sustainable future by David Wann, co-author of Superbia, and Affluenza.

[http://denverpost.com/search/ci\\_2897684](http://denverpost.com/search/ci_2897684)

From Sam Anderson.

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## **Lola Spradley on Amendment 37**

<http://www.chieftain.com/editorial/1123999323/2>

From Ross Vincent and Mike Bowman.

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## **Westword on Biodiesel**

<http://www.westword.com/Issues/2005-08-11/news/news.html>

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## **Boulder One-Liners**

Daily Camera on plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles that get up to 250 MPG.

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/national\\_intl\\_business/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2464\\_3999145,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/national_intl_business/article/0,1713,BDC_2464_3999145,00.html)

Namaste Solar on the front page of the Boulder County Business Report.

[http://bcbr.datajoe.com/app/ecom/pub\\_article\\_details.php?id=58969&972E3BE7-E60B-5DF5-CD00C1B2AC633FCC](http://bcbr.datajoe.com/app/ecom/pub_article_details.php?id=58969&972E3BE7-E60B-5DF5-CD00C1B2AC633FCC)

Boulder gets solar powered wi-fi downtown.

<http://www.wi-fiplanet.com/columns/article.php/3525941>

Green-E Certifies Xcel's Windsorce.

[http://www.crs2.net/HTMLemails/2005/CO\\_Winsource\\_Release\\_8.02.05.htm](http://www.crs2.net/HTMLemails/2005/CO_Winsource_Release_8.02.05.htm)

From Susan Innis, Carolyn Weinreich, & others.

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## **Xcel Energy Evaluates IGCC in Colorado**

Integrated Gassification & Combined Cycle: start with coal, gasify it, then combust in a combined cycle generator like natural gas. Arguably cleaner, more efficient, more costly, and possibly can sequester the carbon dioxide.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/050811/115570.html?v=1>

From Ross Vincent.

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*Calendar:*

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**8/17. Boulder. Cutting Edge Building Techniques.**

Boulder Green Building Guild.

[http://www.bgbg.org/event\\_registration081705.php](http://www.bgbg.org/event_registration081705.php)

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**10/14 - 15. Boulder. Bioneers Conference**

<http://ecenter.colorado.edu/bioneers/index.html>

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*From Elsewhere:*

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**One-liners:**

Honolulu Army Base 3000 new homes with 7 MW of PV

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Aug/03/bz/508030328.html>

LBNL: Balancing Cost & Risk: Renewable Energy in Utility Resource Plans

<http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/reports/58450.pdf>

No more electric bills? Almost. Zero Energy Homes gain traction in the market.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8852127/site/newsweek/>

Siberian permafrost melting due to climate change a tipping point (?) as it releases massive amounts of methane (a potent greenhouse gas).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,12374,1546824,00.html>

and

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=mg18725124.500>

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## **What DOE Thinks is Needed in Solar R & D**

Press Release

[http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC\\_ID=18521&BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PRESSRELEASES&TT\\_CODE=PRESSRELEASE](http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=18521&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE)

Report (large download)

[http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/reports/files/SEU\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/reports/files/SEU_rpt.pdf)

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## **Amory Lovins: How to Live Without Oil**

"With cheap oil-saving technologies and alternative fuels already at our disposal, the sooner we get off oil, the sooner we'll start making bigger profits... In only two generations, oil—once the foundation of our strength but now a source of weakness—could become as obsolete as whale-oil lamps."

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8769620/site/newsweek/>

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## **Hurricane Ivan and Oil in the Gulf of Mexico**

Last year hurricane Ivan battered oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Ivan reached category 5 status (out of 5). The \$2.7 Billion damage done to oil and gas platforms and pipelines in the Gulf may have been while Ivan was "only" a category 3 storm.

"...oil producers worry that hurricanes are as much a risk to global oil supplies as are pipelines blowing up in Iraq or oil workers going on strike in Venezuela. And with the margin for error so small, even a temporary disruption of the deep-water platforms, rigs and undersea pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico, a region that pumps one-quarter of American oil production, could create big problems for energy producers and consumers alike."

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/08/05/business/oil.php>

(This is the end of BREEE News)

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