

From: I-39 Logistics Corridor Association [information@rockfordil.ccsend.com] on behalf of I-39 Logistics Corridor Association [jfadden@i-39logisticscorridor.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 2:48 PM
To: Leilani Hillis
Subject: I-39 Catalyst, May Issue



Welcome to CATALYST!

Members of the I-39 Logistics Corridor Association,

The I-39 Logistics Corridor Association is pleased to present this quarterly issue of CATALYST, the e-newsletter designed to establish "Superior Transportation Infrastructure in the I-39 Logistics Corridor and the Chicago Region". This e-newsletter contains information that helps corridor members stay informed and assisting the association further its goals. We welcome your feedback to the CATALYST and to our group's work.



Pulling together the information for the alternative energy article below was interesting and fun. You can see from the article that we are on the leading edge of this emerging industry. We are an active participant. In April Governor Quinn attended a press conference for the new solar panel manufacturing facility to be built by Wanxiang America, a Chinese owned company. As the year continues to move ever forward we are seeing signs of an improving economy. If you haven't become a member I continue to encourage you to join the I -39 Logistics Corridor Association. We are the only membership organization focused on marketing this vital logistics corridor to potential investors. Please join the over 75 members in our marketing work.

If you are not already participating, I encourage you join our association. Please visit our website www.i-39logisticscorridor.com for more information. Over the past few years, our membership has helped transform the organization, and as a result, our region is better prepared to compete in today's global marketplace. I look forward to collaborating with you in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

Janyce Fadden
Executive Director, I-39 Logistics Corridor Association

Alternative Energy Powers Growth Along I-39 Corridor

by Mark Thomson

When thinking of wind turbines, it's natural to picture the wide-open and windswept plains of the West. And when picturing rows of solar panels glinting in the sun, it's the cloud-free skies of the Southwest that come to mind.

But the Chicago area, with all its unpredictable weather and intermittent bouts of sunshine, features its own growing center of alternative energy research. Surprisingly enough, this hot spot for wind and solar power is just 80 miles west of Chicago.

Economic development officials along the I-39 corridor have tapped into the growing alternative energy field with investment in wind energy and solar power facilities.



"The counties along I-39 are very open for business and several of them are open to wind farm projects," says Janyce Fadden, executive director of the I-39 Logistics Corridor

Association.

The corridor has spawned five significant wind farm deals since 2003. The first of these was the \$56 million Mendota Hills Wind Farm in Lee County near the village of Paw Paw. The latest to come on line, Chicago-based Invenergy LLC's Grand Ridge Wind Energy Center, is located just south of the town of Marseilles in LaSalle County. The total energy output of the 66 turbines is estimated at 315 million kilowatt hours per year, enough to power 33,000 single-family homes.

Three other projects have been approved and are either under construction or preparing to begin. NextEra Energy Resources plans to begin construction this year on a \$400 million Wind Energy Center that straddles DeKalb and Lee Counties. Top Crop Wind Farm by Horizon Wind Energy, which is a unit of the Portuguese utility company, Energias de Portugal Renovaveis, S.A., has begun a project that will be built throughout Grundy and Livingston Counties. When completed, the farm will generate 600 megawatts per month. To put that in perspective, Mendota Hills Wind Farm is capable of 51.66 megawatts per month, which enough to power about 13,000 homes.

And lastly, the 67-turbine EcoGrove Wind LLC Wind Farm in Stephenson County is nearly completed.

However, in the current political climate, it may be a safe bet that these will not be the last projects to find a home along the I-39 corridor. \$16.8 billion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be appropriated for the Department of Energy's Office of Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) programs and initiatives.

President Obama has made energy one of the three key initiatives in to his economic recovery plan.

Likewise, the State of Illinois has set specific standards that should engender more development in the near future. The state has pledged that 10 percent of its electricity will come from renewable sources by 2012 and 25 percent by 2025. To ensure that more companies continue to pursue development opportunities, the state has guaranteed that energy from wind sources will be purchased by local providers.

"In Illinois, distribution is separate from production of power," says Fadden. "In northern Illinois, Com Ed is obligated to take power from Mendota Hills onto its grid. It can then buy it and resell it or someone somewhere else can buy it off the grid. Someone in California could be buying that power."

Wind farms are not the only developments to gain traction along the I-39 corridor. Seizing upon the momentum of alternative energy, the city of Rockford has recently completed a deal with Wanxiang, a Hangzhou-based Chinese company with U.S. headquarters in Elgin, to develop a manufacture plant for photovoltaic solar-energy panels. The first phase of the project would consist of a 40,000-square-foot facility, which could eventually be expanded to 160,000-square-feet. The facility is projected to employ 250 people.

The firm preformed a nationwide search before settling on Rockford, says Fadden.

The major incentive for Wanxiang is that the city agreed to build a 100-acre solar farm just south of the regional airport. The farm will use panels produced at the Wanxiang manufacturing facility. The solar farm will produce approximately 10 Megawatts of electric power, which is sufficient to supply 3300 average residential homes.



Membership Benefits and Dues

Participating in the I-39 Logistics Corridor Association offers an array of benefits.

2009 Membership Benefits Include the Following:

- Listing of property information on our website, www.i-39logisticscorridor.com
- Direct marketing advertising exposure
- Opportunity to have banner advertisement(s) featured on the website, www.i-39logisticscorridor.com
- Participation in our membership meetings
- Receive our newsletter, the I-39 CATALYST
- Opportunity to participate in Holiday Festivus, our annual networking event
- Opportunity to display your information at our booth at selected trade shows. We will be at the AIRE Developers Showcase Exhibitor on Tuesday September 22nd and the Transportation and Logistics Conference, Tuesday, October 20th.



If you would like to become a member and are interested in finding out more, please visit www.i-39logisticscorridor.com/membership.html for more information, including a downloadable membership form. We encourage you to pass this newsletter on to those you may know who would benefit from becoming involved in I-39 Logistics Corridor Association as well.

Current Association Members: If you have not already done so, please forward to lhillis@rockfordil.com the following information to be uploading to our new website so that we may better feature your business parks and regional projects. Please send ASAP so that our new map and property listings can be accurately updated in a timely manner:

- your business park information information, in PDF format
- any supplemental informational brochures or maps for your property, in PDF format
- updated contact information, including website and all key contacts

Visit Our New Website!

Please take time to visit our website redesign. You can visit it at www.i-39logisticscorridor.com. We will be throughout the second quarter of this year building a new map tool to showcase your properties and projects. Only your feedback helps us make the website better...so please assist us in continuing to improve our online presence.



I-39 LOGISTICS CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION

Driving the Force of Global Trade

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You are Invited to Attend a Private Tour Of the UPS Rockford Facility

Thursday, May 28, 2009, 9:00 p.m.
Meet at Giovanni's (610 N. Bell School Rd.)

- Be informed on the progress at the UPS Rockford facility
- Meet UPS staff and tour the 3rd largest UPS Air Hub which allows Rockford to get product overnight to almost 30 percent of the nation.
- See why Rockford has been identified as an ideal location for consolidation, destination, pool assembly and transfer point for products requiring just in time delivery.
- Discuss with UPS staff and your peers' economic development issues relative to Logistics & Distribution.



Don't miss this opportunity to tour this regional economic development asset.

RSVP by email to lhillis@rockfordil.com or by contacting Leilani Hillis at 815-987-8118 ext. 123.

Mark Your Calendars - SAVE THE DATES

The second quarterly membership meeting:
Wednesday June 3rd, 2009
11:45am - 1:30pm
Lasalle/Peru at Celebrations 150

FROM NORTH ON I-39:
Continue South on I-39 past I-80 Interchange to first exit (Route 6 to LaSalle/Ottawa);
Exit to right from I-39;
Turn Left on Route 6 across I-39 and follow Route 6 to Celebrations 150 (Local 150 Operating Engineers) on your right;
(Con-way Freight and J C Whitney will be across Route 6 to your left);

Enter through north entrance of building.

FROM EAST ON I-80:

Exit to right onto Route 178 (Luv's Truck Stop);

Turn left (south) on Route 178 and cross over I-80;

Continue South to Route 6. Turn Right on Route 6;

Celebrations 150 (Local 150 Operating Engineers) will be on your left;

(Con-way Freight and J C Whitney will be across Route 6 to your right);

Enter through north entrance of building.

Upcoming I-39 Membership Meetings:

- August 19th in Dekalb/Sycamore.

- Holiday Festivus will be held again on Thursday, October, 22nd, 2009

For More Information Contact:

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