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The following is the time-lagged edition of WIND ENERGY WEEKLY, Vol. 25, #1225, 26 January 2007, published by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). The currently-dated edition of the WEEKLY is provided as a member service to AWEA business members and is recommended for those with a serious commercial interest in wind (the time-lagged edition contains only excerpts). Also, a monthly publication, the WINDLETTER, more suitable for those interested in residential wind systems is available for a \$65/year individual contribution to the Association. For more information on the Association, contact AWEA, 1101 14th Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005, USA, phone (202) 383-2500, fax (202) 383-2505, email windmail@awea.org

WIND

ENERGY

WEEKLY

Vol. 25, #1225

26 January 2007

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AWEA REPORT: WIND POWER CAPACITY

GREW 27% IN 2006

Wind power generating capacity increased by 27% in 2006 and is expected to increase by an additional 26% in 2007, proving the energy resource is now a mainstream option for new power generation, according to a market forecast released January 23 by AWEA.

Wind's exponential growth reflects the nation's increasing demand for clean, safe, domestic energy, and continues to attract both private and public sources of capital, AWEA said. "iPods, flat screen televisions and other highly sought technologies are creating a demand for electricity that is beginning to eclipse our current supply," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher. "Wind is a proven, cost-effective source of energy that also alleviates global warming and enhances our nation's energy security."

The U.S. wind energy industry installed 2,454 MW of new generating capacity in 2006, an investment of approximately \$4 billion, billing wind as one of the largest sources of new power generation in the country—second only to natural gas—for the second year in a row. New wind farms boosted cumulative U.S. installed wind energy capacity by 27%

to 11,603 MW, well above the 10,000-MW milestone reached in August 2006. One megawatt of wind power produces enough electricity to serve 250 to 300 homes on average each day.

Wind energy facilities currently installed in the U.S. will produce an estimated 31 billion kWh annually or enough electricity to serve 2.9 million American homes. This 100% clean source of electricity will displace approximately 23 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, each year, which would otherwise be emitted by coal, natural gas, oil, and other traditional energy sources, AWEA said.

Wind power has also attracted the support of state and federal government legislatures. The U.S. Congress recently extended the federal production tax credit (PTC) through December 2008 to further expand the number of wind farms throughout the U.S. Based on the success of the PTC to date, AWEA is calling for extending the provision an additional five years.

"The industry has demonstrated a generous return on the investment of both private and public investment in wind," said Swisher. "Extending the PTC five years will significantly increase the progress America is making in expanding its use of new forms of energy when they've never been needed more."

The industry outlook also finds:

* Texas accounted for nearly a third of the new wind power installed in 2006, taking over the lead from California in cumulative installed capacity. Texas hosts the world's single largest operating wind farm, the 735-MW Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center, located in Nolan and Taylor counties.

* New wind turbine manufacturing facilities opened in 2006 in Iowa, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania, and additional announcements are expected in 2007-exemplifying how wind power creates jobs and will create even more jobs as the industry grows in the U.S. Investment in manufacturing capability signals confidence in the market and lays the groundwork for expanded growth.

* New utility-scale turbines were installed in a total of 20 states across the country, from Maine to New Mexico to Alaska.

* The top five states in new installations were Texas (774 MW), Washington (428 MW), California (212 MW), New York (185 MW) and Minnesota (150 MW).

AWEA gathers the data for its analysis each January by contacting wind farm developers and turbine manufacturers around the country. For more information, contact Christine Real de Azua, phone 202-383-2508, email Christine@awea.org. A state-by-state listing of existing and proposed wind energy projects is available on AWEA's Web site at www.awea.org/projects .

WISCONSIN PSC GIVES WE ENERGIES

WIND PROJECT GO-AHEAD

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) on January 25 unanimously voted to approve utility We Energies' Blue Sky Green Field wind project, which is located in the towns of Calumet and Marshfield in northeast Fond du Lac county.

The wind project is being designed to generate up to 203 MW of electricity, and will be capable of powering up to 45,000 average residential homes, the company said. The project will consist of approximately 88 wind turbines. Exact capacity for the project is not known at this point because the company has yet to finalize a deal on a specific turbine model. "We're negotiating with a vendor right now," Wind Farm Project Manager Andy Hesselbach told Wind Energy Weekly. "Hopefully in the not-to-distant future we'll have that done."

PSCW will issue a final written order outlining the approval in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2007 or early 2008 depending on equipment availability. The project is expected to cost up to \$400 million.

Renewable energy advocates welcomed the PSCW decision. "We couldn't agree more completely with PSC Chairman Dan Ebert when he said that We

Energies' project is an important step in meeting the goal of generating 10% of the state's electricity from renewables by 2010," said Michael Vickerman, executive director of RENEW Wisconsin, a Madison-based non-profit promoter of renewable electricity generation. According to Vickerman, the project is to be built in the state's most productive location for large-scale wind development. "We Energies is now widely recognized as a utility leader in pushing renewable energy forcefully into the energy mainstream," he said.

OLIVER WIND II ELECTRICITY TO BE HEADED
FOR MINNESOTA POWER CONSUMERS

Minnesota Power plans to expand its use of wind-generated electricity through the long-term purchase of all of the energy and capacity from a 48-MW wind facility proposed to be built and owned by FPL Energy in central North Dakota, Minnesota Power announced.

The Oliver Wind II Energy Center is to be located adjacent to the 50.6-MW Oliver Wind I Energy Center near Center, N.D. The Oliver Wind I Energy Center began commercial operation in December 2006, with Minnesota Power purchasing all of the output under a long-term agreement. The Oliver Wind II Energy Center is expected to be operational by the end of 2007, contingent on regulatory and other approvals.

The Oliver Wind II Energy Center is expected to consist of 32 General Electric 1.5-MW wind turbines. The facility would be capable of generating enough electricity to power approximately 15,000 homes, the company said in a news release. Minnesota Power, an Allete subsidiary, also said that the agreement brings the utility yet another step closer to reaching Minnesota's 10% renewable energy objective by the year 2015.

"We look forward to working with FPL Energy once again on a wind energy facility," said Allete CEO Don Shippar. "This project is consistent with Minnesota Power's strategy of building a more diversified generation portfolio."

TEHACHAPI TRANSMISSION LINE

CLEARED TO CARRY WIND POWER TO LOAD CENTERS

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) board of directors gave a unanimous thumbs-up to the \$1.8 billion expansion of the transmission grid in the Tehachapi area of Southern California, a project that will help link wind resources in the area to load centers.

The project, the ISO said, will help California utilities comply with the state's renewable portfolio standard of obtaining 20% of its power from renewables by 2010. The transmission line "will provide substantial benefits to Californians for many years to come through reduced crowding on area power lines, enhanced grid reliability in the region, and enabling development of a new region with large wind and other renewable energy resources," said ISO Board Chair Mason Willrich.

The Tehachapi project will come online in phases, with the first phase operational by 2009 and the full project online in 2013. Southern California Edison on December 21 signed a 1,500-MW wind power purchase agreement with Alta Windpower, LLC-the largest-ever such agreement signed by a U.S. utility; the power generated is to come from the Alta Wind Energy Center, which will be located in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles, Calif. (see Wind Energy Weekly #1221).

In addition to carrying wind power, the project will also carry electricity generated from solar and geothermal resources.

"This reflects a lot of hard work by a number of developers, renewable energy advocates, and utilities cooperating in order to comply with the RPS," said AWEA Policy Director Rob Gramlich. "The key is that the facilities are part of the integrated network which means costs can be shared by all users as opposed to the generators alone. Having a regional transmission planner helps combine multiple transmission needs so that developing new areas can be accomplished through expansion of the integrated network."

NORTHERN TIER TRANSMISSION GROUP

INCLUDES FIVE UTILITIES

Taking action to bring greater cohesion and enhancement to their transmission systems, five utilities announced that they are teaming up to launch the Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG) to improve overall operation and expansion of the high-voltage network that delivers power to consumers in seven western states.

A steering committee composed of not only senior utility executives but state agency officials will lead the entity, which includes both investor-owned and public power utilities: Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Idaho Power, Northwestern Energy, PacifiCorp, and the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems. Their territories cover all or parts of the transmission system in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Washington, and California.

NTTG is the second transmission planning organization being formed in less than a year in the region, although the geographic area covered by the two organizations differs. ColumbiaGrid, an entity formed by the Bonneville Power Administration and public power utilities, was launched in the first part of 2006.

NTTG has organized around three work agendas: improving available transmission capacity, expediting "actionable" planning for transmission grid expansion, and collaborating on control-area operations. A detailed plan for sharing key control area operations was developed by several NTTG members in conjunction with British Columbia Transmission Corp. Western Electricity Coordinating Council and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff have recently reviewed the plan, NTTG said. NTTG is not a formal transmission organization, but it is "committed to the fundamental principle of observing FERC policy, such as implementation of the emerging Order 888 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking," the organization said in a news release.

All indications are that NTTG plans to hit the ground running. "I think this group is very focused on doing," spokesman Robert Kahn told Wind

Energy Weekly. "We're talking about getting things done quickly and tangibly."

The formation of NTTG appears to be good news for wind, said industry advocates. The prospect of "opening up the black box of available transmission capacity," as Renewable Northwest Senior Policy Analyst Natalie McIntire said, making progress on transmission planning, and addressing Area Control Error (ACE) issues (that is, keeping loads and generation balanced) are all topics of interest to the wind energy industry. "I think all these things will have positive benefits for wind," she told Wind Energy Weekly.

TRANSMISSION INTEREST HEATS UP

IN TEXAS, MIDWEST

Transmission activity-in the form of both regulatory work and business deals-took center stage in Texas and the Midwest recently, with wind power at least in part driving the action.

ITC makes Midwest play

Through a newly formed subsidiary, transmission company ITC Holding Corp., acquired the transmission assets of Alliant Energy subsidiary Interstate Power and Light Co. (IP&L) for \$750 million.

ITC, which in August formed subsidiary ITC Great Plains in part to help tap wind energy resources in southwestern Kansas (see Wind Energy Weekly #1203), said the new subsidiary created by the IP&L transmission acquisition, ITC Midwest, would invest in new lines linking wind resources in the region to the grid. "The acquisition of IP&L's transmission assets supports ITC Holdings' continued mission to rebuild and invest in the electric transmission infrastructure for the benefit of customers through improved reliability and enhanced access to the competitive energy marketplace," said ITC Holdings CEO Joseph Welch. "End-use consumers will be the true beneficiaries of this acquisition as we remain steadfast in our commitment to enhance electric reliability and further enable the development and growth of renewable energy resources."

The acquisition, the company said, will allow ITC Holdings to rebuild and strengthen the transmission grid in Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. IP&L, meanwhile, said the proceeds from the sale would help it fund a new 100-MW wind facility in Iowa in addition to a 600-MW coal-fired plant in that state.

With stakes high, CREZ case draws attention

The Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) case in Texas received a heavy volume of attention, with more than 50 entities signing up to participate in the proceeding that will decide what area or areas will be designated as CREZs, which are the state's designation, for transmission planning purposes, for suitable land possessing a renewable resource. Entities participating include transmission providers, electric companies, local economic development organizations, and at least 21 wind developers.

Much is at stake in the CREZ case and with respect to Texas wind potential in general. The Austin, Texas-based Wind Coalition pointed to some noteworthy recent studies by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) suggesting that every \$1 billion invested in transmission enables development of \$6 billion of new wind farms. A \$1 billion investment also shaves more than \$10 billion from long-term conventional fuel costs and reduces emissions of pollution and greenhouse gases by more than 100 million tons. A recent assessment from ERCOT also identified more than 130,000 MW—an amount capable of producing more electricity than the entire state currently uses—of high-quality wind sites in Texas, the Wind Coalition noted.

AEP, MidAmerican move forward with Texas transmission JV

American Electric Power and MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company announced the formation of Electric Transmission Texas, LLC, (ETT) as a joint venture to build transmission facilities in Texas. ETT filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas on January 22 for approval to operate as an electric transmission utility in the state.

The companies also executed a participation agreement creating the framework for ETT to build and own new transmission facilities within ERCOT. Among the catalysts for the venture cited: renewables and the CREZs. "There is a critical need to expand the Texas electric transmission grid to meet growing energy demands, reduce congestion, and support development of the Competitive Renewable Energy Zones being established in Texas," said Calvin Crowder, executive

director of the joint venture, in a statement. "The creation of this transmission utility company, backed by the expertise and assets of two leading utilities, is the right approach to accelerate construction of additional, much-needed transmission infrastructure in Texas."

The companies anticipate in excess of \$1 billion in projects could be included in the new company during the next several years.

CORPORATE-NGO CLIMATE CHANGE PRINCIPLES

OUTLINED AHEAD OF SENATE HEARING

A group of noteworthy corporations and leading environmental organizations announced an alliance formed to push the federal government toward enacting strong national legislation aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP) includes such prominent corporate names as Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, DuPont, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, PG&E, and PNM Resources, along with four leading non-governmental organizations-Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, and World Resources Institute.

In announcing the alliance, USCAP issued A Call for Action, a set of principles and recommendations, which notes that a national mandatory policy on climate change will provide the basis for the U.S. to assert world leadership in environmental and energy technology innovation. Recognizing the importance of technology as one of the six principles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions cost effectively, the report points out there are a number of currently available technologies "that emit little or no GHGs," including wind. "The cost-effective deployment of existing technologies to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions should be a priority, as it will yield emission reductions in the near term while new technologies are developed," the report states.

The formation of USCAP and release of its recommendations come at a timely moment politically: a closed Senate hearing on climate change regulations is scheduled for January 30. Echoing many similar principles, AWEA worked through the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) to send a letter to all Senators in advance of the hearing stating that to be most effective, "a federal program should integrate energy and environmental policy" and that "any federal climate change program should place existing clean energy technologies at the center of compliance strategies." Like the USCAP recommendations, the BCSE letter underscores the availability of current technology to fight global warming. "There are many solutions available today that should be explicitly encouraged in any climate change program to achieve early emission reductions, reduce our nation's future carbon liability, and mitigate the cost of achieving long-term reduction goals," the letter states.

In addition to suggesting that deployment of existing technologies should be a priority, the USCAP report calls for the consideration of additional incentives if the near-term carbon price signal is insufficient. That principle supports a recommendation highlighted in the BCSE letter for allocating allowance value to clean energy and energy efficiency technologies within the context of a greenhouse gas trading program. The letter specifically states that this can be achieved through an output-based allowance allocation method, clean energy set-aside allowance pool or other revenue-generating mechanism.

"While new carbon reduction technologies are being developed today, deployable renewable energy technologies such as wind energy currently exist that can provide zero-emission electricity generation and emission displacement," said AWEA Policy Analyst Liz Salerno. "For wind energy and other non-polluting renewable energy sources to be deployed and create cost-effective emission reductions, it is necessary that they be explicitly recognized in a national greenhouse gas program, and be provided a clear price signal for investment."

DEADLINE APRIL 30 FOR ILLINOIS

SMALL-WIND GRANT APPS

Under the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's just-released guidelines for its fiscal year 2007

Renewable Energy Resources Small-Wind Grant Program, the department is providing up to 50% of eligible project costs for small wind energy conversion systems. The maximum grant is \$25,000.

The department will review applications, which will be accepted through April 30; it reserves the right to negotiate lower funding amounts, the department said. The primary focus of the Renewable Energy Grant Program for 2007 is to fund projects centered around increasing the utilization of renewable energy technologies in Illinois, while the focus of the Small Wind Grant Program is to demonstrate the use of small wind energy conversion systems for energy generation in the state.

For more information, contact William S. Haas, e-mail William.haas@illinois.gov , phone 312-814-4763.

PARTNER SOUGHT FOR

NEW YORK BIRD AND BAT MONITORING

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is seeking proposals from "knowledgeable and objective organizations and firms" interested in designing and conducting a post-construction bird and bat monitoring program at the Maple Ridge Wind Farm in Lewiston County, N.Y.

The information gained from the program is to assist in the accurate and cost-effective determination of impacts to birds and bats at wind facility sites in the state, relate those impacts to predicted numbers based on pre-construction monitoring, and provide findings to others interested in assessing impacts on wildlife at wind facilities.

The request for proposals (RFP) seeks a monitoring project including radar studies at Maple Ridge covering 2007 and 2008 spring and fall migration seasons (April 15-June 15 and August 1-November 15). Findings from those efforts will be compared to pre-construction radar monitoring activities. Acoustical monitors will also be used to detect bat activity; further, if available funding permits, the RFP also seeks optional studies to supplement the radar studies, such as visual data collection methods (e.g., spotlighting and use of infrared goggles at night), breeding bird surveys, and daytime surveys of raptors, waterfowl, and potentially other bird species.

For the full solicitation, go to www.nyserda.org, or submit your request to Roseanne Viscusi, e-mail rdv@nyserda.org, fax 518-862-1091. Technical questions should be directed to Mark Watson, mwl@nyserda.org, phone 518-862-1090 ext. 3314. Contractual questions should be directed to Diane Vogel, e-mail drv@nyserda.org, phone 518-862-1090 ext. 3299.

U.S. WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

HONORS STODDARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

AWEA awarded its annual Wind Energy Lifetime Achievement Award to the late Forrest (Woody) Stoddard, a visionary wind energy leader, teacher, and pioneer. Stoddard passed away on January 25.

The award was presented in recognition of years of outstanding industry leadership and support. "The U.S. wind energy industry is proud to present this award to a man who was a passionate, inspiring expert to whom we owe so much: Woody Stoddard," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher. "In addition to his many engineering achievements, Woody nurtured talent and instilled enthusiasm for wind energy technology in students and colleagues alike. AWEA offers its condolences to Woody's family during this time. He will be greatly missed by the entire wind power industry."

Stoddard was the lead developer of the 25-kW Windfurnace at the University of Massachusetts in the mid 1970s. It was the largest operating wind turbine at the time. During the project Stoddard became

the mentor of many engineers who graduated from the UMass renewable energy program and who eventually filled the growing ranks of the industry. The WindFurnace itself laid the engineering groundwork for the commercial wind turbines later deployed by US Windpower (which later became Kenetech Windpower) in California.

"Stoddard helped lay a foundation of design tools at a time when the nascent wind energy industry barely had any at all, and his PhD thesis from the mid-70s remains the state of the art of wind turbine dynamic analysis," said AWEA Board Member and fellow engineer Brian McNiff. "Since that time, he was a strong, principled voice promoting wind energy development and research, and a major contributor to wind energy's success."

The award comes at a time when wind turbines are popping up in record numbers across the country. U.S. wind energy generating capacity increased by 27% in 2006 and is expected to increase an additional 26% in 2007, proving wind is now a mainstream option for new power generation, according to AWEA's annual market status report. Wind's growth reflects the nation's increasing demand for clean, safe and domestic energy.

"What Woody did for us, we American engineers of all disciplines who made our careers in wind, is believe in us, making us feel we were part of something good, something useful, and a hopeful future," said Walter Sass, founder of Second Wind, Inc., with whom Stoddard worked on a project testing turbines. "He made us feel we were-and are-part of wind power."

ASSET MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP:

INDUSTRY HINGES ON THE COMPONENTS

Wind turbines only provide value if they produce electricity.

That was the underlying message at the second annual AWEA Wind Power Asset Management Workshop. And while the notion is seemingly obvious,

the 285 attendees at the January 23-24 event in San Diego, Calif., came to understand all the more that in this rapidly evolving business and technology environment, the process of properly operating and maintaining wind turbines can be complex-but the rewards can be significant.

Clearly, there is an appetite for asset management content within the wind power industry: attendance at this year's event jumped 73% over last year's inaugural workshop.

In San Diego, Program Chair Pat Caramante, vice president at Garrad Hassan America, offered a comprehensive look at wind farm operation by tying together such disparate issues and functions as operation, maintenance, and health and safety. McNiff Light Industry President Brian McNiff, an AWEA board member, articulated the variety of maintenance schedules that need to be pursued: routine maintenance, predictive maintenance (based on routine monitoring), and proactive maintenance (removing root causes of failure). From there, speakers and participants drilled deeper down into the discipline. Some of the highlights:

Condition monitoring and component performance. Researchers from Sandia National Laboratories (Roger Hill) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Sandy Butterfield) explained the value of component "condition monitoring"-specifically, regularly sampling fluids and characteristics from the wind turbines. That data collected, speakers warned, is only meaningful if it is analyzed in the context of a larger data set of component failures. In order to establish a database of component performance in the field, the AWEA Operation and Maintenance Working Group and Sandia National Laboratories are developing a plan to collect selected data from operating wind farms in order to establish a baseline component durability database. Additional information on this plan will be distributed as it is developed.

Forecasting. The wind resource itself may influence operating procedures of wind farms, speakers said. Though forecasting obviously is of great value to utilities integrating wind energy into their generation mix (which WindLogics CEO Mark Ahlstrom reported would cost less than \$4/MWh if 25% of Minnesota's electricity is supplied by wind power), it also allows wind farm operators to schedule maintenance at safe times during periods of low power output. One noteworthy point that came out of the discussion: wind turbine components actually experience greater stress in U.S. installations than their European counterparts, due to higher annual average operating capacity in new U.S. installations (over 35%) vs. European installations (18-25%), reported Thomas Jonsson, business manager for wind at Momentas.

Contracts and legal. AWEA Board President Ed Zaelke of Morgan of Lewis & Bockius, LLP, and Paul Brown of Myers-Reynolds, pointed out that contractual and legal conditions may also dictate operating procedures of wind farms. For instance, depending on the definitions contained in contracts, operation and maintenance time, including component replacement time, may impact compliance with contractual turbine availability requirements. Regardless of the challenges and risks of operating wind projects in the U.S., Todd Wilen announced that Acciona Wind Energy USA intends to build a U.S. manufacturing plant in 2007 that will include an operator training program.

Wildlife, grassroots. At the workshop AWEA Communications and Policy Specialist Laurie Jodziewicz and Grassroots Outreach Coordinator Bree Raum also armed participants with factual information concerning the impact of wildlife issues on operations, AWEA outreach and information programs, and political action opportunities-including how to make Congressional contacts to support HR 197, which would extend the federal production tax credit through 2013.

PowerPoint presentations from the workshop will be available on a CD for sale in a couple of weeks. Go to www.aweastore.com for more information.

WIND ENERGY

NEWS ROUNDUP

Wind Energy Weekly considering move to Monday

Based on feedback from its new public relations partner, AWEA is considering moving the release day of the Wind Energy Weekly from Friday evening to early Monday morning, well prior to business hours so that members will have the most recent industry news awaiting them when they arrive at work for the week. If you have concerns about this change, please contact Communications Editor Carl Levesque, email clevesque@awea.org .

AWS Truewind move mirrors industry growth

AWS Truewind is moving, and the company said that's a reflection of the growing wind power industry. The current company staff size represents a quadrupling in the past six years, AWS said. "[T]his move is indicative of the current status of the wind industry in North America," said Communications Manager Amber Leith. AWS's new home will remain in the capital region of New York state. (For address information, go to www.awstruewind.com .)

AWEA Legislative Director named to Interior Dept. Committee

U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne named Jaime Steve, AWEA's Legislative Director, to be on the department's Outer Continental Shelf Policy Committee. Laurie Jodziewicz, AWEA's Communications and Policy Specialist, will be Steve's alternate.

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