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Contacts:

Heather Rhoads-Weaver, eFormative Options
206 755-2064, hrw@eformativeoptions.com

Rochelle Olson, Energy Northwest
509-377-4728, rgolson@energy-northwest.com

Karen Conover, DNV Global Energy Concepts
206 387-4200, karen.conover@dnv.com

Marc Krasnowsky, NW Energy Coalition
425 281-0668, marc@nwenergy.org

Feds to fund 3 Washington wind energy research projects

\$570,000 will support workforce development and market acceptance

Washington state-based DNV Global Energy Concepts, eFormative Options LLC, and Energy Northwest will receive U.S. Department of Energy grants totaling nearly \$570,000 to address wind power development challenges identified in DOE's "20% Wind Energy by 2030" report.

NW Energy Coalition executive director Sara Patton praised the awards, which will fund projects on effective marketing and workforce development.

"We must use more and more new renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet growing power needs, satisfy our climate responsibilities and help build our clean-energy economy," Patton said. "Overcoming barriers to wind power development is critical at this time, and I'm pleased to see these firms participating in that effort."

DNV-GEC's project, "**Knowledge Boosting Program for New Wind Industry Professionals**," will support DOE's 20% by 2030 goal by addressing the training needs of new workforce entrants into the wind industry. The project includes the development of a training curriculum targeted at recent graduates of engineering or science programs; re-training technical professionals experienced in other industries; and providing guidance to business, government, or policymakers whose functions require a better understanding of wind energy's background, technology, performance, risks, and future capabilities.

As the leading U.S. wind energy engineering and risk management service organization and as a long time participant in the U.S. wind energy industry, DNV-GEC has a unique perspective into the education and skills necessary for technical professionals to successfully enter and participate in the wind industry.

"DNV-GEC has experienced significant growth over the past 4 years which has resulted in development of certain internal training materials and processes for new staff", said Kevin Smith, DNV-GEC's Principal Investigator for the project. "The need to train personnel exists throughout the wind industry and our success in the future depends on increasing the number of people available to support wind energy's projected growth."

Several key wind industry companies have agreed to participate in the project and provide guidance on the curriculum development. Industry partners include Horizon Wind Energy, LLC; Edison Mission Energy; and John Deere Renewables. In addition to developing a 'knowledge boosting' curriculum,

DNV-GEC will also create and distribute a Guidance Document for implementing the curriculum and will outline a certification framework through which other programs can be evaluated.



DOE wind energy research grants

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eFormative Options LLC, a NW Energy Coalition member organization based on Vashon Island, will receive \$200,000 to develop a Web-based analytic tool and guidebook to help utilities and policymakers promote on-site wind generation. The project, **“Power Through Policy: Best Practices for Cost-Effective Distributed Wind,”** will identify the most effective policies for making consumer-owned wind turbines more affordable.

The Web tool will measure the impact of various policy combinations on the cost of energy, and highlight state and utility markets for small wind turbines that offer the quickest return on investment.

“Distributed wind will play an important role in reaching the 20% by 2030 goal,” said eFormative principal Heather Rhoads-Weaver. “With increasing use of electric vehicles, wind turbines sited near the point of use, such as parking lots and truck stops, can quickly ramp up to meet local demand. Our project will help ensure public dollars supporting this valuable technology are spent wisely.”

While rebates and incentives have been important drivers for distributed wind technology, other policies have hindered market growth. “Our own state is a good example of various policies working against each other,” explained Rhoads-Weaver. “While Washington’s production payment for small-scale renewables has successfully ramped up solar installations, our small wind market is still bogged down by permitting obstacles. Our project will spotlight such policy gaps.”

eFormative’s project partners include two federal labs, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory; two non-profits, the North Carolina Solar Center and Windustry; and two additional small businesses, Pathfinder Communications and Artisan Electric.

Energy Northwest’s project, **“20% Wind by 2030: Overcoming the Challenges,”** leverages the agency’s half-century of experience of helping Washington’s public power electric utility interests develop economically viable wind power assets to serve the needs of Northwest ratepayers.

Selection for \$100,000 funding under this DOE grant program expands the agency’s ability to promote wind power development within the public power community and advances development of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible power.

“The Energy Northwest team is pleased to contribute to furthering regional wind development and other renewable energy projects. Maintaining the region’s economic well being and high quality of life requires our best efforts to improve existing technologies and field increasingly reliable and productive wind power systems,” said Energy Northwest CEO Vic Parrish.

As a Washington Joint Operating Agency, Energy Northwest works to aggregate the needs of public utilities whose individual resources and needs don’t justify commercial-scale wind power development. By overcoming the challenges and complexities of multi-party ownership and operation, Energy Northwest effectively promotes renewable energy development and increases the availability of at-cost wind power options for their 25 public power members.

The highly successful Nine Canyon Wind Project in southeastern Washington is an excellent example of Energy Northwest’s past success in managing the needs of multiple public agencies and utilities.



From U.S. DOE press release: May 6, 2009

DOE Selects 53 New Projects Focused on Wind Energy for up to \$8.5 Million

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Steven Chu today announced selection of 53 new wind energy projects for up to \$8.5 million in total DOE funding. These projects will help begin to address market and deployment challenges identified in DOE's 2008 report: "20% Wind Energy by 2030." Increasing wind energy generation will be a critical factor in achieving the Obama Administration's goals for clean energy, while also supporting new green jobs. Secretary Chu made the announcement by video at the WindPower 2009 Conference in Chicago this week.

"Wind energy is one of our most promising renewable energy sources," said Secretary Chu. That's why I'm pleased to make this announcement today. By continuing to make investments in renewable energy we can cut our dependence on foreign oil and invest in a clean energy agenda that creates jobs and puts money back into the pockets of consumers."

The "20% Wind Energy by 2030" report found that the Nation possesses affordable wind energy resources in excess of those needed to generate 20% of U.S. electricity needs. The report also identified major challenges including: investment in a national transmission system; larger electric load balance areas and better regional planning; reduction in wind turbine capital costs; improvement of turbine performance; siting and environmental issues; and workforce development. The full report is available from the [Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program](#).

Selections are being announced today in four topic areas: market acceptance, environmental impact, workforce development, and distributed wind technology. Selections of two additional topic areas (supporting wind turbine research and testing and transmission analysis; planning and assessments) will be announced at a later date. Award amounts listed below are subject to negotiation.

Market Acceptance:

- **eFormative Options, LLC (Vashon, WA)** - *Power Through Policy: 'Best Practices' for Cost-Effective Distributed Wind* - **\$200,000**
- **Energy Northwest (Richland, WA)** - *20% Wind by 2030: Overcoming the Challenges* - **\$100,000**

Workforce Development:

- **DNV Global Energy Concepts Inc. (Seattle, WA)** - *Knowledge Boosting Program for New Wind Industry Professionals* - **\$269,691**

For full listing of 53 awards see <http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7381.htm>

Background on eFormative Options, LLC

Founded in 2005, eFormative Options LLC provides strong project management, guidance, and facilitation to initiate and advance sustainable ventures, specializing in small-scale and community wind and solar systems. eFormative's development, market research and policy services include:

- Launching new ventures, building momentum and increasing capacity
- Grant writing, feasibility research and due diligence evaluations
- Evaluating economic impacts, financial modeling
- Data collection/market surveys & GIS overlays
- Siting and zoning guidelines, community consultation
- Strategic planning, work plan & budget design
- Facilitation, building consensus among utilities, investors, consumers and other stakeholders

eFormative's key personnel provide a solid foundation of technical expertise, economic analysis, and marketing insight with more than 13 years of relevant experience in the field. Heather Rhoads-Weaver, founder of eFormative Options, LLC, is a nationally recognized expert on distributed wind policy issues, with experience conducting numerous distributed analysis projects. She was awarded the 2006 "Small Wind Advocate of the Year" by DOE/NREL's Wind Powering America Program, served as the American Wind Energy Association's Small Wind Advocate for five years, and was the founding Executive Director of Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED).

eFormative's recent projects have included supporting the Coastal Community Action Program's planned 6 MW wind project near Grayland, WA, to secure financing, required permits and interconnection agreement; assisting ICF International, NREL, and the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) with small wind market analysis studies including preparing growth projections and identifying key technical market barriers, consumer motivations and drivers, "deal killers" and detailed policy recommendations; preparing small wind siting guidelines and model zoning bylaws for the California Energy Commission (CEC), New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and CanWEA; reviewing experiences and challenges with local wind energy permitting throughout North America to provide guidance for better integrating small wind systems into local communities to serve the growing demand for on-site renewable energy.

In addition, eFormative has coordinated stakeholder participation, industry surveys, and organizational plan development to support the launch of the Small Wind Certification Council (SWCC). The SWCC will establish a testing review process and consumer-friendly rating system for residential-scale wind turbines providing a common North American standard for reporting turbine energy and sound performance, durability, and safety requirements to allow consumers to compare products, funding agencies and utilities to gain more confidence that small turbines installed with public assistance are safe and perform as expected, and the industry to gain credibility and consumer confidence.

A description of our approach and recent work samples can be found at:
www.eformativeoptions.com.



About Energy Northwest

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state Joint Operating Agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, Energy Northwest has 25 public power members; 21 public utility districts and four municipalities. The consortium's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar projects deliver nearly 1,300 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services. On the Net: www.energy-northwest.com

About DNV-Global Energy Concepts



MANAGING RISK

DNV Global Energy Concepts (DNV-GEC) was formed in 2008 following the acquisition of Global Energy Concepts by Det Norske Veritas (DNV). The company is a leader in providing technical services to the wind industry and has conducted direct work on wind projects representing more than half of the new installed wind energy capacity in the U.S. As part of the Cleaner Energy group of DNV Energy, the company supports the industry with a broad range of services – from initial site selection and wind resource assessment to power performance testing and financial due diligence for investors. In addition to our U.S. offices in Seattle, Washington, and Lowell, Massachusetts, DNV has wind energy competence centers in Copenhagen, Oslo, and London.

DNV is a global provider of risk management services, helping customers to safely and responsibly improve their business performance. As an independent foundation, DNV's purpose is safeguarding life, property and the environment. Through its network of 300 offices in 100 countries, the company serves a range of industries, with a special focus on the maritime and energy sectors, combining its technology expertise with its industry knowledge. DNV's wind centers draw on technical expertise throughout the company to deliver its services. Additional information is available at www.dnv.com and www.globalenergyconcepts.com.