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*May 2015*

## AFCEC utility rates team saves hydropower, money for Vance AFB

By Kevin Elliott  
AFCEC Public Affairs

*Photo courtesy Southwestern Power Administration*

An innovative electricity contract between Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, has already saved the base almost \$200,000 in projected energy costs in its first six months by preserving a crucial hydropower allocation.

What makes this agreement unique, however, are the circumstances that necessitated the deliberations in the beginning.

Vance had previously been part of a three-party wholesale power sales

agreement with the Southwestern Power Administration and OG&E for delivery of hydropower to the base. However, changes to regional electricity markets and corporate policies at both SWPA and OG&E made it impossible to renew the existing contractual arrangements, which were set to expire in May 2014.

The hydropower provided by SWPA was used to offset the base's peak energy requirements. Without that renewable supply, Vance's peak energy would need to be provided by OG&E under a

separate thermal power sales agreement, costing the base roughly twice as much.

SWPA was unable to serve the full requirements of Vance's electric load, and OG&E was unable to enter into a follow-on power sales agreement, putting the installation's entire hydropower allocation in jeopardy, said Nancy Coleal, utility rate management team chief at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center.

After being informed of the possible contract termination by SWPA, Vance reached out to AFCEC's URMT for help

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# Obama visits Hill AFB to talk economy, solar industry jobs

By Bryan Magaña  
419th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

President Barack Obama spoke at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, recently during his first visit to the state as commander in chief.

The president addressed a group of Utah elected officials, base leadership, and news media in front of Hill's solar array to announce a program called Solar Ready Vets which seeks to train veterans for jobs in the solar industry.

"What I'm doing here today is highlighting the fact that the solar industry is actually adding jobs 10 times faster than the rest of the economy," Obama said.

Hill AFB will join nine other bases across the country to help meet the administration's goal to train 75,000 workers to enter the solar industry by 2020. The initiative targets military personnel transitioning to the civilian workforce.

Obama said he plans to work with states to enable more veterans to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for solar job training.

"We've got to be relentless in our work to grow the economy and create good jobs," Obama said. "I think everybody here at Hill understands that one of the most important aspects of national security is strong economic security."

Obama said the new program is one of many steps to help nearly 700,000 veterans and military spouses get jobs.

Hill is "leading by example" by receiving 20 percent or more of its overall energy from renewable sources, he said.

"It was an honor to host the commander in chief during his visit to Utah," said Col. Ron Jolly, 75th Air Base Wing installation commander. "We take pride in the energy initiatives we have underway here, and we were able to showcase them during his visit."

The base's solar panels were completed in June 2009, making it Utah's largest ground-mounted photovoltaic system at the time.

Since taking office, the president has launched several initiatives to advance clean and renewable energy. Solar



Ready Vets will help create more jobs, cut carbon pollution, and make the country safer and more energy independent, he said.

Cutting energy costs will leave more money for training and equipment to ensure the U.S. military can do its job, he added.

The president noted that since 2008, solar energy in America has increased twenty fold.

*Photo: President Barack Obama speaks to a group of Utah elected officials, base leadership and news media at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. (U.S. Air Force photo/R. Nial Bradshaw/Released)*





**AF celebrates  
Earth Day  
by focusing on  
mission today  
and tomorrow**

# Earth Day

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U . S . A I R F O R C E 2015

***Conserve Today. Secure Tomorrow.***

By Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

Air Force leaders reminded Airmen to keep the mission in mind as the Air Force observed the 45th annual Earth Day April 22.

The service encouraged Airmen around the globe to focus on recycling efforts this year, in line with its 2015 theme, "Conserve Today – Secure Tomorrow."

"Air Force bases and installations depend as much on reliable environmental infrastructure -- things like solid ground to build our runways on, healthy watersheds to keep our drinking water clean, intact forests to clean our air--as they depend on manmade infrastructure, like buildings and hangars," said Miranda Ballentine, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy. "For Earth Day 2015, we're reinvigorating the concept of 'recycling'.

Airmen have a history of seeing

solutions where others see problems, and when we look at garbage, we don't see 'trash,' we see raw materials that need a new home, whether that's tin and aluminum cans that could be put rebuilt into the new products, or paper packaging that could reduce the number of trees that need to be cut."

The Defense Department recognized the Air Force's ingenuity in finding environmental solutions April 21, by awarding Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, with the 2015 Environmental Award for Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation. The award recognizes the efforts of industrial installations to ensure mission accomplishment and protection of human health in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Among the accomplishments at Robins was the base's Qualified Recycling Program, which recycled more than 2,200 tons of recyclables and

diverted 87.2 percent of its construction and demolition solid waste from the land-fill in fiscal year 2014. Robins also generated over \$460,000 in total revenue from the resale of recycled materials.

In addition to Robins AFB's exceptional performance, Air Force bases across the world are finding new ways to utilize materials that would otherwise be considered waste.

"We need to be environmental stewards, and recycling is an easy way to make a positive contribution," said Alfredo Garza, the 2nd Civil Engineer Squadron recycling manager at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. "Today, Barksdale personnel recycle more than 35 different types of items from paper and cardboard to materials such as concrete, asphalt, scrap metal, batteries, electronics, tires and used oil."

At Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the recycling program has seen an increase in volume from 450,000 pounds

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Photo: Miri Skylen Chang, Amelia Earhart Intermediate School student, poses with her winning submission for the 718th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental office's Earth Day art contest on Kadena Air Base, Japan, April 17. The contest, which was open to students at all Kadena schools, was intended to raise awareness for environmental conservation. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Zade C. Vadnais/Released)

### EARTH DAY *cont.*

annually 14 years ago to approximately 1.2 million pounds per quarter today, said Jesse Salinas, the Qualified Recycling Program manager. Recycling efforts at Barksdale, Lackland and other Air Force installations provide savings to fuel the force across the globe. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one ton of recycled mixed office paper saves 380 gallons of oil. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to run a TV for three hours, or longer if it's an LCD or LED model.

The DOD's strategic sustainability performance plan calls upon all branches of service to divert 55 percent of non-hazardous solid waste and 100 percent of electronics waste. Although the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services manages disposal of Air Force-owned electronic equipment, Air Force leaders are encouraging Airmen to take action to conserve and recycle at home. The U.S. Postal Service's BlueEarth, a federal recycling program, provides individuals a safe and free method to dispose of personally owned electronic equipment.

"The message is simple," said Kevin Gabos, a Air Force pollution prevention subject matter expert at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. "If there are opportunities to reduce waste, take them."

In addition to recycling efforts, bases each hosted various events bringing Earth Day to Airmen's attention. Kadena Air Base, Japan, hosted an art competition for school children on base as well as a planned video contest and on-base jungle cleanup. Robins AFB will hold a photography competition highlighting interaction with local flora and fauna on base.

"We've made great progress across the Air Force in the past several years, but we still have a lot of work to do," Ballentine said. "Throwing a can into the recycling bin instead of the trash isn't just about taking care of the Earth, it's about sustaining 'fly, fight and win' for the years to come."

You can learn more about Air Force Earth Day efforts by visiting the Air Force Civil Engineer Center [website](#), or the Air Force Blue Acts of Green [Facebook page](#).

(Jennifer Schneider, Air Force Civil Engineer Center Public Affairs, contributed to this report)





## Water exec visits Hill, highlights UP success

By Kevin Elliott  
AFCEC Public Affairs

The president and chief executive officer of American Water, Inc., recently visited Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to highlight the company's role in the base's water and wastewater system privatization.

Susan N. Story met with Col. Ronald Jolly, 75th Air Base Wing commander, and visited the American Water contractors responsible for upgrading, operating and maintaining the base's water and wastewater systems.

American Water, the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company, was awarded the \$288 million utilities privatization contract January 2014 with a 50-year period of performance that started Sept. 1. As part of the agreement, American Water not only owns the systems, which were wholly conveyed to the company by the Air Force, but is also responsible for upgrading them to current industry standards.

"Maintaining utility systems is no longer a core competency of the Air Force," said Steven A. Wolpert, contracted utilities privatization manager at Air Force Materiel Command. "Utilities privatization allows military installations to obtain safe utility systems that meet current industry standards."

American Water plans to invest approximately \$3.6 million in its first three contract years to support the upgrade effort.

"The first year efforts include a major upgrade to one of our wells, as well as

other replacements and infrastructure improvements," said Mark Persico, primary contracting officer representative for the contract. "Over the next two to three months, projects include work on three sewage lift stations, 1,900 linear feet of sewer line, 13 pressure-reducing valves and replacement of 10 fire hydrants."

In addition to utilities infrastructure modernization, UP garners substantial cost savings for the Air Force.

"Private industry does this type of work day in and day out," said Rick Weston, UP program manager at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. "They can normally do it cheaper than we can."

The 1998 Defense Reform Initiative Directive 49 mandates all U.S. military installations privatize their utilities systems where feasible and economically viable. Since then, the Air Force has been in the process of privatizing most of the utility systems on its bases in the continental United States. Over the past 16 years, 66 systems have been privatized, amounting to a \$3.6 billion value and a cost avoidance of \$511 million for the Air Force.

To learn more about the Air Force utilities privatization program, visit the AFCEC UP page at <http://www.afcec.af.mil/energy/utilitiesprivatization/index.asp>.

*Photo: Susan N. Story, president and CEO of American Water Operation and Maintenance, Inc., met recently with Hill AFB's Deputy Commander for Maintenance, Col. Ronald Jolly. (U.S. Air Force photo/R. Nial Bradshaw/Released)*

VANCE cont.

with utility contract negotiation. The team partnered with private consulting firm Exeter Associates to find a solution and craft a new agreement before the existing contract ended.

"If the existing PDA was allowed to expire, OG&E would have had to sell peak demand energy to Vance at full retail customer rates," Coleal said. "That would have incurred a significant cost increase for the base, so we had to develop an innovative agreement rather quickly."

Relying on examples from other successful contract negotiations, AFCEC coordinated with Vance and OG&E to establish a special agreement under which the base would continue to receive its hydropower allocation.

"OG&E was supportive of Vance's continued receipt of the SWPA hydropower because they value the base as a customer and recognize its contribution to the local economy," said Christina Mudd of Exeter Associates. "Because SWPA provides an energy resource that is delivered during peak demand periods – a resource that, without Vance's allocation, may not otherwise be available to Oklahoma – OG&E recognized the agreement presented a win-win situation for Vance and OG&E's retail customers."

As with any special contract in Oklahoma, the Vance-OG&E agreement required approval from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Members of the Air Force Utilities Law Field Support Center and OG&E met with commissioners and staff from the Oklahoma Corporation, and the final approved contract was put into effect in June with a 10-year term.

"The Air Force appreciates the cooperation and participation of everyone involved in this negotiation," Coleal said. "Without the teamwork of people at Exeter Associates, Vance Air Force Base, OG&E, SWPA and the ULFSC, the Air Force would have lost a significant and affordable renewable energy source forever."



## Eglin solar array moves forward

Gulf Power Company announced recently that plans for a utility-scale solar array at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, have been approved by the Florida Public Service Commission.

The Eglin array will be situated on 240 acres of on-base property, and will be built by solar developer HelioSage Energy. Gulf Power will purchase the power generated by the facility and the land will be leased from the Air Force.

"In addition to Eglin receiving fair market value for lease of the land, this project offers the installation the potential for a higher level of energy security in the event of emergencies," said Brig. Gen. David Harris, 96th Test Wing commander.

[Click here to read more >>](#)



## BLCC download available

By Mike Giniger, P.E.  
AFCEC Energy Directorate

As the Air Force civil engineering community knows, the facility project selection process has changed, but energy and water conservation projects will continue to be validated and prioritized using the Building Life Cycle Cost analysis.

BLCC uses free software available from the Department of Energy Federal Energy Management Program to evaluate multiple facility designs and select the most cost effective design over the life of the facility, taking into account both initial construction costs and life cycle operating costs. The program also provides the savings-to-investment ratio and simple payback (or "break-even" point to recover the costs) based on the estimated costs and annual energy savings.

To use the software, the latest BLCC certification is required. Prior to use, the system's "approval to operate" must be

updated to include the latest software version.

The BLCC 5.x certification, (valid until February 14, 2016) may be downloaded from the Energy SharePoint by clicking below:

[Download BLCC 5.x certification](#)

The BLCC is available to government users by clicking below:

[Download BLCC](#)

It is critical for energy project supporting documentation to be standardized, simple and complete to present an understandable picture of the work planned and the estimated project costs and first-year annual energy savings (both million British Thermal Units and dollars).

The BLCC documents how a project's

estimated savings are derived and must be provided by the installation engineering team for the project to be approved.

Questions? Contact AFCEC's Energy Directorate at (850) 283-6546 or DSN 523-6546.







## New AFIT facility energy manager course available

The Air Force Institute of Technology is offering a new course for Air Force facility energy managers. The course provides knowledge and understanding of current energy policy and legislation and the responsibilities of base or major command energy managers.

Topics covered include metering and reporting, Energy Independence and Security Act Section 432 compliance, resource efficiency managers, utility commodity acquisition, energy projects, energy security and awareness and training. Students will be required to complete distance learning material prior to attending the course in-residence.

To learn more or to register for the class, click the button below.

[Click here to register >>](#)

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## SAF/IE completes inaugural Reddit AMA

Ever wonder what it would be like to ask a question directly to an Air Force assistant secretary? Well, that's exactly what some people got to do April 28 during a Reddit.com "Ask Me Anything" forum held by Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy Miranda Ballentine.

Participants asked Ballentine a wide range of questions, from "What do you think will be the main source of energy for aircraft in the future" to "What book

have you most often gifted others?" The session lasted about an hour.

AMAs have become increasingly popular over the last several years; famous writers, musicians and even President Obama have invited the public to ask them anything!

To read Ballentine's full AMA, click the button below.

[Click here to see the AMA >>](#)



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*The Energy Express is a publication of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Detachment 1, Tyndall AFB, Florida.*

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