THREE OCEAN ENERGY COUNCILS ORGANIZED

For well over a year there has been much discussion within the OTEC community regarding the need and desire for a collective voice. Late last summer a series of meetings were held in Washington DC toward this end. Minutes of those meetings were distributed to both TOL subscribers and others in mid-December, along with a questionnaire for the purpose of obtaining feedback from all facets of the OTEC community. Results of that questionnaire are published elsewhere in this issue.

The obvious enthusiasm for such an organization has resulted in the formulation of three separate bodies, with the possibility of a fourth, each with specific purposes but all directed toward a single objective: advocacy of an enlarged program by government and industry based on OTEC's potential for contributing to the world's energy needs.

These groups, in various stages of formulation, are: (1) an OTEC Users' Council, made up of utilities within the Southeast and Gulf States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico; (2) a Technical Advisory Committee of the Marine Technology Society (MTS) through their Committee on the Economic Potential of the Oceans (CEPO); (3) an Ocean Energy Council, to consist of private industry, researchers, organizations, and individuals; and (4) a possible DOE-sponsored group made up of government regulatory agencies. Undoubtedly the separate organizations will interface as they develop. Exactly how this will evolve is, of course, unclear at this early date, but such evolution is inevitable as Solar Ocean Energy/OTEC progresses.

In late February meeting in Washington with Bill Richards, Chief of the Ocean Systems Branch of DOE's Solar Energy Division, and the editor of TOL, Richards said he supports each of the four groups.

The Users' Council may be partially funded by DOE, although that decision had not been made as this issue of TOL went to press. The group of governmental regulatory agencies, including the EPA, MARAD, NOAA, the US Coast Guard, the US Navy, and others, would receive government funding, and in fact it is Richards himself who is exploring the formulation of this group. The MTS Committee and the Ocean Energy Council are to be privately funded.

Most developed at this point is the OTEC Users' Council, pulled together by David Shapiro, Director of Advanced Development of Tracor Incorporated. This group, which held an initial meeting February 9th in New Orleans, is made up of Hawaii Electric; in Texas: Gulf States Utilities, Houston Power and Light, Central Power and Light; Middle South Services: Arkansas Power and Light, Arkansas-Missouri Power and Light, Mississippi Power and Light, Louisiana Power and Light, New Orleans Public Service; Southern Companies Services: Mississippi Power, Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Florida Power, Florida Power and Light; and the Puerto Rico Resources Authority, the latter being "the lead utility" according to Shapiro.

At the initial meeting of the Users' Council, the following objectives were adopted: "(1) to assist the Department of Energy in updating the OTEC program plan from the users' standpoint, (2) to develop users' acquisition criteria for OTEC from the planning and purchasing aspects, (3) to focus on all of the technologies for OTEC-10 hardware in a credible demonstration with utility participation".

The next meeting of the OTEC Users' Council will take place at the Sixth Annual OTEC Conference, to be held in Washington DC in June.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have recently learned that the Department of Energy is presently planning on not requesting adequate funds to begin design and construction work on a 10- or 20-MW Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) pilot plant during Fiscal Year 1980. It was my earlier understanding, on the basis of hearings held before the Senate Subcommittee on Research and Development this past spring, that DOE intended to propose funding for the start of the pilot plant during Fiscal Year 1980.

As you may know, great strides have been made in OTEC technology during the past few years, workable solutions have now been proposed for all of the earlier defined problems, and needed hardware tests and preliminary design steps have been successfully completed on all major components.

Recently, the State of Hawaii and several firms began work on a mini-OTEC plant which will be the world's first working demonstration of this technology. Financed largely with State and private funds, this plant is expected to be in operation by next spring.

I strongly believe that OTEC has answered favorably every major question concerning its technological feasibility, and that full support should now be given to starting, in Fiscal 1980, a pilot plant to demonstrate the commercial application of this concept. Cost estimates of OTEC-generated power are most encouraging, and I fully expect this source to be

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AN INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER ENGAGED AS LIAISON FOR THE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY CONVERSION

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OTEC AND CLIMATE

A research paper entitled "OTEC and Climate", by Eugene B. Veek, Associate Director for Facilities of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Studies of the University of Southern California, has been received by TOL. It is our understanding that this paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of The Marine Technology Society Journal.

The paper deals with the possible environmental consequences of operating a large number of OTEC power plants in the world's oceans. Many of the possible effects of extracting energy from the oceans are conjectural theory, with varied points of view.

Some excerpts from Veek's paper, together with the results of other environmental studies now under way regarding OTEC, will be expanded on in an early issue of TOL.

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consider the 10-MW modular experiment within the 1981 fiscal budget.

In summary, my hope is to draw the proper balance between reasonable risk and momentum by using the valuable experience and results of the Mini-OTEC and OTEC-1 for the successful deployment of an OTEC-10.

Your continued interest and support in the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
Robert D. Thorne
Assistant Secretary for Energy Technology
US Department of Energy

THE SECOND-MOST-IMPORTANT ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN OTEC/OCEAN ENERGY

Next to the OTEC conference held annually (the next being in Washington DC June 19th through 22nd) we most strongly urge all readers to attend the 1979 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), to be held in Houston from April 30th through May 3rd.

The OTC meeting is the largest conference of any kind held in the US not only due to the great number of attendees (last year more than 70,000), but also due to its exhibits, with huge equipment displayed from the offshore industry, mostly devoted to the petroleum field.

OTEC will be well represented in the technical sessions, with both morning and afternoon meetings on Wednesday, May 2nd. But of almost greater importance is the opportunity for OTEC planners and researchers to see first-hand the astounding capabilities and development of man-in-the-sea technology.

As experienced offshore oil construction firms become more and more involved in OTEC planning (see the next issue of TOL) it is imperative that readers familiarize themselves with what is taking place in the ocean now—and how these rapid advances will affect the implementation of OTEC/OCEAN ENERGY.

This editor urges all who are able to attend.


NEW 24-HOUR OCEAN DATA SERVICE INITIATED

A 24-hour Ocean Data Message Center has been established at the National Oceanographic Data Center in Washington DC on a pilot-project basis. The new center will enable users to obtain data despite time-zone and schedule differences by calling (202) 634-7502.

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OCEAN ENERGY COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

PART A

(1) In favor of the formation of an OTEC Council/Trade Association: 95% for, 5% against.
(2) Prefer association as part of the National Ocean Industries Association: 22% for, 39% against, 39% neutral.
(3) Purposes supported:
   — Improve public knowledge and acceptance of OTEC as a viable energy source ranking with oil, natural gas, nuclear power, coal, and the like in contributing to the national and international energy supply: 100%.
   — Provide a forum for presenting to DOE and other agencies the considered professional recommendations of the OTEC community: 94%.
   — Foster educational advancement and growth of members in the field of energy and specific contributions which can be made to the US by development and application of OTEC: 83%.
   — Supply research on commercialization issues, and build ties with the user/operator constituency: 67%.
(4) Should DOE have a representative on an OTEC Council: 67% for, 33% against.
(5) In favor of hiring a spokesman or legal counsel of national reputation or others as paid advocates of OTEC to espouse its validity and its promise: 53% for, 47% against.

PART B

Suggestions of individuals and/or industry representatives for the board of an Ocean Energy Council were requested.

No less than 88 different names were mentioned. However of this number 17 were mentioned more than once. They are listed alphabetically within the three groups, with the most-frequently-suggested individuals in the first group.

Robert Douglas, TRW
E. L. Francis, Applied Physics Laboratory
Richard Meyer, The OTEC Liaison
Fred Naef, Lockheed
Bryn Beorse, University of California
Robert Cohen, Department of Energy
Lloyd Jones, Dillingham Corporation
Abraham Lavi, ERDI; Carnegie-Mellon University
Lloyd Trimble, Lockheed
Byron Washom, Fairchild Stratos Division
Clarence Zener, Carnegie-Mellon University
J. Hilbert Anderson, Sea Solar Power
Kenneth Bell, Oklahoma State University
William Heronymous, University of Massachusetts
Sam Kelly, Interstate Electronics
James Madewell, Value Engineering
Bill Richards, Department of Energy

HUNT FAMILY BUYS INTO GLOBAL MARINE

Global Marine Incorporated, the winner of the major contract to build the OTEC-1 platform, announced that two members of the wealthy Hunt family of Dallas recently purchased a 7.5% stake in that firm for about $3.8 million.

Brothers Nelson Hunter Hunt and W. Herbert Hunt consider the purchase a "good investment", but disclaimed any intent at present to change the board or management of the company.

Global said it had no direct discussions with the Hunts involving the purchase. The major offshore oil- and gas-drilling firm earned $8.2 million on revenue of $124.5 million in 1978.

US, USSR CO-OPE RATE IN OCEAN RESEARCH

Richard Frank, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was in Russia in mid-February to sign a bilateral agreement with the Soviet Union on ocean research. This agreement, Frank said on his departure, was to be renewed last summer, but relations had "cooled off" at that time. Now they are "back on the track". (See the January issue of TOL for a story on the Soviet Union's entry into the ocean-energy field, with emphasis on OTEC.)

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Listed below are conferences and symposiums pertinent to the OTEC community, ocean energy, and oceanographic technology. Major meetings recently completed are still listed for the benefit of any readers who wish to contact conference organizers for reports of proceedings.


Mar 25-30: Ruth Clusen, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Department of Energy, speaks at the Planning Workshop on the Environmental Dimensions of Energy Policies at the East-West Center Conference in Honolulu HI.

Apr 2-6: Workshop on Environmental and Societal Consequences of a Possible CO2-Induced Climate Change, Annapolis Hilton Inn, Annapolis MD. Organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Info: David M. Burns, Director, Climate Project, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036, (202) 467-5436.

Apr 6: Under Secretary Dale Myers of the Department of Energy speaks at the luncheon meeting of the Executive Club of Chicago.


Apr 30 - May 1: Richard Passman, Resource Applications, Department of En-
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ergy, speaks at the Energy Bureau's Fourth Annual Conference in Washington DC. 

● Apr 30–May 3: Eleventh Offshore Technology Conference, Houston TX, 6200 North Central Expressway, Dallas TX 75206. Info: OTC Headquarters, above address, Telex 730989 SPE DAL.

May 9: Under Secretary Dale Myers of the Department of Energy speaks at the Center for Study of the American Experience Conference on Energy and the Economy in Redondo Beach CA.

May 28–Jun 1: 1979 International Solar Energy Society Congress, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta GA. Info: W. A. Beckman Technical Program Chairman, ISES-79, Solar Energy Laboratory, University of Wisconsin at Madison, 1500 Johnson Drive, Madison WI 53706.


US GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT INVITATIONS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

Listed below are procurement invitations and contract awards related to OTEC in particular and ocean resources in general culled from the Commerce Business Daily. This is not to be construed, however, as a complete list.


Feb 12: Comparative Analysis of World Energy Scenarios: A task–order–support service contract for the Division of Strategic and Contemporary Planning, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation within the Department of Energy. The tasks to be assigned will involve the examination of the present and future world energy situation to provide a range of US and worldwide energy dependencies against which strategic–planning policy options will be evaluated. RFP DE–RP–01–79PE–70049. Available o/a 7 Feb 79. Requests must be in writing. US Department of Energy, Office of Procurement Operations, PO Box 2500, Washington DC, Attn: Document Control Specialist.

Feb 12: Utilization of Decision Focus, Inc.’s Energy RD&D Prioritization Methodology to Assist the Energy Technology Office of Planning and Technology Transfer in Developing and Implementing an Abbreviated Methodology for the FY 81 Budget Cycle: DOE is negotiating with Decision Focus, Inc., 1801 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto CA 94304. US Department of Energy, Contract Division, Attn: Stuart Phillips, PO Box E, Oak Ridge TN 37830.

Feb 14: Aluminum Heat Exchanger Fabrication: Negotiations are to be conducted with Northrop Corporation, Electronics Division, 2301 West 120th St., Hawthorne CA 90250. This is a continuation of Contract F04704–75–C–0015. Directorate of R&D Contracting, Attn: ASD/PMR–1, Wright–Patterson AFB, OH 45433.

Feb 15: Continued Structural Analysis of Submerged and Floating Structures: Negotiations are to be conducted with Weidlinger Associates, 110 E. 59th St., New York NY 10022.

Feb 15: Support for Determining Energy, Economic, and Environmental Trade-Offs: EPA has a requirement for support in analyzing energy, economic, and environmental trade-offs. EPA requires support in eight general areas: (1) energy policy analyses, (2) analyses of the coal production and electric–utility coal–use implications of government policies, (3) financial analyses of the electric–utility industry, (4) energy and economic analyses of industrial fuel use, (5) engineering and cost assessments of equipment utilized for pollution control, (6) comprehensive assessments of new energy technologies, (7) analyses of regulatory approaches to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and visibility requirements, and (8) analytic support in air–quality modeling. Requests must be submitted in writing. Ask for RFP WA 79–C131 and state your EPA “RFP List” number if you have been assigned one. EPA Headquarters Procurement Operations, Contracts Support Section, Contract Preparation Unit (PM–214–C), Crystal Mall 2, Room 708, Washington DC 20460.


Feb 20: Testing and Analysis of Developmental Undersea Electromechanical Cables: Contractor must have test facilities and personnel in Southern California area and must have required physical test equipment such as tensile test machine for cable specimens up to 35 feet long and maximum tensile load of 400,000 pounds; bend–over–sheave fatigue machine; cyclic tension fatigue machine for cable samples up to 30 feet long and loads up to 300,000 pounds; test machine to allow continuous cycling of cable with drum braking torque of 60,000 foot pounds and with maximum cable tension of 200,000 pounds. RFP N00123–79–R–0730, closes 20 Feb 79. OIC, Naval Regional Contracting Office, Long Beach CA 90822, Attn: Bid Branch, Code AS 213/547–6410.


Feb 26: Conduct Research on Ocean Wave Trapping: Contract N00014–79–C–0067, 8 Feb 79 (no RFP), for $60,729, awarded to the Research Foundation of the State University of New York, PO Box 9, Albany, NY 12201.

Feb 26: Research Into Direct Application of Hydrothermal Energy in North Dakota: Contract DE–FC07–79ID12030, for $41,597, awarded to the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND 58202.

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