President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)





## **SOLAR**

# SEIA CEO ABIGAIL ROSS HOPPER: ILLUMINATING THE SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRY

Abigail (Abby) Ross Hopper's career has spanned the energy spectrum from wind to fossil fuels and now to solar, as president



and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) since January 2017. She talks to *ENERGIES Magazine* about the current state of the solar industry as it emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and why she believes solar will help lead the energy transition.

Rebecca Ponton: You worked in wind energy when you were with Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's office and fossil fuels when you were the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). You've got this wide breadth of experience in energy. How did you become involved in the solar industry?

**Abby Ross Hopper:** When I was leaving BOEM, I surveyed the energy landscape...

### **WIND**

# FINDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE MODEL FOR SUPPORTING GROWTH IN OFFSHORE WIND

Offshore wind power will play a critical role in cleaning up the global grid, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimat-



ing half the world's energy needs will need to be met with zero-emissions electricity by 2040. Offshore wind is rapidly being ramped up in response, with the Global Wind Energy Council projecting 235 GW of new generating capacity over the next decade alone and Europe planning to scale up capacity to 300 GW by 2050. Europe accounts for 70 percent of all current global offshore wind installations with Denmark soon installing the world's first energy islands.

Yet while offshore wind is creating more sustainable power sources, the current production and installation processes behind the technology are increasingly undermining its sustainable premise. It has been widely reported that retrofitting wind turbines to...

#### **LEADERS**

# THERESA EATON, CEO OF WECS RENEWABLES, LEADING A CLEANER AND DIVERSE ENERGY FUTURE

"The doors of the energy future are open," emphasizes Theresa Eaton, the new chief executive officer (CEO) of



WECS Renewables, a midsize utility-scale distributor for renewable energy parts. The company itself has opened doors to increase diverse participation within the organization. From specialized, technical salespeople focused on solar and wind farm development, to electrical engineers helping to solve some of the biggest problems in the industry, to encouraging more women in the industry – as evidenced by Eaton's new role – WECS Renewables is driving innovation and change in the industry both in the field and in the boardroom.

Theresa Eaton, CEO of WECS Renewables, Leading a Cleaner and Diverse Energy FutureThe recent decision to bring on Eaton as CEO is a move that cemented the...

#### **HYDRO**

# THE POWER FLOW

With the energy transition away from fossil fuels and coal a top priority among many policymakers and voters, hydro-



power stands to play a much larger role in how we power this world in the coming years. Not only is it clean – CO2 is emission free – and renewable, but it can be used for water/waste management, water distribution and irrigation control. Perhaps the stronger argument for hydropower is that it provides ancillary services to the grid, which are vital to maintaining continuous power during a significant weather event. The 2021 "snow-pocalypse," as it's been dubbed by Texas residents, and the ensuing power outages, are proof that our grid needs all the help it can get.

Other renewables such as wind and solar are variable, and hydropower, particularly pumped storage hydropower (PSH), can pick up the slack when they are not producing power. PSH involves a dam with two reservoirs, an upper and a lower one, and a turbine. It can store energy by pumping water into the upper reservoir; when the energy is needed, the water will be released...

# **TRANSPORTATION**

### THE ENERGY ROAD SHOW

Advanced Freight Dynamics has built its reputation on excellence in shipping and logistics from the smallest ship-



ments to the most complex projects, with a constant focus on serving its customers' cargo transportation needs. The company is capable of managing every aspect of any transportation project, regardless of origin, destination or size of the shipment. Its customers rely on it to be their trucking company, freight broker, freight consultant, and soon to be crane and rigging company. Husband and wife team, Steven and Alana Lyons, talk to *ENERGIES Magazine* about the niche market their company serves on the transportation and logistics side of the energy industry.

Rebecca Ponton: Advanced Freight Dynamics specializes in over-dimensional freight. Obviously, you saw a need and decided to fulfill it, but what led you to focus on this specialty?

**Alana Lyons:** Our customers led us to this specialty. When we began this...

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