

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES**  
PRESESSION ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW LEGISLATORS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2010

BRIEFING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY TOPICS

**Jim Groth** joined the Nevada State Office of Energy (NSOE) in December 2009. The office has the primary task of implementing the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy State Energy Programs and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). While the NSOE staff works the funded programs for the initial and real time stimulation of Nevada's economy, Groth focuses on building the renewable energy economy in Nevada, and has launched the Nevada Energy Economic Strike Force, a Multi-Agency Renewable Energy Request For Proposals, and the Nevada Retrofit Initiative. Director Groth has served as a member of the Nevada Army National Guard within the Army Aviation and Signal corps communities for the past 28 years. He recently spearheaded the Nevada National Guard Super Solar Project Phase One, a 3.4 megawatt system providing 60 percent solar power to the State's three largest Guard facilities

**Paul Thomsen** is the director of policy and business development for Ormat Technologies, Inc. (NYSE:ORA). Paul manages Ormat's federal, state and local legislative programs and geothermal project development in the U.S. He serves as Ormat's principal liaison with organizations and advocacy groups involved in the renewable energy sector. He currently serves as the president of the Nevada Geothermal Council and sits on the boards of the Economic Development Authority of Nevada, the Nevada Mining Association, and the Nevada Conservation League. Mr. Thomsen was appointed by Governor Jim Gibbons to the Transition Team for Energy and Natural Resources. He received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Nevada, Reno. Academic works include: "Renewable Energy in the State of Nevada: Public Policy Implications for an Emergent Resource Area" presented at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Rebecca Wagner** has been a member of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada since 2006. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Wagner served as Governor Kenny Guinn's Energy Advisor and as the Director of Nevada's Office of Energy. From 1997 to 2003, Wagner worked for a Nevada based geothermal company that owned, operated, and developed geothermal projects. Ms. Wagner holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body, and the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation. Ms. Wagner also served on Governor Gibbons' Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory Committee. She was a recipient of the PVNow 2006 Solar Champion Award and the Nevada Renewable Energy Leadership Award in 2010.

**Michael E. Skaggs** is a veteran economic development executive with experience in business attraction, workforce training, entrepreneurial development and technology commercialization. In 2008, Mr. Skaggs was appointed by Governor Jim Gibbons to lead the Nevada Commission on Economic Development (NCED), the agency responsible for developing and executing the economic strategy to diversify the Nevada economy. Mr. Skaggs has led economic recovery efforts in Oklahoma, Phoenix, and Texas. His priority since joining NCED has been to create a collaborative employee training program in conjunction with the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to accelerate job creation in Nevada.

**Lindsay Anderson** is the Director of Business Development and Research for the NCED. She earned a master of arts in economics and her bachelors of science degree in finance from the University of Nevada, Reno. In the past, Ms. Anderson worked for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, the CFO Group, Skagen Designs, and Charles Schwab Bank. Lindsay is also a three-year board member of the Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals Network.