

Behind the Scenes

WHEN PENNSYLVANIA ANNOUNCED

earlier this year that it would mandate that coal-fired plants would have to slash mercury emissions by 90 percent in a decade, it commanded attention. The Keystone state is the fourth largest coal producing state. Its decision to put in place mercury regulations that exceed the federal government mandate is, by definition, news. For a firsthand report about the initiative, we contacted Kathleen McGinty, the state's environmental protection secretary, who agreed to write about it for the issue you now hold.

When Mark Dodson, the chairman and chief executive of Northwest Natural, and Don Mason, an Ohio utility regulator, advanced new approaches to utility regulation at a recent national conference, we were struck by the similarities in their views. We convinced both gentlemen to contribute fuller explanations of their ideas for this issue.

When Mark Cooper produced an analysis of natural gas price behavior this winter on behalf of attorneys general of several Midwestern states, we called him to obtain his firsthand report on problems in energy markets.

One strategic thrust of this publication has been to put into your hands the thoughts and insights of men and women on the cutting edge of the power industry. In addition to providing their firsthand accounts, each issue of the publication carries a number of questions and answers with key figures.

A year ago, our senior editor, Warren Causey, identified Eugene Zimon, chief information officer of NStar, as an important thinker in utility outsourcing. For this issue, Zimon agreed to respond to our questions about outsourcing at Massachusetts' largest investor-owned utility.

This issue presents conversations with Dan Arvizu, the head of the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory, whom we met at his Golden, Colo., office, shortly after a visit by President Bush made the lab front-page news around the country. We sat down with Jim Burke, the chairman and chief executive of TXU Energy, at an industry conference to talk about how his company is getting ready for sweeping retail market changes in Texas. We also visited with Tom Kuhn, the president of the Edison Electric Institute, and Joe Kelliher, the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in their Washington offices. This issue carries highlights of those interviews.

Besides carrying insiders' insights, each issue of *EnergyBiz* carries a variety of analyses and reports by veteran journalists. Al Senia, our veteran West Coast writer, has ably executed an assignment to cover the challenges confronting the huge municipal utility that serves Los Angeles. He also reports on a joint venture between Edison International and BP to develop an innovative \$1 billion power plant. Senia, a business journalist with 25 years of experience, has worked as a special correspondent for *The Washington Post* and *Newsday*.

To probe the possible impact of solar flares on the grid, we turned to an accomplished science writer and editor who recently served as a fellow judge at a prestigious magazine journalism contest. This issue carries Salvatore Salamone's report on solar flares, his first contribution to this magazine. He has studied physics and atmospheric physics at Boston College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

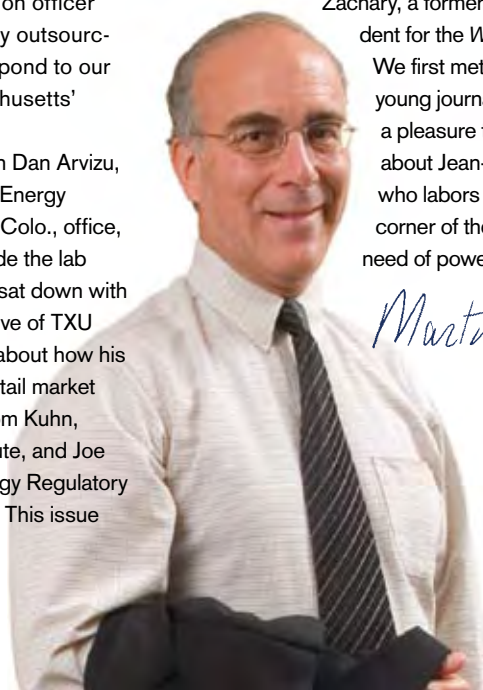
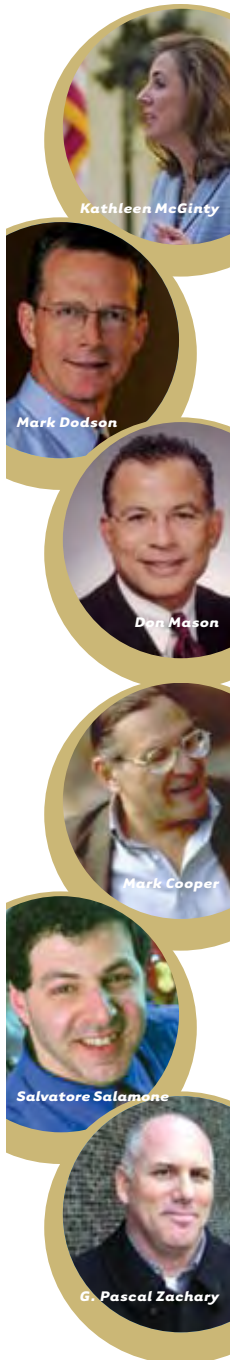
Wayne Greenberg straddles two worlds, as a distinguished energy journalist and now the entrepreneurial chief executive of WellDog, which produces chemical sensing technologies used to boost natural gas production. At our invitation, he has written a piece about the promise of coalbed methane.

Our Final Take department presents issues that will resonate with you, our readers, long after you have passed the publication on to colleagues and friends.

This issue's *Final Take* was written by G. Pascal Zachary, a former foreign correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*.

We first met when we were young journalists in Oregon. It is a pleasure to present his story about Jean-David Bile, a hero who labors in Cameroon to light a corner of the world desperately in need of power. ☒

Martin Rosenberg



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