

CNMI CONSIDERS ALTERNATE ENERGY PROPOSALS

SAIPAN, CNMI (Mariana Variety, July 24, 2008) - Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Executive Director Antonio S. Muna describes as promising one of the six private firms that have submitted proposals for alternative energy. CUC is looking for a feasible and cost-effective alternative energy for the CNMI in view of the current power crisis.

The following companies have submitted proposals -- New Seoul Corp., OCCEES Ocean Engineering & Energy Systems, Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc., Leminiscate Investment LLC, United Systems Engineering Co. Ltd., and Lucid Energy Technologies LLC.

Muna said "one of them shows some promise," but he did not disclose the name of the company. He said CUC's review panel is still in the process of evaluating the proposals. The review committee is composed of individuals in the technical field, legal system and other stakeholders from the community, CUC said.

According to Muna, it will still take another 15 to 30 days for the evaluation to be finished. He said the panel is reviewing different proposals on wind power, solar energy, thermal energy and other alternative energy sources.

Of the six companies that submitted proposals, four are based off-island -- OCCEES from Hawai'i; Leminiscate Investment, Florida; United Systems, Taiwan; and Lucid Energy, Indiana.

Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc., or CISCO, was the same contractor hired by CUC to rehabilitate the six engines of Power Plant 2 and certain engines at Power Plant 1. "We're going to look at the submissions with respect to their credibility," Muna said.

SOURCE: Pacific Islands Report, PIDP, EWC