



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy, Inc. Completes Unwind of Merrill Lynch Credit Sleeve

PRINCETON, NJ; October 5, 2009—NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) announced today the termination of the Merrill Lynch credit sleeve approximately one year earlier than originally planned. The termination removes the liens associated with the original Merrill Lynch Credit Sleeve Amendment and brings the Reliant Energy (Reliant) retail entities into the corporate collateral package.

In connection with this transaction, NRG posted approximately \$435 million of cash to Merrill Lynch and Reliant Energy's counterparties, while Merrill Lynch has released their liens on approximately \$300 million of unrestricted cash as well as \$250 million of previously posted cash Reliant generated since the May 1, 2009 acquisition by NRG. The posted funds were sourced from the June 5, 2009 bond issuance that raised net proceeds of approximately \$678 million.

"By unwinding the credit sleeve early, Reliant's substantial cash flow can be used at the corporate level in the Company's overall capital allocation plans," said Robert C. Flexon, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, NRG Energy. "Not only does this simplify the Company's capital structure, it also provides portfolio hedging efficiencies and operational and cost improvements."

Merrill Lynch has terminated NRG's contingent equity obligations under the previous credit sleeve. The parties have agreed to settle any outstanding obligations under the Credit Sleeve Amendment by April 30, 2010.

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Princeton New Jersey, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios.

Forward-Looking Statements

This communication contains forward-looking statements that may state NRG's or its management's intentions, beliefs, expectations or predictions for the future. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions, and typically can be identified by the use of words such as "will," "expect," "estimate," "anticipate," "forecast," "plan," "believe" and similar terms. Although NRG believes that its expectations are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct, and actual results may vary materially. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated above include, among others, general economic conditions, hazards customary in the power industry, weather conditions, the volatility of energy and fuel prices, failure of counterparties to perform under contracts, and the condition of capital markets generally.

The foregoing review of factors that could cause NRG's actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in the forward-looking statements included herein should be considered in connection with information regarding risks and uncertainties that may affect NRG's future results included in NRG's filings with the SEC at www.sec.gov.

Contacts:**Media:**

Meredith Moore
609.524.4522

Lori Neuman
609.524.4525

Dave Knox
713.795.6106

Investors:

Nahla Azmy
609.524.4526

Dave Klein
609.524.4527

Erin Gilli
609.524.4528