



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy, Optim Energy Repowering Texas with 550 Megawatt Cedar Bayou Expansion

New unit capable of bringing low-cost power to more than 440,000 households
seeking relief from summer heat wave

Houston, TX; (June 30, 2009)—On June 24, NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) and Optim Energy completed construction and began commercial operation of a new natural gas-fueled combined cycle generating plant at NRG's Cedar Bayou Generating Station in Chambers County, Texas. The plant adds 550 megawatts (MW) of electrical generation to the Texas grid— enough to power more than 440,000 homes.

"We are very pleased that NRG and Optim Energy have made this investment in clean and efficient electricity generation in Texas," Texas Public Utility Commission Chairman Barry T. Smitherman said. "This is an important addition to our grid to address our increasing demand for economic and reliable power."

Optim Energy and NRG each own 50% of the unit. The unit was constructed by San Antonio-based Zachry with the principal equipment supplied directly by NRG. Optim Energy is the energy manager for Cedar Bayou unit 4; NRG will operate the plant. Construction of Cedar Bayou unit 4 was completed in just under 24 months.

"Our Cedar Bayou team working closely with a very effective construction team from Zachry showed tremendous skills and capability in safely bringing this unit online, on budget and on time, even overcoming Hurricane Ike's disruption to the site during the middle of construction," said David Crane, President and Chief Executive Officer of NRG. "Our goal was to bring this unit online before the hottest part of the Texas summer arrived and I am pleased we achieved just that."

In addition to providing needed power to the grid during periods of peak demand, the unit has the flexibility to start in as little as 30 minutes to respond to rapidly changing load conditions, such as hot spring afternoons and icy winter mornings.

"This new unit uses clean-burning natural gas technology that meets the growing demand for energy in Texas in a way that is best for our state and environment," said John Loyack, President and Chief Executive Officer of Optim Energy, an energy holding company based in Irving, Texas.

Cedar Bayou unit 4 uses the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's latest prescribed Best Available Control Technology. The combustion turbines are fitted with ultra-low nitrogen oxides (NOx) burners and the heat recovery steam generator has a selective catalytic reduction system to further reduce NOx emissions.

About NRG

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, the Company's power plants provide more than 24,000 megawatts of generation capacity, enough to supply more than 20 million homes. NRG's retail business, Reliant Energy, serves more than 1.7 million residential, business, commercial and industrial customers in Texas. A past recipient of the energy industry's highest honors—Platts Industry Leadership and Energy Company of the Year awards, NRG is a member the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group of business and environmental organizations calling for mandatory legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NRG as a member of the California Climate Action Registry is supportive of California's goal to reduce the state's contribution of greenhouse gas emissions. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.

Safe Harbor Disclosure

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions and include NRG's expectations regarding the Cedar Bayou expansion and forward-looking statements typically can be identified by the use of words such as "will," "expect," "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, competition in wholesale power markets, the volatility of energy and fuel prices, failure of customers to perform under contracts, changes in the wholesale power markets, changes in government regulation of markets and of environmental emissions, unanticipated outages at our generation facilities, the inability to implement value enhancing improvements to plant operations and companywide processes, and our ability to achieve the expected benefits and timing of our *Repowering* NRG projects. NRG undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. The foregoing review of factors that could cause NRG's actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in the forward-looking statements included in this news release 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 Securities and Exchange Commission at www.sec.gov.

About Optim Energy

Optim Energy, LLC is an energy holding company that, through its subsidiaries, owns assets totaling about 1,200 megawatts. The company is based in Irving, Texas. For more information, visit www.optimenergy.com.

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