



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy Awarded Contract from New York State for Biomass Use at the Company's Dunkirk Power Plant

—Project contributes to statewide renewable energy goals—

PRINCETON, NJ; April 13 2010—NRG Energy Inc. (NYSE: NRG) has received a 10-year contract from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for power generated using renewable biomass fuel at its Dunkirk Generating Station in western New York. The project, which is expected to come online by the end of 2011, will produce up to 15 megawatts (MW) of the station's total output by co-firing with clean wood biomass.

Unlike fossil fuels, renewable biomass is carbon neutral, with new growth removing the same amount of carbon from the atmosphere that the biomass releases when used as fuel. NRG plans to locally source sustainably harvested biomass including forest and wood processing residues.

"Adding sustainable biomass to the fuel mix cuts emissions and supports the state's goal of producing 30% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015," said Drew Murphy, President of NRG's Northeast Region. "This project will also create up to 50 processing and transportation jobs in western New York and produce enough electricity to power 12,000 households."

In 2004, New York established a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Last year, the New York Public Service Commission, acting on a goal set by Governor David Paterson, expanded the RPS goal to increase the proportion of renewable electricity sold in New York from 25 percent to 30 percent by 2015. To meet this goal, NYSERDA conducts competitive solicitations to award contracts for projects that deliver renewable energy to the New York wholesale power market.

In addition to the Dunkirk project, NRG is planning to use biomass as a primary fuel at its Montville Generating Station after repowering one of the facility's existing units to produce up to 40 MW of electricity. In Louisiana, NRG has created a 20-acre test site using locally grown switchgrass and sorghum to be used as a biomass fuel at its Big Cajun II plant. The lessons learned from these projects could lead to further commercialization of biomass as a fuel across NRG's fleet, providing a cost-effective option to reduce the entire Company's carbon intensity.

About NRG

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 and S&P 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 1.6 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 of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group of business and environmental organizations calling for mandatory legislation to reduce 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 with respect to the use of renewable biomass 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, hazards customary in the power industry, general economic conditions, permitting and regulatory obstacles, construction delays, and changes in government regulation of environmental emissions.

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.

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