



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy, United Illuminating Officially Break Ground on GenConn's New 200 Megawatt Peaking Power Plant in Milford, Connecticut

—GenConn Energy LLC to develop Devon peaking generation plant, which will support over 160,000 homes—

Princeton, NJ and New Haven, CT; Friday, May 29, 2009—GenConn Energy, a 50-50 joint venture between NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) and The United Illuminating Company (UI), a subsidiary of UIL Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: UIL), today officially broke ground on a new 200 megawatt peaking power plant at NRG's Devon site in Milford, Connecticut.

The new facility, scheduled to be in operation by June 1, 2010, will be able to provide power to more than 160,000 homes during periods of peak usage, such as hot summer and cold winter days.

Anthony Marone, UI Vice President, Client Services, stated, "UI is pleased to be part of a project that will bring benefits to the state of Connecticut and all of its electric customers, especially during those peak times when the reliability of the electric grid is critical."

On-hand for today's groundbreaking was Milford Mayor James Richetelli.

"Today we demonstrate our continuing commitment to Connecticut as we begin construction on the new Devon peaking units less than one year after NRG commissioned new generating units at our Cos Cob site. It is great news for Connecticut consumers that this project is officially underway and on-schedule," said Drew Murphy, President of NRG's Northeast Region. "By building this new plant, GenConn will help reduce costs for electric customers and improve electric reliability in an area where it is needed the most."

The partnership between NRG and UI is the first of its kind in Connecticut – never before have a merchant generator and a public utility teamed up to build a new power generating facility. This partnership was borne out of Connecticut's need for more peaking power generation, or power that is required during times of highest demand, such as periods of extremely hot or cold weather or unexpected transmission or generation outages.

"We are thankful today for the vision of the Connecticut Legislature, which challenged generators and utilities alike in 2007 to build peaking generation and reduce overall costs to consumers," added Murphy. "This works well for Connecticut because NRG and UI each share a common focus on value for customers, and we look forward to getting the GenConn project at Devon up and running for next year."

"The entire GenConn project is designed with the customer in mind. From the beginning, the GenConn proposal to build peaking generation stood out, and now to see construction commence on schedule is a testament to the partnership," concluded Marone.

About GenConn

The GenConn joint venture comes out of Connecticut's need for more peaking power generation, and was developed in accordance with a law passed by the State of Connecticut's General Assembly in 2007 (Public Act 07-242, Section 50), which sought a long-term solution to meet these peaking needs.

GenConn is a joint venture between NRG Energy, a leading wholesale power generation company, and UI, a well-respected Connecticut utility, to produce much needed new peaking generation in the state. NRG is Connecticut's second largest power generator, and UI is an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility with more than 324,000 customers in Southern Connecticut.

About UI

The United Illuminating Company (UI) is a New Haven-based regional distribution utility established in 1899. UI is engaged in the purchase, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity and related services to more than 324,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in the Greater New Haven and Bridgeport areas. UI's World Wide Web address is <http://www.uinet.com/>. UI's parent company, UIL Holdings Corporation, is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol UIL.

Certain statements contained herein, regarding matters that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements (as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995). These include statements regarding management's intentions, plans, beliefs, expectations or forecasts for the future. Such forward-looking statements are based on UIL Holdings' expectations and involve risks and uncertainties; consequently, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied in the statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, general economic conditions, legislative and regulatory changes, changes in demand for electricity and other products and services, unanticipated weather conditions, changes in accounting principles, policies or guidelines, and other economic, competitive, governmental, and technological factors affecting the operations, timing, markets, products and services of UIL Holdings' subsidiary, UI. The foregoing and other factors are discussed and should be reviewed in UIL Holdings' most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and other subsequent periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements included herein speak only as of the date hereof and UIL Holdings undertakes no obligation to revise or update such statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events or circumstances.

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—including plants in Cos Cob, Middletown, Milford, Norwalk and Uncasville, CT—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 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.

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 new peaking generation in Connecticut and typically can be identified by the use of words such as "will," "expect," "plan," 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, construction delays and permitting and regulatory obstacles. 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.

###

NRG Media Contact:

Lori Neuman
609-524-4525
lori.neuman@nrgenergy.com

NRG Analyst Contacts:

Nahla Azmy 609-524-4526
Dave Klein 609-524-4527

UI Media Contact:

Albert Carbone
203-499-2247 (After Hours 203-499-2812)
albert.carbone@uinet.com

UI Analyst Contact:

Susan Allen 203-499-2409