

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy, Inc. Declares Preferred Stock Dividends

PRINCETON, NJ; February 20, 2009–NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) today announced the following preferred stock dividends, payable on March 16, 2009, to holders of record of its preferred stock as of March 2, 2009:

- A \$10 per share cash dividend on its 4% Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock issued in December 2004; and
- A \$3.59375 per share cash dividend on its 5.75% Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock issued in February 2009.

All inquiries and correspondence regarding NRG common and preferred stock—relating to shareholder records, transfer of shares, lost certificates, or change of address—should be addressed to:

NRG Energy c/o BNY Mellon Shareowner Services P.O. Box 358015 Pittsburgh, PA 15252-8015 800.851.9677 www.bnymellon.com/shareowner/isd

About NRG

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. NRG's 50 plants provide approximately 24,000 megawatts of generation capacity—enough to power nearly 20 million homes. In November 2007, NRG won two of the industry's highest honors—Platts Industry Leadership and Energy Company of the Year awards. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, 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 regarding the South Texas Project 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.

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