



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy, Inc. Completes Installation of Activated Carbon Injection System at Indian River Generating Station

—New technology reduces mercury emissions by up to 80 percent—

PRINCETON, NJ; December 9, 2008—NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) completed the installation of an Activated Carbon Injection (ACI) system on all four units of its Indian River Generating Station in Millsboro, DE. This advanced mercury control system will reduce the facility's mercury emissions by up to 80 percent. Indian River, a 784-megawatt (MW) plant, is capable of providing power to approximately 600,000 homes.

"The ACI system, which was installed ahead of schedule, is now fully operational and marks another milestone in our continuous efforts to produce environmentally responsible, reliable energy at Indian River," stated John Ragan, President of NRG's Northeast Region. "We are investing in the plant and in the community. We're committed to the State of Delaware and have made significant strides to develop and implement emissions reduction solutions facility-wide."

In addition to the ACI system, Indian River is among the first power plants in the nation to have installed continuous emissions monitors for mercury. Other very recent environmental improvements at the facility include installing selective non-catalytic reduction technology on units 1 and 2 ahead of schedule, and beginning year-round operation of nitrogen oxides (NOx) control systems on units 3 and 4 to achieve immediate NOx reductions. By implementing these technologies at the site, NOx emissions were reduced by an additional 25 percent.

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 48 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 typically can be identified by the use of words such as "will," "expect," "estimate," "anticipate," "forecast," "plan," "believe" and similar terms. Although the Company 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, adverse results in current and future litigation, and the inability to implement value enhancing improvements to plant operations and companywide processes.

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 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 Securities and Exchange Commission at www.sec.gov.

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