



News Release

Contact: *Avista:*

Media: Hugh Imhof (509) 495-4264 hugh.imhof@avistacorp.com

Investors: Angie Teed (509) 495-2930 angela.teed@avistacorp.com

Mirant:

Media: Patrick Dorinson (916) 206-8059 pat.dorinson@mirant.com

Investors: John Robinson, (678) 579-7782 john.robinson@mirant.com

Carey Skinner, (678) 579-3602 carey.skinner@mirant.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Avista, Mirant Begin Commercial Operation at Oregon Power Plant *Coyote Springs 2 supplies 280 megawatts of electricity*

Spokane, Wash. -- Avista Corp. (NYSE:AVA) and Mirant (NYSE: MIR) today announced the commercial operation of the Coyote Springs 2 power plant developed jointly by the two companies. The power plant, located near Boardman, Ore., is a 280-megawatt, combined-cycle combustion turbine facility, fueled by natural gas.

Avista and Mirant will share the plant's output equally. Construction began in January 2001.

"We are very pleased to see this project come on line," said Scott Morris, president of Avista Utilities. "Bringing company-owned generation on line helps achieve our goal of being 'long' in energy production. The output from this plant is needed to serve our utility customers and it is designed to help us provide efficient power resources for many years to come."

"Coyote Springs is a state of the art power plant that will provide much needed energy to power the Pacific Northwest's economic growth," said Anne Cleary, vice president, Mirant's West region. "Using advanced, environmentally friendly, natural gas technology, it will also help to balance the Northwest's dependence on hydroelectric power."

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About Mirant:

Mirant is a competitive energy company that produces and sells electricity in North America, the Caribbean, and the Philippines. Mirant owns or controls more than 21,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity globally. We operate an integrated asset management and energy marketing organization from our headquarters in Atlanta. A complete list of our assets is available at www.mirant.com.

About Avista:

Avista Corp. is an energy company involved in the production, transmission and distribution of energy as well as other energy-related businesses. Avista Utilities is a company operating division that provides electric and natural gas service to customers in four western states. Avista's non-regulated subsidiaries include Avista Advantage, Avista Labs and Avista Energy. Avista Corp.'s stock is traded under the ticker symbol "AVA" and its Internet address is www.avistacorp.com

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