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Strategic Energy[®] Brings National Expertise to Illinois Electricity Market

Leading supplier offers electric choice to business customers facing higher utility rates starting this month

PITTSBURGH, Pa., September 21, 2006 – Strategic Energy[®], a national provider of cost-effective electricity services to commercial and industrial customers, today announced it is offering better choices for electricity service in Illinois, where utility customers are expecting substantial rate increases starting next month.

On September 5, Commonwealth Edison and the Ameren Companies held an auction for their generation supply and will announce new generation supply rates by October 1 for commercial and industrial customers. Several electric industry experts estimate that the new rates could be up to thirty-five percent higher for Illinois customers.

“With escalating energy costs now representing a major expense for businesses of all sizes, it is critical that businesses understand the most cost-effective options available,” said Shahid Malik, President and CEO of Strategic Energy. “With nearly two decades of providing unbiased guidance on energy purchasing and delivering innovative products across the country, Strategic Energy helps businesses realize the benefits of competition.”

Strategic Energy will initially focus on customers in the Commonwealth Edison and Ameren Illinois Power service territories, helping them capitalize on market opportunities. With more than 16,000 customers – including large, national retailers, educational institutions, industrial manufacturers, and small businesses, Strategic Energy expects to offer very competitive prices, innovative energy purchasing strategies, and best-in-class customer service to Illinois business customers.

About Strategic Energy

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pa., Strategic Energy is a leading supplier of retail electricity in competitive markets. For more than 20 years, Strategic Energy has acted as a trusted, unbiased advisor, helping companies implement effective energy purchasing strategies to optimize their energy spending. Strategic Energy is licensed to serve customers in deregulated energy markets including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington, D.C. Strategic Energy is a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Plains Energy (NYSE: GXP). For more information, visit www.sel.com