



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Texas Project Selected for Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Negotiation

Project continues to be a leader in the nuclear renaissance

NEW YORK, NY – May 19, 2009 – The Department of Energy (DOE) has confirmed that the South Texas Project expansion (STP 3&4) is one of four projects selected for further due diligence and negotiation leading to a conditional commitment under the DOE loan guarantee program. Nuclear Innovation North America LLC (NINA)—the nuclear development company jointly owned by NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) and Toshiba Corporation—will now begin discussions with the DOE on the specific terms and amount to be loaned for the project.

“NRG, Toshiba and NINA have always focused on creating greater certainty in cost, schedule and operational excellence for the STP expansion and the strength of the project is reflected in DOE’s selection,” said Steve Winn, NINA CEO. “Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) technology is the only Nuclear Regulatory Commission-certified design that is fully engineered with a history of on-time, on-budget construction and superb operating results upon startup. Our Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor has experience designing and building these units. Our operating company is considered by many to be the best in America and our South Texas site is recognized as one of the best sites in the nation for nuclear expansion. Together, these facts make our project exceptionally strong.”

In addition to U.S. loan guarantees, NINA is seeking to diversify financing by actively pursuing additional loan guarantees through the Japanese government. Due diligence by Japanese financing agencies is in progress and represents an important step in Japanese loan support.

Four ABWR units have been constructed successfully and have a 12-year operating history with NINA’s EPC Contractor, Toshiba, serving as prime contractor on two units and sub contractor on the other two. This proven track record ensures the lowest first-of-a-kind technology risk and provides greater certainty on critical factors such as cost, schedule, process, quantities and final result. Upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s approval of the STP 3&4 combined license, and the STP 3&4 owners’ decision to issue the Full Notice to Proceed, the EPC contract converts to a lump-sum turnkey contract with customary warranties, performance and schedule guarantees, and liquidated damage provisions.

STP 3&4 is a 2,700-megawatt (MW) nuclear project—enough to power more than two million homes—being developed on a 50-50 basis by CPS Energy and NINA at the existing South Texas Project site in Matagorda County, Texas. NINA anticipates receiving the combined operating license for STP units 3&4 in 2012 and having the units come online in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

STP 1&2, the site's existing units, are jointly owned by NRG, CPS Energy and Austin Energy and operated by the STP Nuclear Operating Company. The existing two units, also totaling 2,700 MW, already provide clean, safe, reliable energy to more than two million homes and businesses throughout Texas. Originally designed for four units, the plant is one of the nation's top performing nuclear facilities and has led all two-unit plants nationwide in generation for the fifth consecutive year.

About Nuclear Innovation North America

Nuclear Innovation North America (NINA) is a partnership between NRG Energy (88%) and Toshiba (12%) focused on developing new nuclear expansion projects using Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) technology—the only advanced nuclear technology certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that has been built on time and on budget. NINA is currently developing the 2,700 megawatt South Texas Project expansion with San Antonio's CPS Energy and the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. NINA is also exploring other development opportunities to employ ABWR in additional projects across North America.

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 our expectations regarding the formation of Nuclear Innovation North America (NINA) and the timing and completion of STP Units 3 and 4, and typically can be identified by the use of words such as “will,” “expect,” “estimate,” “anticipate,” “forecast,” “plan,” “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, competition in wholesale power markets, the volatility of energy and fuel prices, failure of customers to perform under contracts, construction delays, changes in the wholesale power markets, changes in government regulation of markets and of environmental emissions, the condition of capital markets generally, and our ability to access capital markets.

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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