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Media Contacts:

Sepideh Khosrowjah, Policy Advisor, 415-703-1190, skh@cpuc.ca.gov

Tom Hall, Information Officer, 415-730-2964, tbh@cpuc.ca.gov

DRA Press Room: <http://www.dra.ca.gov/DRA/News/>

DRA Supports the CPUC's Approval of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project

SAN FRANCISCO, November 19, 2009 – The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), an independent consumer advocacy division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), today said it supports the CPUC's approval of a decision granting of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP).

The CPUC today granted a CPCN for the TRTP, a major new 173-mile transmission project in Southern California. The TRTP, which consists of eight distinct line segments, is designed to bring power generated from the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area, located in Kern County, southward to Southern California Edison's load center in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The TRTP, combined with the previously approved segments in the Antelope Valley, will allow for delivery of up to 4500 megawatts of renewable energy generation in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area.

The CPUC's decision largely agreed with DRA's analysis that the TRTP satisfied the CPUC's requirements for renewable energy transmission projects and that the TRTP will deliver renewable energy to the California grid in a cost-effective manner.

The CPUC's decision also adopted DRA's recommended contingency factor of 15 percent. A contingency factor determines the amount budgeted above the estimated project cost that is used to cover unforeseen increases in costs. The CPUC's adoption of a 15 percent contingency factor will save ratepayers approximately \$200 million on project costs when compared to Edison's requested contingency factor of 32 percent.

"DRA applauds the CPUC for its dedication to providing access to more renewable energy resources for California while controlling costs for ratepayers," said Dana Appling, director of DRA.



For more information on DRA, please visit www.dra.ca.gov.

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