



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Cheryl Cox, Policy Advisor, 415-703-2495, cxc@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 Concerned by CPUC Approval of Flawed \$300 Million Ivanpah Transmission Line

SAN FRANCISCO, December 16, 2010 – The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), an independent consumer advocacy division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), today said it is disappointed by the CPUC’s decision to approve \$300 million for the unsound Southern California Edison (Edison) Eldorado-Ivanpah transmission line that is purported to connect renewable generation to the grid.

The CPUC today voted to adopt an alternate decision approving the Ivanpah project despite the findings of a CPUC Administrative Law Judge’s decision proposing to reject the project for not meeting any of the CPUC’s criteria to approve such projects. Not only does the CPUC set a precedent for approving a transmission project prior to California System Operator (CAISO) approval, but a CAISO report demonstrated that Edison’s project submission is fatally flawed and not workable. Edison submitted a transmission project of 100 megawatts to the CAISO to be tested, yet the actual Ivanpah project is 1,400 megawatts. DRA advised the CPUC that the Ivanpah project meets none of the CPUC’s established goals to provide access to generation.

“While DRA supports renewable transmission, Edison has not demonstrated that the Ivanpah line will even work,” said DRA acting director Joe Como. “Ratepayers are on the hook for a \$300 million project, but if the project fails, all electricity customers in California will end up paying even more to fix the problem.”

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

###