



**Southwest Energy Efficiency Project**  
*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC SERVICE OF COLORADO WILL LEAD TO INCREASED ENERGY SAVINGS**

*(Boulder, CO)* -- The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) supports an agreement announced today that will expand energy efficiency programs operated by Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo). The agreement is part of a comprehensive settlement recently submitted to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

If the settlement is approved, PSCo is expected to reduce peak electricity demand by 320 megawatts and save 800 million kilowatt-hours per year of electricity by 2013. PSCo will spend up to \$196 million on energy efficiency and peak reduction programs during 2006-2013 in order to achieve these goals.

“The agreement calls for the greatest commitment to energy efficiency in the history of Colorado,” stated Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director. “PSCo will be expanding its energy conservation and efficiency programs as a result of this agreement. Given that PSCo proposed ending company-sponsored energy efficiency programs earlier this year, this agreement represents a significant reversal by PSCo.”

SWEEP estimates that PSCo’s customers will save nearly \$500 million net as a result of energy efficiency programs implemented during 2006-2013. “This part of the agreement will save consumers and businesses money, reduce load growth, increase the reliability of the electric grid, lower water usage, and reduce pollutant emissions in Colorado. It is one of the best parts of the deal,” Geller stated.

As part of the settlement agreement, PSCo is also committed to research energy savings potential in its service area and to propose financial incentives that could lead to further investments in energy efficiency programs and measures. This in turn could result in even greater savings than indicated above.

The comprehensive agreement includes other concessions by PSCo to reduce pollutant emissions by power plants and to increase renewable energy utilization, in return for environmental and community groups agreeing to end their opposition to a new coal-fired power plant PSCo has proposed building in Pueblo. SWEEP, like other groups, opposes the construction of new coal plants because of their massive carbon dioxide emissions. But considering the significant concessions by PSCo, SWEEP urges the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to approve the settlement agreement.

**About SWEEP:** The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information, visit the SWEEP website at [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).