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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 13, 2009

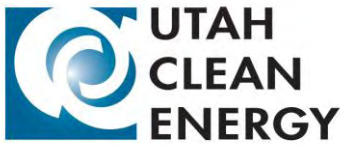
Utah Clean Energy Applauds Legislature for Approving Resolution to Advance Utility Energy Efficiency Programs

Salt Lake City, UT - In a unanimous vote, the Utah State Legislature proved Thursday that Utah is on its way to becoming a leader in innovative utility energy efficiency by approving HJR 9, a joint resolution promoting cost-effective energy efficiency and utility Demand Side Management (DSM) programs. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Roger Barrus (R, Davis County) and Sen. Pat Jones (D, Salt Lake County). For the complete text of HJR 9, visit this link: <http://utahcleanenergy.org/files/u1/hjr009s01.pdf>

“Energy Efficiency is at the core of achieving Utah’s clean energy goals. This resolution sets the framework to dramatically expand utility energy efficiency programs that help save Utahns tens of millions of dollars on energy bills,” said Sarah Wright, Executive Director of Utah Clean Energy, a local nonprofit public interest organization that advocates for increased renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The resolution recognizes energy efficiency as a priority resource for Utah and encourages the removal of financial disincentives that utilities often face when offering efficiency programs that assist customers in saving energy. In short, the resolution will help advance electric and gas utility energy efficiency programs in the state. At the same time, it will cut pollutant emissions and reduce the need for costly and controversial new power plants.

Energy efficiency is an effective means to reduce energy demand through substituting more advanced building practices, technologies, and energy management processes. Some common energy efficiency measures include high efficiency appliances, lighting, heating and cooling systems, improved insulation, day-lighting, and advanced building controls. Utah’s investor-owned utilities, Rocky Mountain Power and Questar Gas Company, help customers adopt these efficiency technologies by offering financial incentives through various DSM programs. One example of a successful DSM program is the Thermwise program created a few years ago by Questar Gas. Thermwise offers a wide range of incentives for energy efficient upgrades, such



as rebates for home insulation, window replacement and energy efficient gas appliances; the program has helped thousands of Utahns save on their natural gas bills.

HJR 9 will help open the door for new and expanded energy efficiency programs through utility regulatory mechanisms, such as performance-based incentives, decoupling and innovative rate designs.

“Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest and cleanest source of energy available today. Increasing state and utility opportunities in this area is an excellent achievement. We applaud the legislature for recognizing this fact by approving HR9”, Howard Geller, Executive Director of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.

A variety of industry and public interest groups, have expressed support for this Resolution, including:

- Utah Clean Energy
- Committee of Consumer Services (State of Utah)
- Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
- Rocky Mountain Power
- Questar Gas
- Rural Electric Association
- Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems
- Utah Municipal Power Agency

About Utah Clean Energy

Utah Clean Energy is a non-profit, public interest organization partnering to build the new clean energy economy through policy, regulatory, and educational initiatives. Utah Clean Energy advances renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean energy technologies in Utah and the West.

www.utahcleanenergy.org

About Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) is a public interest organization promoting greater energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. SWEET collaborates with utilities, state agencies, local governments, environmental groups, universities, private businesses, and other energy specialists to advance energy efficiency in these states. <http://swenergy.org>

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