

Utility Press Release Template – (Total MWs added category)

Embargo until Thursday, June 9, 10:00 a.m.

(Your Utility) Ranked as One of Nation's Top 10 Solar Utilities in 2010

June 9, 2011 –(Your Utility) has been honored as one of the nation's Top 10 electric utilities in the amount of solar power it added to its system in 2010. The designation came from the 2010 SEPA Utility Solar Rankings report published annually by the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA).

[Quote from your executive, details about your 2010 accomplishment]

“We congratulate (your utility) for proving itself one of the solar power leaders in the electric utility industry,” said Julia Hamm, President and CEO of SEPA. “(your utility) has developed creative business models and approaches that are appropriate for its environment and that bring the benefits of solar power to its operations, its customers and our society.”

Overall, the 2010 SEPA Utility Solar Rankings found remarkable growth in the addition of new solar power by utilities in 2010, up 100 percent from the year before. It also found that utility solar power is rapidly expanding beyond the Southwest, into states as diverse as Idaho, New Jersey and North Carolina.

“The trends are clear – utilities are offering their customers more solar power in almost every region of the country,” says Ms. Hamm. “With the leadership of organizations like (your utility), we expect those trends to continue.”

For its annual report, SEPA surveyed 230 investor-owned, municipal and cooperative electric utilities and ranked them in two categories: total amount of solar power added to their systems in 2010, and the amount of solar power added on a per-customer-served basis. The top three utilities in total amount added are Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (CA), Florida Power & Light Co. and Public Service Electric & Gas Co. (NJ).

The top three in the amount added per-customer category are Silicon Valley Power (CA), Public Service Electric & Gas Co. (NJ) and Hawaiian Electric Co.

The report contains additional details about the total solar capacity of U.S. utilities, rankings by regions, geographical diversity and other utility solar trends. The full report can be found at www.sepatop10.org.

SEPA is an educational non-profit organization based in Washington dedicated to helping utilities integrate solar power into their energy portfolios

