August 31, 2011

NRG Solar Begins Operations at New Mexico's Roadrunner Facility

--Company now operating three facilities generating more than 85 megawatts of solar power--

PRINCETON, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- NRG Solar, a subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), started producing electricity at its 20-megawatt (MW) Roadrunner Solar Generating Facility, the second-largest photovoltaic (PV) project in the state of New Mexico. It is the third large-scale solar generation plant NRG has brought online and the Company's first outside California.



NRG Energy is now providing thousands of New Mexico homes with solar power from its 20-megawatt Roadrunner Solar Generating Facility located near Santa Teresa, NM. Photo courtesy of First Solar.

The Roadrunner facility created more than 200 jobs during its construction over the past nine months and now will generate enough renewable power to supply thousands of homes when operating at full capacity. First Solar Inc. (Nasdaq: FSLR) provided engineering, construction and procurement services for the project using its advanced thin film photovoltaic solar modules, and will also be the operations and maintenance contractor for the facility.

"On the heels of our recent commencement of operations at the Avenal Solar Generating Facility in California we now have our first solar facility operating in New Mexico, signaling that our diligent labors last year are starting to bear fruit," said Tom Doyle, President of NRG Solar and NRG's West Region. "We celebrate this milestone with our customers and business partners in New Mexico, where our facility will help harness the state's plentiful solar resources to meet its renewable energy goals."

The Roadrunner facility uses First Solar's advanced thin-film modules mounted on single-axis trackers. The system rotates the PV solar panels to follow the sun throughout the day, increasing electricity production compared with a fixed tilt installation.

The facility is located on a 210-acre privately owned parcel of industrial-zoned land near Santa Teresa, New Mexico, about 10 miles from El Paso, Texas. Cost-competitive, renewable power generated by the Roadrunner facility will be sold to El Paso Electric under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

About NRG and NRG Solar

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 and S&P 500 Index company, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, the Company's power plants provide more than 25,000 megawatts of generation capacity—enough to supply approximately 20 million homes. NRG's retail businesses— Reliant Energy and Green Mountain Energy Company—serve nearly 1.9 million residential, business, commercial and industrial customers.

NRG Solar LLC, a subsidiary of NRG, has more than 2,000 MW of photovoltaic and solar thermal projects under development or in construction across the southwestern United States. With major investments in solar and wind power, as well as electric vehicle infrastructure, NRG is working to help America transition to a clean energy economy. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com and www.nrgsolarenergy.com.

Safe Harbor Disclosure

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions and include NRG's expectations regarding the Roadrunner Solar Project and forward-looking statements typically can be identified by the use of words such as "will," "expect," "believe," and similar terms. Although NRG believes that its expectations are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct, and actual results may vary materially. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated above include, among others, general economic conditions, hazards customary in the power industry, weather conditions, competition in wholesale power markets, the volatility of energy and fuel prices, failure of customers to perform under contracts, changes in the wholesale power markets, changes in government regulation of markets and of environmental emissions, unanticipated outages at our generation facilities, the inability to access other financing arrangements, the inability to implement value enhancing improvements to plant operations and companywide processes, our ability to create and maintain successful partnering relationships.

NRG undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. The foregoing review of factors that could cause NRG's actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in the forward-looking statements included in this news release should be considered in connection with information regarding risks and uncertainties that may affect NRG's future results included in NRG's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission at www.sec.gov.

Photos/Multimedia Gallery Available: http://www.businesswire.com/cgi-bin/mmg.cgi?eid=6846765&lang=en

NRG Energy, Inc.
Media
Meredith Moore, 609-524-4522
Lori Neuman, 609-524-4525
David Knox, 713-537-2130
or
Investors:
Nahla Azmy, 609-524-4526
Stefan Kimball, 609-524-4527

Source: NRG Energy, Inc.

News Provided by Acquire Media