



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agua Caliente Earns Solar Project of the Year Awards

First 30 megawatts of commercial operation begins

DES MOINES, Iowa; TEMPE, Ariz.; and PRINCETON, NJ; Feb. 21, 2012 – Today, NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) and MidAmerican Renewables, LLC announced that their 290-megawatt_{AC} Agua Caliente solar project has earned two top solar project awards. The Yuma County, Ariz., photovoltaic power project being built by First Solar, Inc. (NASDAQ: FSLR) was named Solar Project of the Year by *Renewable Energy World*, a leading industry magazine, and PV Project of the Year by Solar Power Generation USA, the industry's leading utility-scale solar power conference.

The first 30-megawatt phase of the project began commercial operation in January.

"The editors of *the Renewable Energy World* network feel strongly that Agua Caliente represents the direction that solar power is taking in North America," said managing editor Jennifer Runyon. "Large-scale solar power will help this region meet its renewable energy goals. For this reason, we were delighted to name Agua Caliente Solar Project of the Year in our 2012 Excellence in Renewable Energy Award program."

"Agua Caliente is a shining example of how choosing the right location, selecting the best technology, and assembling a world-class team is crucial for the success of any solar project," said Tom Doyle, CEO and president, NRG Solar. "This project is a testament to the success of the U.S. Department of Energy loan guarantee program in putting Americans back to work. Currently, more than 400 workers are building the largest solar project in the state of Arizona."

"Agua Caliente is an exceptional project. This national recognition further demonstrates the viability of solar as an important renewable energy resource," said Bill Fehrman, president, MidAmerican Renewables.

The Agua Caliente project is expected to be the world's largest operational PV power plant upon completion in 2014. When fully operational, the project will generate enough clean solar electricity to serve the needs of approximately 100,000 average U.S. homes.

"We are pleased to see this landmark utility-scale solar project recognized," said James Lamon, First Solar senior vice president of engineering, procurement and construction. "A few years ago, PV projects of this size were only dreamed of; now, we are building them."

First Solar designed and is constructing the project using its advanced thin-film photovoltaic modules and will operate and maintain the facility for NRG and MidAmerican Renewables. The plant is equipped with an advanced technology control system to facilitate integration with the transmission grid. Features include regulation for dynamic voltage, power factor, and reactive power.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has a long-term power purchase agreement for all of the project's generation, which is projected to offset approximately 5.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over its 25-year life.

NRG Energy

NRG is at the forefront of changing how people think about and use energy. A Fortune 500 company, NRG is a pioneer in developing cleaner and smarter energy choices for our customers: whether as one of the largest solar power developers in the country, or by building the first privately funded electric vehicle charging infrastructure or by giving customers the latest smart energy solutions to better manage their energy use. Our diverse power generating facilities can support more than 20 million homes and our retail electricity providers – Reliant, Green Mountain Energy Company and Energy Plus – serve more than 2 million customers. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.

MidAmerican Renewables, LLC

MidAmerican Renewables, LLC oversees wind, geothermal, solar and hydro projects in the unregulated renewables market. MidAmerican Renewables is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, and has offices in Phoenix, Ariz., and Calipatria, Calif. Information about MidAmerican Renewables is available at www.midamericanrenewablesllc.com.

First Solar, Inc.

First Solar manufactures solar modules with an advanced semiconductor technology and is a premier provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) system solutions. The company is delivering an economically viable alternative to fossil-fueled generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life collection and recycling, First Solar is focused on creating value-driven renewable energy solutions that protect and enhance the environment. For more information about First Solar, please visit www.firstsolar.com.

For First Solar Investors

This release contains forward-looking statements, which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The forward-looking statements in this release do not constitute guarantees of future performance. Those statements involve a number of factors that could cause actual results to differ materially, including risks associated with the company's business involving the company's products, their development and distribution, economic and competitive factors and the company's key strategic relationships and other risks detailed in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. First Solar assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking information contained in this press release or with respect to the announcements described herein.

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Media contacts:

Lori Neuman, Director, Communications 609-524-4525
NRG Energy, Inc.
Lori.Neuman@nrgenergy.com

Ann Thelen, Director, Communications and Media Relations 515-281-2785
MidAmerican Renewables, LLC
athelen@midamerican.com

Melanie Friedman, Communications Specialist 602-384-9535
First Solar, Inc.
media@firstsolar.com

For NRG Investor Relations, contact:

Chad Plotkin, 609.524.4526

Stefan Kimball, 609.524.4527

Lori Stagliano, 609.524.4528