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AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY AND NORTHEAST UTILITIES WIN 2009 EDISON AWARD, ELECTRIC INDUSTRY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

SAN FRANCISCO (June 24, 2009) – Northeast Utilities and American Transmission Company have been named winners of the Edison Award by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) for the extraordinary achievements both companies have made this past year.

The Edison Award recognizes U.S. and international electric companies for outstanding leadership, innovation and advancement of the electric industry. A panel of past electric company CEOs selects the award winners.

This year's award, the 82nd annual, was presented in San Francisco at the EEI Annual Convention/Expo. The international winner of the award will be announced on June 25.

"At a time when siting transmission lines is one of our industry's most formidable challenges, we salute the accomplishments of Northeast Utilities and American Transmission Company" said EEI President Thomas R. Kuhn. "The projects these companies undertook were extremely well-executed and serve as strong examples to the rest of the industry. For that reason, NU and ATC are well-deserving of this year's Edison Award."

"Both of these companies have succeeded in remarkable reliability efforts, as they have each completed extensive transmission projects to improve reliability and operation for their respective service territories. The need to bring power to customers efficiently continues to be a major concern, and it's critically important to our energy future that this challenge is addressed."

Descriptions of the companies' efforts are as follows:

American Transmission Company (ATC) owns, operates, builds and maintains the high-voltage electric transmission system serving portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. ATC in 2008 completed the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line, a 345-kilovolt, 220-mile-long line between Wausau, Wis. and Duluth, Minn. that has significantly improved northern Wisconsin's reliability while easing constraints on the region's other major transmission line, the Eau Claire-Arpin line. The new transmission line allows for the movement of larger volumes of lower-cost electricity to utilities and customers. This has led to savings of \$5.1 million by electric customers after its first year in service, and the power it brings into the region helps control price spikes. Due to the high efficiency of the new line, the company estimates a savings of 35 megawatts of on-peak usage on neighboring utility

systems and that, over a 40-year life span, 5.7 million megawatt hours of electricity will be saved and 5.3 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions will be prevented.

Northeast Utilities (NU) operates New England's largest energy delivery system and serves more than 2 million electricity and natural gas customers. Northeast Utilities in 2008 completed a major, multi-year electric transmission upgrade in southwest Connecticut, an area previously considered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as one of the nation's most severely congested. The upgrade consisted of four transmission line projects – Bethel-Norwalk, Glenbrook Cables, Long Island Replacement Cable and Middletown-Norwalk – with Bethel-Norwalk completed and energized in 2006 and the rest completed and energized in 2008. Overall, the four projects were finished ahead of schedule and under budget by \$80 million. Since completion, the Bethel-Norwalk project already has generated more than \$150 million in congestion-related savings. The Middletown-Norwalk line includes the world's longest 345-kV buried, solid-core cable at 24 miles, and the Long Island Replacement Cable project includes 11 miles of cable buried six feet under the sea bed.

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The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association of U.S. shareholder-owned electric companies. Our members serve 95 percent of the ultimate customers in the shareholder-owned segment of the industry, and represent approximately 70 percent of the U.S. electric power industry. We also have more than 65 International electric companies as Affiliate members, and more than 170 industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate members.