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New England Governors to Present Regional Power Development Vision to Federal Government

Boston, MA – The Governors of the six New England states came together today under the auspices of the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. (NEGC) to outline a unified vision for a partnership with the federal government to help develop the regional power resources and infrastructure that will support their shared goal of cost-effective, low-carbon and secure energy for the region's citizens.

During a conference call this afternoon, the Governors agreed to urge congressional leaders and President Obama to work cooperatively with the New England states to develop a regional-federal partnership on energy issues, including improved and expanded transmission capacity and renewable energy development.

“All of New England will work together to make our case to the federal government,” Maine Governor John E. Baldacci, chairman of the NEGC, said. “On our own, each of our states can make a compelling case for federal support to develop clean energy and transmission capacity. Together, we make an unbeatable team.”

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009, which is being debated in Congress now, includes energy-related funding that could make it possible for the region to enhance transmission and renewable energy projects.

“We need to make sure President Obama and Congress understand the incredible progress that has been made in New England to secure America's energy future,” Governor Baldacci said. “With an active federal partner, we can create thousands of jobs in the Northeast, reduce our dependency on foreign oil and boost our regional economy.”

With the assistance and support of the Independent System Operator – New England, Inc. (ISO-NE, Inc.), the Governors will create a blueprint for developing regional energy resources and overcoming transmission barriers that will enhance the energy independence of the region. This process builds on the long history of regional cooperation in the region, dating back to Colonial days, and the leadership and proven success demonstrated by the region on energy, climate, environmental and other issues.

The Governors will meet on Feb. 22, 2009 during the National Governors' Association meeting in Washington, D.C., to further discuss these issues.

The New England Governors' Conference, Inc. was founded in 1937 to coordinate regional approaches to a wide variety of policies issues, including economic development, trade, energy, environment, health care, transportation, agriculture, education, conservation and border security. The Conference is a non-partisan, non-profit organization whose Board of Directors consists of the six New England Governors. The 2009 members of the NEGC are Governor John E. Baldacci (Maine - Chair), Governor Deval L. Patrick (Massachusetts - Vice Chair), Governor M. Jodi Rell (Connecticut), Governor John Lynch (New Hampshire), Governor Donald L. Carcieri (Rhode Island), and Governor James H. Douglas (Vermont).