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ISO New England Provides Power System Update Following Explosion at Power Plant Construction Site

*No Impacts Anticipated for Near-term Reliability;
Long-term Implications under Assessment*

Holyoke, MA—February 8, 2010—Following the February 7, 2010 explosion at the construction site of Kleen Energy System's power plant in Middletown, Connecticut, ISO New England Inc. today offered its deepest sympathies to those affected by this tragic event and provided information regarding the short- and long-term impact on the reliability of the bulk power system.

"All of us at ISO New England extend our thoughts and condolences to the workers and families affected by this terrible tragedy," said ISO New England President and Chief Executive Officer Gordon van Welie. ISO New England is the operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets. "From an operational standpoint, we do not anticipate any near-term reliability issues for the bulk power system serving Connecticut or the region as a result of yesterday's incident."

Kleen Energy's 620-megawatt (MW), natural gas power plant was entering the final stages of construction but was not yet connected or providing electricity to the region's bulk power system. As such, there is no immediate impact on reliability; the region's bulk power system is currently operating under normal conditions.

Although construction was ahead of schedule, ISO New England's long-term plans did not anticipate that the plant would be available until June 2011. The ISO is currently assessing future implications should these resources not come online as planned. The region has surplus capacity that can be available in mid-2011 if needed.

The region currently has approximately 32,000 MW of capacity available, with 7,500 MW located in Connecticut. A variety of factors influence the wholesale price of electricity, including the availability of resources, the level of power demand on the system, and the cost of the fuels used to produce electricity. Accordingly, ISO New England cannot assess future wholesale market prices.