



NEWS RELEASE

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June 21, 2007

Xcel Energy and NREL install solar energy measurement station at Comanche Generating Station

DENVER – Xcel Energy’s commitment to solar energy is being strengthened through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to collect solar data to support future solar power generation in southeast Colorado. A new solar energy measurement station has been installed at the company’s Comanche Generating Station in Pueblo, Colo. The monitoring equipment being deployed at Comanche Station is part of a national program NREL has established to determine solar energy resources available across the United States.

The new Comanche solar monitoring station is one of only three such measurement sites in Colorado, and the only one in the state currently sponsored by a private company. It will monitor a variety of data that will help define the amount of solar energy that hits this area of the state. The solar measurement instrumentation will also be accompanied by meteorological monitoring equipment to provide scientists with a complete picture of the solar power possibilities in southern Colorado. NREL will monitor the data hourly, and the public will be able to access the data collected through www.nrel.gov/midc, an NREL Internet site.

“This monitoring station will help tell us exactly how much energy the sun can provide in an area to generate electricity. We need this information to continue developing future solar power plants that will add to energy purchased from the 8-megawatt solar power plant soon to come on-line near Alamosa,” said Lou Matis, vice president of operations. “The more we know about available solar resources, the more we can develop new solar facilities that have higher efficiency, are more productive, and are less costly for our customers.”

“We are delighted that Xcel Energy has joined us in implementing the programs we need to take full advantage of this important source of energy for our country,” said Tom Stoffel, who manages the renewable energy resource information and solar measurements for NREL.

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