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*State-of-the-art energy center will bring affordable,
clean electricity to South Texas*

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX—May 19, 2008. Plans were announced today to construct a 1,200 megawatt state-of-the-art, environmentally clean electric generating facility in Corpus Christi to bring much-needed, competitively priced electricity to households in the Corpus Christi-South Texas region.

“This facility is designed to minimize environmental impacts, and be clean and efficient,” said John Upchurch, Managing Partner of Las Brisas Development, LLC, which has proposed building the plant.

The Las Brisas Energy Center, a circulating fluidized bed (CFB) facility, will be built on the north side of the Port of Corpus Christi’s Inner Harbor, Upchurch said. It will not discharge wastewater into the Corpus Christi Bay or any other water body, but will buy water from the City of Corpus Christi and return it to the city wastewater system. Built in an existing industrial corridor, the plant will provide a beneficial reuse of petroleum coke, an existing byproduct of the area’s current refining capacity. It will not cause or contribute to a change in the ozone attainment status for the Corpus Christi air shed. The project is expected to be completed by late 2012.

Las Brisas Managing Partner Kathleen Smith said the project will create 1,300 direct jobs and 2,600 ancillary jobs during its construction phase, for a projected economic impact of \$2.5-\$3 billion. Once operations begin, the plant will create 80-100 direct jobs and 150-175 ancillary jobs, amounting to \$20-\$30 billion in annual wages annually.

“These will not be your ordinary blue-collar plant jobs,” said Smith. “Most jobs will have starting annual salaries averaging \$75,000 plus excellent health and retirement benefits. They will be long-term jobs, and 90 percent of them will come from Nueces and San Patricio counties.”

Las Brisas Energy Center will leverage Corpus Christi’s existing infrastructure to make the project happen quickly and efficiently, and maximize its operational efficiency. The company chose this site largely because of its access to the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor, the rail loop and the deepwater channel at the Port of Corpus Christi will facilitate the transport of heavy equipment and materials. The strong local workforce and access to customized training programs at Del Mar College and the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend were also contributing factors. Finally, the city has already done preliminary air quality modeling, which has proven favorable.

“Forward-thinking, long-term planning by Corpus Christi’s elected officials and community leaders have made the area very attractive for this type of advanced generation plant,” said Upchurch. “Las Brisas Energy Center will provide reliable, competitively priced electric power that is sorely needed in the South Texas region, and it will give a tremendous economic boost to the area. We are proud to play a role in such a positive development.”

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