



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SES Commends CPUC Commissioner Grueneich for Proposed Decision  
Supporting Southern Route for Sunrise Powerlink**

*SES Solar Two Project can deliver 300 MW on existing transmission, requires Sunrise to reach full potential*

(PHOENIX – November 10, 2008) Phoenix-based Stirling Energy Systems (SES) today praised California Public Utilities Commissioner (CPUC) Dian Grueneich for her recommendation to build the Sunrise Powerlink on the so-called southern route, which avoids Anza Borrego Desert State Park. SES CEO Steve Cowman stated that “Commissioner Grueneich is to be commended for her ability to develop a compromise that will link the extensive solar resources in the Imperial Valley to the San Diego region. The Sunrise Powerlink will provide a vital transmission line that will allow Stirling Energy to develop the full potential of its SES Solar Two solar farm.”

SES intends to work with the CPUC to recommend modifications to Commissioner Grueneich’s proposed Alternative Decision that will provide greater certainty that the Sunrise Powerlink will be built in a timely manner to ensure there is adequate transmission capacity for the second phase of Solar Two, which is located in California’s Imperial Valley west of El Centro.

Cowman offered support for Sunrise at the CPUC’s hearing on November 7, 2008, noting that the first 300 MW phase of the Solar Two project does not require Sunrise and is “...on track to begin generating energy in 2010.” The second phase of the Solar Two project would require Sunrise to deliver clean solar energy to California customers. Cowman observed that the uncertainty created by the CPUC’s proposed decisions “threatens the manufacturing ramp up plans of key suppliers we have worked hard to develop.”

SES has a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) for the output of the SES Solar Two project, which will be constructed in two primary phases. The first phase will include 12,000 SunCatcher dishes generating 300 megawatts. The second phase will generate 450 megawatts using an additional 18,000 solar dishes, together helping SDG&E and California achieve their renewable energy goals. Ultimately SES may develop up to 900 MW under the PPA. Solar Two will provide electricity for approximately 500,000 homes in the greater San Diego region.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is the lead state agency for issuing permits necessary to construct the Solar Two project. SES’s Application for Certification (AFC) for Solar Two was submitted to the CEC on June 30, 2008, and was deemed “data adequate” by the CEC in October. Data adequacy is a key step in the CEC permitting process and triggers the CEC’s 12-month

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timeline to complete processing of the Solar Two project. The 2,600-page application addresses numerous issues related to developing the project – including environmental, biological and workforce impacts.

The Stirling Energy SunCatcher dish is the most efficient solar technology in the world and converts sunlight into electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions. Each dish is 38 feet tall, 40 feet wide and generates 25,000 watts of power. The SunCatcher technology consumes no water for cooling and uses very little water to keep the mirrors clean.

### **Stirling Energy Systems**

SES was formed in 1996 to develop and commercialize advanced solar technology. The company maintains corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona, offices in Berkeley and Tustin, California, and engineering and test site operations at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The SES SunCatcher is a concentrating solar power (CSP) technology that uses mirrors to concentrate the sun's energy and convert it to electricity. CSP technologies include dish systems, parabolic troughs, power towers and concentrating photovoltaic. The dish concentrator tracks, collects and focuses the sun's energy and the Stirling engine converts the thermal energy to grid quality electricity. The SunCatcher technology has significant advantages including power conversion efficiency, cost competitiveness and low water usage. The SunCatcher is a zero emission renewable energy technology.

### **NTR plc**

NTR plc is a leading international developer and operator in renewable energy and sustainable waste management. NTR recently invested \$100 million in SES. Founded in 1978, NTR has evolved from being a developer and operator of infrastructure in Ireland to an international developer and operator of renewable energy and sustainable waste management businesses in the US, UK, Ireland and Continental Europe. The company employs over 3,500 people and has a market capitalization in excess of €1.0 billion (\$1.35 billion).

More information can be found at <http://www.ntr.ie> and <http://www.stirlingenergy.com>

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