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Power County Advanced Energy Center Schedules Southeast Idaho Open Houses

AMERICAN FALLS, ID, Feb. 14 – Residents of Southeast Idaho will have an opportunity to obtain information and provide comments concerning the Power County Advanced Energy Center at Open Houses in Aberdeen, American Falls, Blackfoot, Chubbuck, Pocatello and Rockland during the week of Feb. 25.

Officials of Southeast Idaho Energy (SIE) will be available at the Power County EMS-American Falls Fire Department Building on Monday Feb. 25 from 1-6 p.m. and at the Ramada Inn in Chubbuck from 7-9 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 26, they will be at the Red Lion Hotel in Pocatello from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and at the Shilling House Reception Center in Blackfoot from 7-9 p.m. On Wednesday, Feb. 27, the SIE team will conduct Open House at Aberdeen City Hall from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and at Rockland City Hall from 7-9 p.m.

According to Kim Clinger, SIE's community relations representative, "The Open Houses are part of a continuing effort to provide information about the Center to area residents, hear their comments and concerns, and answer questions. We want the Center to be a positive contributor to Southeast Idaho and a good neighbor. "

During the Open Houses, SIE officials will be available to discuss the project with individuals and small groups.

SIE plans to build the \$2 billion Center on more than 450 acres zoned for heavy industry southwest of American Falls. The Center will use advanced clean-coal gasification technology to produce fertilizers. In Phase 1 of the two-phase project, SIE plans to invest \$1 billion, and the Center will produce 3,500 tons of nitrogen-based fertilizers per day.

SIE has submitted an application for an air permit to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Based on detailed computer modeling completed for the application, the Center will operate well below the federal and state government limits established to protect human health and the environment. Emissions will be less than 6% of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). SIE anticipates receiving a draft of the air permit this summer.

SIE expects to begin construction in the second quarter of 2009. Construction will require 750-1,000 workers. Startup of Phase 1 is planned for 2012. The center is expected to create 150 operations jobs that pay well.

Clinger said the company is committed to hiring locally and will work with local institutions to create a training program for the operations positions.

"Please stop in at one of the Open Houses," Clinger said. "We want to hear your ideas and discuss our project with you. We look forward to seeing you there."

Additional information on the Open Houses is available by contacting Clinger at k.clinger@rehinc.com or at 208-904-1976.