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Date: October 2, 2007

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AES ANNOUNCES \$25 MILLION INVESTMENT TO DEVELOP LAKE UNLOADING PROJECT (LUP) AT POWER GENERATING FACILITY IN NIAGARA COUNTY

Project will create over 100 union construction jobs over a two year period and help retain over 150 jobs

BARKER, NEW YORK – Various local, state and federal government representatives and business, community and civic officials joined AES management and employees to unveil plans to build a lake unloading facility at its electric generating station on the shores of Lake Ontario in Niagara County. The \$25 million investment will create approximately 100 union construction jobs over a two year period and help retain over 150 management and union jobs at the 675 megawatt power plant.

“This project has significant and multiple positive impacts for Niagara County, New York State and AES,” Jon Reimann the AES project manager for the Lake Unloading Project (LUP) said. “Our project will generate significant economic benefits for Niagara County in terms of jobs and new tax revenues. The project will provide regional energy security and fuel diversity for New York State’s energy supply and, finally, the project will help retain over 150 union and management jobs currently at our generating facility.”

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The LUP will be utilized to deliver products such as coal, limestone and other bulk commodities via self-unloading ships to the AES generating facility. The company estimates that the total annual value of the commodities to be delivered from the LUP would be approximately \$100 million. In addition, AES will be working with the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency to identify local businesses that may be able to use the LUP for movement of other key products.

"This project is great news for Niagara County in our efforts to lure new investment by the private sector," New York State Senator George Maziarz said. "At the same time it shows that AES is committed to our region and the surrounding community by further enhancing the local tax base."

"I look forward to working with AES and organized labor to make this project a reality," New York State Assemblywoman Francine Delmonte said. "I am pleased AES is fulfilling its commitment of continued investment in Niagara County."

"The Lake Unloading Project will provide our members with good paying wages over a sustained period of time," Robert Connolly, Business Manager, Laborers Local 91. "We look forward to working with AES in educating the community about the positive benefits this project will provide to our region."

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The Lake Unloading Project involves the construction of a 3,200 foot long pier for the unloading of coal, limestone and potentially other materials. The pier would be designed to incorporate both an in-haul conveyer system and a loading hopper to facilitate the self-unloading of Great Lakes vessels. A similar facility is operating at the St. Lawrence Cement plant in Mississauga, Ontario approximately 100 miles from Barker.

“The AES Somerset facility is a cornerstone asset for Niagara County and the Western New York region. It not only provides a critically vital supply source for the state energy system, but the available site offers outstanding business expansion potential for our area. The Lake Unloading Project will not only enhance the current operations of our generating station but it will offer immediate economic benefits to the region and provide new transportation options for potential long term economic expansion in Niagara County,” Reimann continued. “We are pleased by the turnout today by elected officials and civic and business representatives and look forward to working cooperatively to make this project a reality.”