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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The 23rd Annual Western States Energy Conference:**  
**“COUNTING THE COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE”**

SALT LAKE CITY — The **Utah Association of Energy Users (UAE)** is hosting its 23rd Annual Western States Energy Conference, Thursday, May 8, at the **Little America Hotel**, in downtown Salt Lake City, followed by a golf tournament on May 9 at **Eaglewood Golf Course**. The conference attracts approximately 125 -150 representatives from commerce and industry whose energy costs are a major component of their operating budgets. Both operating and managerial executives who are interested in energy efficiency, policy and technical issues are invited, as well as regulatory staff from western states, legislators and utility representatives.

This year’s conference will focus on the climate change issues that are evolving and what they will mean at the national, regional and state levels, and how utilities and customers may be impacted by federal and state actions on carbon issues.

This conference will feature Daniel Pellissier from the California EPA, on meeting the global warming challenge in the West, Dr. James Steenburgh from the Meteorology Department at the U of U, on the Utah outlook for climate change, and Greg Abel, CEO of PacifiCorp, will provide his perspective on how the utility will adapt its energy supply to the shift in energy policy.

Dr. Dianne Nielson, energy advisor to Governor Huntsman, will speak at the luncheon on the Governor’s energy goals for the state of Utah. In the afternoon, two panels of experts will discuss the impact of the Western Climate Initiative, the increasing demand on natural gas, the new challenges faced by coal companies, and energy tools related to carbon issues for large energy users will fill out the afternoon.

On Thursday at the conference luncheon, UAE will present one “*Outstanding Leadership in Energy Issues*” award to Utah Senator Curtis Bramble for his work on Senate Bill 202, which requires electrical corporations and municipal electric utilities to achieve a 20% level of electricity sold in the form of renewable energy resources by 2025. Also presented will be an “*Outstanding Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Conservation*” award to UAE member IM Flash Technologies, for its aggressive work in energy efficiency in the design of its facilities. UAE will honor outgoing president Ron Day with an “*Outstanding Services Award*.” The evening will conclude with a dinner presentation by Mayor Ralph Becker, who will discuss how he will address the energy challenges facing Salt Lake City. On May 9, the conference will conclude with a golf tournament at the Eaglewood Golf Course in the morning.

Registration is required in advance. Contact Kelly Francone to register, at 801.355.4374 and for information about attending.

UAE members spend over \$250 Million annually on energy, and provide 40,000 highly technical jobs to Utahns. Since 1986, UAE members have participated in all major regulatory and legislative activities that impact electricity and natural gas markets in Utah. Members of UAE are significant users of large amounts of electricity and natural gas, and as a result are greatly affected by rulings of the Utah Public Service Commission. UAE publishes a monthly newsletter to keep its members informed of key energy issues, and provides weekly market, regulatory and legislative updates. Through monthly membership breakfast meetings, annual meetings with Utah regulators and other agencies, members of UAE are kept well informed on events shaping energy markets in Utah. Contact Kelly Francone at 801.355.4374 for information on membership.