

## For Immediate Release

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### **US SILICA'S MAURICETOWN PLANT TO INSTALL STATE'S LARGEST SOLAR FACILITY OF ITS KIND**

**Mauricetown, New Jersey. April 1, 2009.** U.S. Silica Company, a leader in the industrial minerals field, has contracted with Eastern Energy Services (EES) of Southamptton, New Jersey and Greenpower New Jersey, a power purchase agreement provider, to develop a solar facility at its Mauricetown, New Jersey plant.

John Ulizio, President and CEO of U.S. Silica Company stated, " We are really excited to be involved with the largest solar energy facility of its kind in the State of New Jersey. And, while this is the first large-scale solar project the company has undertaken, it is certainly not the last".

Eastern Energy Services President, Fred Hauber reported, "The dual-axis tracker solar installation will produce 3,300 megawatt hours of solar photovoltaic electricity, making it the largest of its kind in both New Jersey and the United States, and the twelfth largest in the world".

A dual-axis system is one that allows the panels to both tilt and rotate to follow the path of the sun through the sky, which allows for much better efficiency in converting the sunlight to electricity. The system will cover approximately fifteen acres of ground, and will supply 80% of the electricity used by the Mauricetown plant.

C. Scott Eves, Plant Manager for the Mauricetown Plant said, "I am extremely pleased that this project is coming to fruition. This is a great project for the citizens of South Jersey and U.S. Silica Company. It has been 18 months getting to this point, and now I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it is solar powered!"

As a result of this installation, U.S. Silica will reduce the carbon footprint of the Mauricetown operation by 2000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, will replace the consumption of 6.6 million gallons of oil over the life of the project, and will offset the effect of 8.9 million car miles. James D'Ambrosio, Environmental, Health & Safety Coordinator for the Mauricetown facility said "I am very excited about this project and U.S. Silica's commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gasses, not only to our community, but also to the world by reducing the use of fossil fuels needed to generate our electrical power needs."

Since the 1970's the State has periodically published Energy Master Plans (EMP). In October 22, 2008, Governor Jon Corzine delivered the latest, and possibly the most important, NJ State EMP. The overall priority is ensuring that New Jersey electricity and heating fuel customers will receive a reliable supply of electricity and heating

fuels at a reasonable price, consistent with the State's environmental priorities. The Energy Master Plan lists a series of goals and action items that will put the State on track to successfully meet the energy challenges facing it, while developing the clean energy industry as a cornerstone of the State's economy. The series of action items proposed in the Energy Master Plan will effectively reduce the State's energy consumption 20% by 2020. The State's goal for solar electricity requires that an increasing amount be produced in each year from 2009 through 2021. U.S. Silica Company's solar facility will be a significant contributor towards meeting these objectives, and will produce electricity for decades to come. According to Greg Fell, U.S. Silica Corporate Environmental Manager, "This project fits well with U.S. Silica's efforts to be a sustainable and responsible company. It makes use of our existing plant property to reduce the demand on the local power grid while also reducing the pollution generated from the power we need to conduct our business. This project will have a positive impact on both the company and the local community."

U.S. Silica Company selected Eastern Energy Services to provide an energy analysis of the Mauricetown plant with the goal of reducing energy costs and providing a sustainable solution for its energy needs.

Eastern Energy Services and Greenpower New Jersey form the team that will design, construct, commission, operate and manage the solar facility. This project will be funded by a Power Purchase Agreement, which brings together alternative energy facility owners with energy users. It offers property owners the opportunity to stabilize and reduce energy costs with no upfront capital investment. The benefits to the property owner include lower cost for electricity and lesser rate hikes in addition to a reduced carbon footprint.

#### **About US Silica Company**

U.S. Silica Company, the second largest silica sand producer in the country, represents more than a century of mining and processing experience in industrial minerals, becoming the established standard of excellence in the production and marketing of silica. This is complemented by a deep commitment to providing quality products and exceptional service to customers, which is accomplished through a commitment to quality, health and safety, outstanding people, environmental responsibility and consistent improvement. The company has thirteen facilities in the U.S. including two in New Jersey; Mauricetown and Port Elizabeth, and 676 employees nationwide. The company has a unique tie in to the alternative energy industry in that its Rockwood Michigan plant produces high purity glass sand used in the manufacturing process for covers of photovoltaic cells.

#### **About Greenpower New Jersey**

Greenpower New Jersey is based in Whippany, New Jersey. President, Michael Jarvis, a professional electrical engineer with a Masters of Business Administration from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, has forty-five years of electrical contracting and entrepreneurial experience, including working with some of the nation's largest utilities.

#### **About Eastern Energy Services**

Eastern Energy Services provides a full turnkey program to include all the steps and components needed for successful project completion: Survey, Design & Engineering, Construction, Installation, Disposal, Maintenance, Rebates and Financing.

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