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FOR RELEASE #09-274 November 25, 2009

Policies to Support Increased Renewable Energy to be Developed

WHITEHORSE – A public consultation for developing Yukon policies for independent power production (IPP) and net metering was announced today by Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Archie Lang.

"As a key initiative of Yukon's Energy Strategy, these policies will encourage the development of new small scale sources of renewable energy to help meet our future energy needs while limiting green house gas emissions and improving electrical system reliability," Lang said.

An IPP is a company or individual other than a public utility that generates electricity for sale to utilities. IPPs do not own transmission facilities and are dependent on public utilities to purchase and distribute the power they produce.

Net metering allows electricity customers to sell surplus electricity produced from small-scale renewable energy sources to the grid. Net metering customers receive a credit for the electricity they generate.

"This initiative will align Yukon with the many other Canadian jurisdictions that have developed IPP and net metering policies that emphasize efficiency, conservation and renewable energy," Lang added.

Stakeholders, experts and members of the public are invited to become involved in the process and provide comments. Deadline for submission of comments is January 29, 2010.

A discussion paper providing an overview of Yukon's electrical system, as well as the key issues to be addressed by the policy can be downloaded from the Energy, Mines and Resources website at www.emr.gov.yk.ca.

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