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COLORADO GOVERNOR'S OFFICES ANNOUNCE TWO NEW TOOLS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT USING RENEWABLE ENERGY

DENVER, CO, December 12, 2005 – The Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) and the Governor's Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) today announced two new tools that suggest how renewable energy can bring economic development to rural Colorado.

The strategic studies, "The Handbook on Renewable Energy Financing for Rural Colorado" and "Distributed Wind Generation Study for Northeast Colorado," provide details on existing projects and discuss the potential of renewables in driving economic development in rural communities.

The OEMC initiated these two studies to help Coloradans assess feasibility of renewable energy technologies. The studies address how renewable energy can benefit agriculture, utilities, consumers and other industries in Colorado.

"Our hope is that these tools will increase renewable energy projects in Colorado while providing affordable and reliable energy sources," said Drew Bolin, director of OEMC.

"These studies will provide rural communities with the necessary tools to utilize this emerging industry and build a diverse economic base," said Brian Vogt, director of the OEDIT and acting secretary of technology.

"The Handbook on Renewable Energy Financing for Rural Colorado" uses Colorado case studies to examine existing renewable energy projects, such as biomass, biofuels, hydropower, solar, and others. Descriptions of these commercially available technologies with respect to the financial, environmental, and technological factors are provided in the Handbook. McNeil Technologies received funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and OEMC for the Handbook, with the intent to expand the use of renewable energy in the agricultural sector.

The second publication, "Distributed Wind Generation Study for Northeast Colorado," focuses specifically on wind energy's potential to provide additional power and economic benefits to Colorado. Tom Wind, of Wind Utility Consulting, researched how large wind turbines could be interconnected with the existing electrical grid system in northeast Colorado and reports on these findings. OEMC and DOE's *Wind Powering America* program commissioned this study, which used Highline Electric Association's grid.

Access these publications at OEMC's website: www.colorado.gov/oemc and click on "Publications."

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