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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2011

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MUD TO BUILD TWO COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS STATIONS Nebraska Energy Office Low Interest Loan Used to Finance Project

OMAHA – Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) will construct two new compressed natural gas fueling (CNG) stations with the help of a 10-year, 2.5% Dollar and Energy Saving loan for more than \$2.2 million from the Nebraska Energy Office and its lending partner, First National Bank of Omaha. The two stations, planned to open in June 2011, will be located at 54th and L Streets near Happy Cab and at the north gate of M.U.D.'s 63rd and Center Street facility. Each station will cost \$1.1 million.

“We are very pleased Governor Heineman and the State Energy Office provided us this opportunity to save our customers money in providing a clean alternative fuel option,” said M.U.D. Board Chairperson David Friend. “Tighter emissions controls on cars and trucks, concern about reliance on foreign oil, and large domestic reserves of natural gas make compressed natural gas vehicles the obvious choice for our customers to save money and protect the environment.”

“The Nebraska Energy Office was able to provide a low interest rate loan for this sizeable project using *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* funds,” said Ginger Willson, Director of the Energy Office. “This project helps a local utility accomplish a goal to broaden transportation fuel options for the public and lessen the state’s dependence on foreign imported fuel. Anyone who wants a loan to purchase a CNG vehicle should contact the Energy Office.”

Dollar and Energy Saving and Loans have been available since 1990 to assist Nebraskans make energy efficiency improvements in homes, businesses and schools. Loans are available at 2.5% to homeowners, businesses, K-12 schools and government entities for energy efficient improvements to existing structures as well as alternative fuel vehicles through March 31, 2011. A low interest loan also is available for the construction of Energy Star Five Star Plus homes. To date, 26,230 projects totaling nearly \$230 million in improvements have been financed. The loans are available through Nebraska lenders across the state. The agency purchases a portion of the loan to reduce the interest rate.

The primary advantage of CNG is lower cost. With gasoline prices continually on the rise, now is the best time to consider a CNG vehicle purchase. For example, the January price for CNG was \$1.29 per gasoline gas equivalent (GGE), a savings of nearly \$1.70 a gallon. CNG prices on average have been \$1.50 less per GGE. Vehicle costs are higher and vary by model, however those costs can be offset or eliminated over the life of the vehicle through fuel savings and other incentives.

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is a clean, environmentally friendly and economical alternative to gasoline and diesel fuel. Domestic natural gas is a reliable fuel and reduces vehicle emissions.

Contact the Energy Office for more information on the Dollar and Energy Saving and Loan program.

The Nebraska Energy Office was created in 1977 to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy. It is an authoritative voice and comprehensive resource center for energy issues in the State of Nebraska. In addition, the energy office plays an important role in fostering new growth in our renewable energy industry and helping Nebraska lead the way in the new clean energy economy. For more information, please visit www.neo.ne.gov.