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Americans for Balanced Energy Choices Applauds West Virginia Regulators for Approving \$2.3 billion Clean Coal Plant in State

Alexandria, VA – March 7, 2008 – “The West Virginia Public Utility Commission took a strong step forward in preserving access to a secure and affordable energy source -- electricity from coal -- for the citizens of West Virginia and surrounding states,” said Joe Lucas, executive director of Americans for Balanced Energy Choices. “Each new project propels the coal-based utility sector closer to a shared goal of electricity generation with near-zero emissions, including carbon capture and storage.”

Appalachian Power Co., a subsidiary of Ohio-based AEP, received approval for the \$2.3 billion clean coal plant Thursday from the Public Service Commission. Regulators say the 629-megawatt Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) plant is needed to help AEP meet demand for electricity.

“This new project is good for AEP’s customers and also is good for developing countries like China, India and Korea,” said Lucas. “Policies that promote development and deployment of advanced clean-coal technologies in the US help address concerns about climate change globally. Once technologies are proven successful here, they will be widely adopted internationally allowing for the expansion of energy supplies for meeting demand without increasing emissions.

“Technology has been the answer to every environmental challenge facing the energy industry over the past three decades, and there is no indication that climate change will be any different,” Lucas concluded.

Electricity from coal provides more than 97 percent of West Virginia’s power needs.

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Americans for Balanced Energy Choices is a non-profit, non-partisan group that promotes a dialogue with recognized community leaders across the nation to discuss balancing America’s growing demand for electricity with the need to protect the environment. ABEC counts more than 125,000 members nationwide with 1,100 members in West Virginia. Because of its prominence in the nation’s energy mix, electricity from coal is a major focus of the dialogue. For more information, go to www.Americaspower.org.