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DUKE ENERGY MEDIA CONTACT:
Phone:
24-Hour:

Pete Sheffield
980/373-4503
704/382-8333

CINERGY MEDIA CONTACT:
Phone:

Steve Brash
513/287-2226

Duke Energy and Cinergy Announce NRC Approvals Related to Merger

CHARLOTTE, N.C. and CINCINNATI Duke Energy and Cinergy announced that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) today granted approvals related to the companies' planned combination.

Specifically, the NRC approved an application filed by Duke Energy in connection with the merger that transfers certain operating licenses from Duke Energy to its utility, Duke Power.

The merger, announced May 9, 2005, remains subject to shareholder approvals and other closing requirements. As previously announced, special meetings for shareholders of both Duke Energy and Cinergy to vote on the merger have been set for March 10.

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State regulators in North Carolina and Indiana are currently considering settlement agreements reached between the companies and certain interested parties in each state. The companies anticipate closing the merger as early as April.

Corporate Profiles

Cinergy has a balanced, integrated portfolio consisting of two core businesses:

regulated operations and commercial businesses. Cinergy's integrated businesses make it a Midwest leader in providing both low-cost generation and reliable electric and gas service. More information about the company is available on the Internet at: <http://www.cinergy.com>.

Duke Energy is a diversified energy company with a portfolio of natural gas and electric businesses, both regulated and unregulated, and an affiliated real estate company. Duke Energy supplies, delivers and processes energy for customers in the Americas. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 500 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available on the Internet at: <http://www.duke-energy.com>.

Forward-Looking Statements

This document includes statements that do not directly or exclusively relate to historical facts. Such statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements include statements regarding benefits of the proposed mergers and restructuring transactions, integration plans and expected synergies, anticipated future financial operating performance and results, including estimates of growth. These statements are based on the current expectations of management of Duke Energy and Cinergy. There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements included in this document. For example, (1) the companies may be unable to obtain shareholder approvals required for the transaction; (2) the companies may be unable to obtain regulatory approvals required for the transaction, or required regulatory approvals may delay the transaction or result in the imposition of conditions that could have a material adverse effect on the combined company or cause the companies to abandon the transaction; (3) conditions to the closing of the transaction may not be satisfied; (4) problems may arise in successfully integrating the businesses of the companies, which may result in the combined company not operating as effectively and

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efficiently as expected; (5) the combined company may be unable to achieve cost-cutting synergies or it may take longer than expected to achieve those synergies; (6) the transaction may involve unexpected costs or unexpected liabilities, or the effects of purchase accounting may be different from the companies' expectations; (7) the credit ratings of the combined company or its subsidiaries may be different from what the companies expect; (8) the businesses of the companies may suffer as a result of uncertainty surrounding the transaction; (9) the industry may be subject to future regulatory or legislative actions that could adversely affect the companies; and (10) the companies may be adversely affected by other economic, business, and/or competitive factors. Additional factors that may affect the future results of Duke Energy and Cinergy are set forth in their respective filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), which are available at www.duke-energy.com/investors and www.cinergy.com/investors, respectively. Duke Energy and Cinergy undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed transaction, a registration statement of Duke Energy Holding Corp. (Registration No. 333-126318), which includes a definitive joint proxy statement of Duke Energy and Cinergy, and other materials have been filed with the SEC and are publicly available. **WE URGE INVESTORS TO READ THE DEFINITIVE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT-PROSPECTUS AND THESE OTHER MATERIALS CAREFULLY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DUKE ENERGY, CINERGY, DUKE ENERGY HOLDING CORP., AND THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION.** Investors will be able to obtain free copies of the joint proxy statement-prospectus as well as other filed documents containing information about Duke Energy and Cinergy at <http://www.sec.gov>, the SEC's Web site. Free copies of Duke Energy's SEC filings are also available on Duke Energy's Web site at: <http://www.duke-energy.com/investors>, and free copies of Cinergy's SEC filings are also available on Cinergy's Web site at <http://www.cinergy.com/investors>.

Participants in the Solicitation

Duke Energy, Cinergy and their respective executive officers and directors may be deemed, under SEC rules, to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from Duke Energy's or Cinergy's stockholders with respect to the proposed transaction. Information regarding the officers and directors of Duke Energy is included in its definitive proxy statement for its 2005 annual meeting filed with the SEC on March 31, 2005. Information regarding the officers and directors of Cinergy is included in its definitive proxy statement for its 2005 annual meeting filed with the SEC on March 28, 2005. More detailed information regarding the identity of potential participants, and their direct or indirect interests, by securities, holdings or otherwise, will be set forth in the registration statement and proxy statement and other materials filed or to be filed with the SEC in connection with the proposed transaction.

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