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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2010

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID ANNOUNCES NEXT PHASE OF ENERGY SECTOR ASSISTANCE IN CENTRAL ASIA

ALMATY — USAID announces the start of a new phase of U.S. assistance to the energy sector in Central Asia. The new project is designed to support Regional Energy Security, Efficiency and Trade (RESET). The RESET Project's objectives are to support the establishment of an efficient, sustainable and institutionalized market-based regime for cooperation and exchange in electricity and trans-boundary water-resource management; to generate investment in national and regional energy infrastructure; and to expand electricity trade within the Central Asian region and between Central Asia and neighboring regions.

"Cooperation in energy and trans-boundary water management in Central Asia is vital for the region's prosperity and well-being of its people. USAID remains committed to supporting the region's efforts through the analysis, dialogue, and pursuit of common benefits that this closer cooperation will produce," said Erin Elizabeth McKee, Acting Regional Mission Director for USAID Central Asia.

Energy and water resource management is critically important for economic and social development in Central Asia. One key to moving forward on this path is the current interest of the Central Asian Republics in the opportunities offered by increasing energy trade within the region and in developing new markets for Central Asian energy resources.

This project builds on USAID's Regional Electricity Market Assistance Program (REMAP), which worked from 2006-2008 to help develop the necessary "building blocks" that are required to establish market-based electricity trade in Central Asia and to develop market-based solutions to the region's energy-water management challenges.

Based on a competitive tender process, USAID has selected Tetra Tech, Inc. as its contractor for this three-year project. As with previous USAID activities, the new project will employ local technical experts and will work with national stakeholders and other donors to avoid duplication and ensure cohesiveness of the program.

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