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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Twin Buttes Wind Project Team Became ‘Guardian Angels’**

*How PPM Energy helped save this year’s herd during the winter blizzard*

**LAMAR, Colo.** – The effects of fierce blizzards that blew through eastern Colorado last winter continue to be felt in this close-knit ranching community. But even amid the deaths of some 12,000 head of cattle, there was one bright spot in last winter’s bleak, snow-covered landscape.

When the big snows came after Christmas, the largest construction site in Bent County, the Twin Buttes Wind Power Project, ground to a halt. But the construction crews at this PPM Energy wind farm knew they had the manpower and equipment needed to help ranchers save their herds.

“Most of the livestock in this area were trapped in place out in the fields without food or water,” said Kelly Revell, PPM construction manager for Twin Buttes. “The National Guard was called in to help rescue people and livestock, and everyone in the community pulled together to help each other.”

In an effort to save the herds and aid local ranchers, the Twin Buttes construction crew, made up of workers from D.H. Blattner and Michels Power, used their heavy equipment to clear roads through snowdrifts that topped 12 feet high. They also turned the site’s fenced operations center into an emergency shelter for cattle – a crucial step in saving trapped livestock.

“(The crew) jumped on their big equipment and busted all of us out,” said rancher Marion Sturges. “They cut through the snow to rescue cattle, which for many of us is not only a monetary investment but an emotional one as well.”

The blizzard was especially devastating in its timing. Many of the cattle were calving, and at least two calves were born at Twin Buttes. While the crew cut roads, Twin Buttes mechanics busied themselves repairing ranchers’ emergency equipment, which was running 24/7. The contractors also stored about 84 tons of hay feed in the yard.



*Snowed-in construction vehicle at the Twin Buttes Wind Power Project in Lamar, Colo., last December*



*Twin Buttes landowner and rancher Marion Sturges with cows that survived the big winter storms*

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“We were so fortunate PPM elected our land as a wind development site. Little did we know that PPM would become our guardian angel, too,” Sturges said.

Having overcome a devastating winter, the Twin Buttes team will celebrate the wind power project’s grand opening along with Colorado’s Gov. Bill Ritter at a special community dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. on Sept. 14. The 75 megawatt (MW) project includes 50 1.5 MW GE Energy wind turbines and can provide power for more than 22,000 homes. Power from Twin Buttes has been purchased by Xcel Energy. Twin Buttes is located on land leased from ranchers in Bent County, near Lamar, Colo.

***About PPM Energy***

PPM Energy now has more than 2,000 megawatts of wind energy in operation or under construction. The strength of its renewable project pipeline has allowed the company to increase its 2010 target by more than 50 percent to at least 3,500 megawatts developed or controlled by PPM Energy. PPM Energy balances its supply portfolio with sales to wholesale customers, placing almost all of its output in long-term contracts. Major customers include the cities of Seattle, Sacramento, Eugene, Pasadena and Anaheim as well as investor-owned utilities such as Xcel Energy and Pacific Gas & Electric Company and the federal Bonneville Power Administration. PPM Energy also creates innovative new products to meet customer needs, such as operations and maintenance services and build-to-sell products. PPM Energy is a part of the IBERDROLA group of companies, the world’s leading provider of wind power.

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