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Encana and MillerCoors Brewery Win Top State Industrial Energy Efficiency Award

DENVER – Encana’s natural gas processing facilities near Rifle and the MillerCoors Brewery in Golden shared top state honors for reductions in industrial energy use and were named Partners of the Year in an awards ceremony held at the state capitol on Thursday, Sept. 27.

The ceremony was held to recognize the achievements of participants in the Colorado Industrial Energy Challenge (CIEC) program. Three other companies, including Anheuser-Busch in Fort Collins, Carestream Health in Windsor and Corden Pharma in Boulder, were recognized with Excellence in Energy Efficiency awards at the event.

“The companies recognized today have made an outstanding commitment to increasing their energy efficiency,” said Scott Morrissey, senior program manager of the Colorado Energy Office who funds the program. “The Colorado Industrial Energy Challenge provides a forum to demonstrate industrial leadership in improving the bottom line while having a positive impact on the environment.”

Together, the top five companies saved \$7.6 million from 2010-2011 by reducing their energy consumption by an average of 14.4%.

Approximately 72% of the energy saved by the five top awardees was electric and the other 28% was fuel savings (natural gas or coal). The companies reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 115,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of removing 26,000 cars from Colorado highways.

Encana, a leading North American producer of natural gas with U.S. headquarters in Denver, reported energy savings of 22.6% at its two natural gas processing facilities in northwestern Colorado. The savings were mainly achieved through concerted efforts to improve the efficiency of the large natural gas compressors at both facilities.

MillerCoors reduced its energy consumed per gallon of beer produced by 7.6% while demonstrating excellence in planning, management support, teamwork and tracking progress, all of which lay the groundwork for on-going energy efficiency improvements over the next five years or more.

The winners were selected from a total of 29 participating companies by a panel of industry judges.

“Encana knocked the ball out of the park with its huge \$4.7 million energy cost savings from 2010-2011, while MillerCoors scored highly in the area of strategic energy management,” said Neil Kolwey, program manager of the CIEC program. “The judges believe the dual award recognizes that both overall energy savings, and very good systems to ensure continual improvement, are important.”

Awards were presented by Doug Young, who represented Governor John Hickenlooper. This is the third year that the Governor’s Office and the Colorado Energy Office have presented awards for the Industrial Energy Challenge.

In addition to the top five awardees, eight companies that joined the CIEC in the

past year were recognized for committing to set five-year goals for improved energy efficiency at their facilities. The companies are:

- Arapahoe Basin (ski resort, Summit county)
- Atmel (semiconductors, Colorado Springs)
- City of Fort Collins, Municipal water treatment facility
- City of Fort Collins, Wastewater treatment facility
- City of Greeley, Wastewater treatment facility
- Climax Molybdenum, Henderson Mine
- King Soopers Bakery, Denver
- Owens-Corning Asphalt, Denver

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