



## Press Release

HOUSTON, March 31, 2004

### Tractebel Energy Services to provide power to Brazos River Authority

Tractebel Energy Services, Inc. (TESI), the U.S. retail energy business of Tractebel Electricity & Gas International (EGI), and Brazos River Authority announced today that TESI has been selected to provide power to the Authority's operations throughout Texas.

TESI, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tractebel North America, Inc., provides end-user electricity and related energy services and products to Commercial and Industrial (C&I) customers across the U.S. The Brazos River Authority manages the water resources throughout the Brazos River Basin, which includes developing and distributing water supplies, providing water and wastewater treatment to municipalities, and pursuing water conservation through public education programs.

There were several key attributes in selecting an energy provider that were of importance to Brazos River Authority. *"We were particularly concerned about budget control and minimizing the risks associated with the volatile energy markets," said Phil Ford, general manager and CEO of the Brazos River Authority. "With extensive operations throughout the river basin, it is important to have flexibility built into our agreement and attentive customer service, which TESI provides."*

Tractebel EGI's expertise and experience in the energy industry traces back more than 100 years with its roots in Europe, and its parent company, SUEZ, enjoys an A-minus credit rating, both of which translate as stability and dependability to customers. *Zin Smati, Tractebel Energy Services president and CEO, noted, "The Brazos River Authority has operations in multiple zones in the ERCOT market, and represents the fourth major municipal water services provider in our customer base. Our experience and our ability to articulate that experience to the Brazos River Authority, along with endorsements from customers in the water business who could validate our capabilities - all were keys reasons we were selected."*

Based in Houston, TESI provides C&I customers with various levels of budget control along with risk management benefits. The company services mass merchandisers, supermarkets, office buildings, industrial facilities, hotels and more. Since launching its retail energy business in late 2002, TESI has established a client base valued at nearly \$650 million in contracts, representing more than 1,500 MW and 4,000 customer accounts. The company's success is based in large part on its ability to leverage the resources and expertise of its parent company, Tractebel EGI, whose business model utilizes a highly integrated approach to managing activities and identifying opportunities across the energy value chain.



## **About Brazos River Authority**

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties. The Brazos watershed extends from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates four reservoirs while contracting with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at nine federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs. The Authority owns and operates regional wastewater systems and water treatment systems throughout the basin.

The Brazos River Authority operates on revenue received from water sales and treatment. The Authority does not levy taxes nor receives tax money from the state.

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## **About Tractebel North America, Inc.**

Based in Houston, TNA is a business unit of Tractebel Electricity & Gas International (“Tractebel EGI”) and is responsible for managing EGI’s positions within the energy value chain in the US, Mexico, and Canada, including electricity generation and cogeneration, natural gas and LNG, asset-based trading and origination, and energy sales and related services.

TNA owns and/or operates a total of 59 power, cogeneration, steam, and chilled-water facilities, including those in construction or development, representing a capacity of more than 5,717 MW of electricity generation, 12 million pounds per hour of steam, and 147,000 tons per hour of chilled water. TNA’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Tractebel LNG North America LLC (“TLNGNA”), owns and operates an LNG receiving terminal in Everett, Massachusetts. The TLNGNA terminal commenced operations in 1971 and currently serves most of the gas utilities in New England and key power producers, meeting between 15-20% of New England’s annual gas demand.

In Mexico, TNA affiliates operate three natural gas distribution companies, located in Guadalajara, Queretaro and Tampico. TNA affiliates also operate cogeneration plants in Tampico and Monterrey and TNA and its affiliates are the only companies in Mexico with the capacity to offer integrated solutions regarding natural gas, electricity and energy-related services.

## **About Tractebel Electricity & Gas International**

Tractebel Electricity & Gas International (“Tractebel EGI”)\* is one of the business divisions of SUEZ (NYSE:SZE), an international industrial and services Group that provides businesses, public authorities and individuals with innovative solutions in Energy and the Environment.



Tractebel EGI, with headquarters in Brussels, offers global solutions in energy and services to customers in North America, the southern cone of Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. It develops, builds and operates energy facilities both in electricity and gas, including LNG. It transports and distributes natural gas and LNG in several countries outside Europe. Tractebel EGI is also active as a trader around its assets and as a marketer in electricity and gas, and offers energy related services to industrial and commercial customers.

Tractebel EGI has a strong presence in its markets with a total power capacity (in operation, under construction or under development) of nearly 26,000 MW. In the LNG business, Tractebel EGI has a vaporization capacity of 27.8 million m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas per day and owns or has secured long-term shipping capacity of 766,100 m<sup>3</sup> of LNG.

In 2003, Tractebel EGI sold nearly 81.4 million MWh of power, 16.594 billion m<sup>3</sup> of gas, and more than 29 million tons of steam to industrial and residential customers worldwide.

In 2003, Tractebel EGI booked a turnover of 4,491 million euros.

*\* Tractebel EGI operates under the global brand name Tractebel Electricity & Gas International (or Tractebel EGI) and under local brand names such as Tractebel Energia, Tractebel Energy Services, Inc., Glow, Litoral Gas, etc. Tractebel Electricity & Gas International (Tractebel EGI) is not a legal entity. It is a division of SUEZ-TRACTEBEL S.A., which is the official name of the legal entity created on October 31, 2003 as a result of the merger of Tractebel S.A. and Société Générale de Belgique S.A. Therefore, as a legal matter, Tractebel EGI is represented and acts through SUEZ-TRACTEBEL S.A. and/or certain affiliates thereof.*

#### Contacts:

Paula Rockstroh  
Tractebel North America, Inc.  
Tel. 713 636 1962  
e-mail: [prockstroh@tractebelusa.com](mailto:prockstroh@tractebelusa.com)

Cindy Suggs  
Tractebel North America, Inc.  
Tel. 713 636-1783  
Fax 713-636-1364  
Email: [csuggs@tractebelusa.com](mailto:csuggs@tractebelusa.com)

Judi Pierce  
Public Information Officer  
Brazos River Authority  
Tel: 254-761-3103  
Fax: 254-761-3207  
Email: [jpierce@brazos.org](mailto:jpierce@brazos.org)