

www.wiresgroup.com

**For immediate release
October 5, 2009**

**For further information, contact: Brent Gilroy
301-587-6831 / brent@wiresgroup.com**

Paul McCoy of Trans-Elect Becomes WIRES President; Group Focuses on Making the Case for Transmission

WASHINGTON, DC – **Paul D. McCoy**, P.E., President and Chief Operating Officer of **Trans-Elect Development Company, LLC**, has been elected President of WIRES as the transmission industry coalition continues its drive for comprehensive electric transmission regulatory reform.

“This is certainly a challenging time to lead WIRES,” said McCoy, previously the group’s vice president, who succeeds **Will Kaul** of the **CAPX 2020 Coalition**. “I think we have seen policymakers achieve a much deeper understanding of why high voltage transmission – well-planned and thoughtfully sited – is critical to several key economic and environmental goals. I am proud that WIRES has played such an important part in advancing renewable energy, promoting grid reliability, and encouraging smart grid investment. Our members still see major obstacles to transmission development, but we’re encouraged.”

McCoy expects energy legislation to come back to the top of the federal priority list soon. He noted that a combined energy/climate package was approved by the House in June (H.R. 2454), while the Senate now has before it the energy bill approved this summer by the Energy & Natural Resources Committee (S. 1462). Senators Boxer and Kerry just released counterpart legislation in the Environment and Public Works Committee, consideration of which will affect the pace of energy legislation.

“The WIRES membership was particularly impressed with S. 1462 and its approach to transmission planning and siting,” McCoy said. “There is still a lot of work to be done, however. The transmission sector wants Congress to lay the foundation for progressive legislation that facilitates the kind of regulatory certainty and expedition that is absolutely necessary if all the plans and policies surrounding transmission are to become more than just words. WIRES’ educational role in this debate is critical. 2009 has been a productive year for the organization – especially its WIRES University presentations about grid fundamentals, conducted on Capitol Hill with the Environmental and Energy Studies Institute. 2010 will be an even bigger challenge, however,” said McCoy.

Also elected to the WIRES leadership during its annual meeting in Washington Sept. 30 were: Vice President **Nina Plaushin** – Director, Federal & Legislative Affairs at **ITC Holdings**; Secretary **Kevin Curtis**, P.E – Director, Electric Transmission Planning & Marketing for **Dominion Virginia Power**; and Treasurer **Autry Warren** – Senior Director, Transmission & Municipal Relations, at **Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC**.

The WIRES Board for 2009-2010 is comprised of representatives of eight full sustaining members. This include McCoy, Plaushin, Kaul and Warren, along with **Will Kaul**, President of

the **CAPX2020 Coalition**; **Teresa Mogensen**, Director, Transmission Asset Management and Business Relations at **Xcel Energy**; **Gary L. Hickey**, Executive Director, Transmission Development at **Next Era Energy**; and **Bert Garvin**, General Counsel of **American Transmission Company**

WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems) is a non-profit trade association of transmission providers, customers, and equipment and service companies formed to promote investment in electric transmission and progressive State and Federal policies that advance energy markets, economic efficiency, and consumer and environmental benefits through development of electric power infrastructure. For more information, visit www.wiresgroup.com or contact Jim Hoecker at 202-639-6500.