

Press Release

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Three Virginians Recognized for Outstanding Leadership in South's Energy Progress

August 26, 2009 (Williamsburg, Virginia) – This weekend, the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB), held its 49th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Southern Governors' Association (SGA) in Williamsburg, Virginia. In the course of the meeting, the Board recognized three of Virginia's leading energy visionaries: Senator John Watkins, Dr. Michael Karmis and Mr. Herbert Wheary.

The theme of this year's SSEB meeting, *Pathways to Southern Energy Innovation*, centered on the potential impacts of federal policy on energy resources in the southern region.

Virginia Governor and SSEB member, Tim Kaine, presented the awards. He praised the recipients' dedication, commitment and leadership while serving on the Board. "I am pleased to present such awards to residents of the fine Commonwealth of Virginia," said Kaine, "and I am inspired by the work and foresight of these outstanding individuals."

A board member for more than a decade, Watkins was Southern States Energy Board Vice Chairman from 2005 through 2008. A member of the Virginia Senate since 1998, he previously served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1982 to 1998. Watkins is known for his policy leadership in areas of transportation, agricultural and natural resources and is the Manager of Watkins Land, LLC. He is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture.

Karmis has served as the Alternate to the Governor on the Southern States Energy Board since 2003. During that time, he has used his scientific expertise to contribute to the development of one of the Board's most successful programs pioneering research in carbon sequestration. This program, known as the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (SECARB), seeks to further the use of geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) not only for

enhanced oil and coalbed methane recovery, but also to help curtail the rise of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. Dr. Karmis is the Stonie Barker Professor of the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering and Director of the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research at Virginia Tech.

Wheary has served as Chairman of the Board's Associate Members Program and has a long career in monitoring environmental policy measures. He has been actively involved in electric industry restructuring issues at state and federal levels. Wheary is a private consultant to Dominion Resources and serves as Dominion's liaison to the SSEB. Dominion is one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, serving retail customers in 12 states and headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. Wheary holds a Bachelors degree in Chemistry and a Masters in Education.

The Southern States Energy Board is an interstate compact comprised of governors and state legislators from sixteen southern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SSEB's mission is to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs, and technologies.

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