

## Press Release

HOUSTON, June 02 2004

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Tractebel Energy Services to Provide Retail Electric Service in Maryland Company Now Licensed to Operate in Seven Deregulated States**

Tractebel Energy Services, Inc., the retail energy business unit of Tractebel Electricity & Gas International (EGI), a business division of SUEZ, announced today it had received approval from the Maryland Public Service Commission to supply retail electricity to Maryland customers. Tractebel Energy Services provides risk-managed retail electricity to commercial and industrial (C&I) customers, offering them products and services to help control their energy budgets.

The license marks the seventh deregulated state for Tractebel Energy Services, which is actively doing business in Texas, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. It also has obtained licenses to operate in Maine and Pennsylvania in preparation for its market entry planned later this year. Tractebel Energy Services' entry into the Maryland market comes at a time when capped generation prices (under the Maryland Price Freeze Service ("PFS")) are expiring, and many customers are having to decide whether to stay with their current utility – and pay a steep administrative fee – or switch to an alternative electricity provider, where the same administrative fee will not apply.

*"We've taken the time to understand this market and the particular decision that customers are having to make. In fact, we have a section of our Web site dedicated to Maryland's market needs in hopes that it will give customers the critical information they need to make this important decision,"* said Zin Smati, president and CEO of Tractebel Energy Services. *"In the past several months, wholesale energy prices have gone up, increasing customers' exposure to market risks. By working with a provider such as Tractebel Energy Services, customers can minimize their exposure to market risks. Plus, our goal is to offer highly customized solutions and superior service that deliver on the promise of energy deregulation."*

With the PFS for Maryland C&I customers ending June 30, 2004, there are approximately 6,000 customers who could be impacted by higher default rates. Maryland businesses benefit because they will have the opportunity to shop for an electricity provider from a number of competing companies. By comparing different prices and services, each customer can choose the electricity supplier best suited for his or her business. Since there are no switching restrictions, minimum stays, or exit fees after these dates, customers are not encumbered in their search for a new supplier. Smati noted, *"We are experienced in the Northeastern market and have studied Maryland extensively. We are happy to answer potential customers' questions, and they can contact us directly at 866-999-8374 or visit our Web site (<http://www.tractebelenergy.com>)."* Customers may also visit the company's regional offices at 333 Thornall Street, Sixth Floor, Edison, NJ (08818).

After becoming active in Maryland, Tractebel Energy Services plans to expand its services to other states in the Northeast, and by the end of the year, the company expects to be licensed in all the deregulated New England states.

### **About Tractebel Energy Services**

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Tractebel Energy Services serves a variety of commercial and industrial customers, including hospitals, hotels, colleges and universities, industrial and manufacturing facilities, supermarkets and chain stores, and large residential buildings. Since start-up in 2002, the company has exceeded \$900 million in contract value with more than 500 customers and serving almost 5,000 accounts. Its success is based on its ability to provide customers with innovative products and services designed specifically to help them control costs and minimize risks. In doing so, Tractebel Energy Services, has become one of the fastest growing companies in this sector.

Profiles on **Tractebel North America** and **Tractebel Electricity & Gas International** can be found on [www.tractebelenergy.com](http://www.tractebelenergy.com)

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