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## **BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL VISIT PITTSBURGH TO EXPLORE THE REGION'S ENERGY EXPERTISE**

*The pending G-20 summit and the global attention it places on Pittsburgh's 'new economy' strengths make the timing right to market regional energy expertise to Brazil and to the world, says PRA leader*

**(PITTSBURGH – July 7, 2009)** One South American country is getting ready to take a closer look at the Pittsburgh region and its ability to supply solutions for 21<sup>st</sup>-century energy needs.

As strategic follow-up to several memoranda of understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy, for bilateral business development around energy diversity and efficiency, Brazil's Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy Márcio Zimmerman will visit Pittsburgh on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, following energy-related meetings in Washington, D.C.

The Pittsburgh region is home to organizations and companies recognized for their development and distribution of traditional energy resources—coal, natural gas and nuclear—as well as manufacturing and supply chain expertise for alternative sources such as wind and solar power.

Minister Zimmerman and his delegation will be visiting Westinghouse Electric Company's Energy Center in Monroeville and the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and CONSOL Energy Research and Development facility—both located in South Park. These regional energy innovators will be discussing their respective strengths in nuclear energy, clean coal, carbon capture and sequestration, smart grid technology and engineered coal fuels with biomass.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management J. Scott Roberts will participate in the meeting at CONSOL, as will a representative of Alter NRG Corporation, discussing the plasma gasification technology it acquired from Westinghouse Plasma Corporation.

“The Pittsburgh region is uniquely positioned to create solutions that address global energy needs. Providing sources of cleaner coal and carbon capture technology; tapping abundant, domestic, clean-burning natural gas; manufacturing renewable energy components; and creating systems to efficiently deliver power and conserve resources set our region apart as a leader and a provider of choice. When coupled with our ample natural resources base, these achievements distinguish the region as America's energy capital and a strategic partner for other countries looking to maximize their energy efficiency and sustainability,” said Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky.

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“Brazil is looking to further strengthen its energy matrix, which is primarily reliant on hydropower, with other clean, reliable, affordable energy sources. Pittsburgh is uniquely positioned to lend its expertise to Brazil and to explore bilateral business and investment opportunities around energy. The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) will be participating in Deputy Minister Zimmerman’s visit because this is a perfect prospect for the region. With the pending G-20 summit and the global attention it will place on Pittsburgh and its ‘new economy’ strengths, the timing is right to market the region’s energy expertise to Brazil and to the world,” said PRA President Dewitt Peart.

The PRA is the marketing affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** There will be media availability at the CONSOL Energy R & D facility for reporters wanting to cover the deputy minister’s visit and to learn more (through an interpreter) about Brazil’s energy interests. Please contact Phil Cynar at the PRA at 412-281-4783, ext. 4573 or via e-mail at [pcynar@alleghenyconference.org](mailto:pcynar@alleghenyconference.org).

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The **Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies all over the world that are growing, relocating or expanding. For more information, visit [www.pittsburghregion.org](http://www.pittsburghregion.org).

The **Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates** – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [www.alleghenyconference.org](http://www.alleghenyconference.org).