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El Paso Electric Announces New Executives

EL PASO, Texas--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- El Paso Electric (EPE) welcomes Michael D. Blanchard as the new Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. Blanchard will be responsible for developing regulatory strategy and filings to comply with all requirements of the regulatory commissions in Texas and New Mexico as well as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Prior to joining EPE, Michael D. Blanchard was Assistant General Counsel at Nebraska Public Power District. He was responsible for the daily administration of the legal division and for long-term strategic planning implementation. He also served as senior advisor to the senior management team and board of directors on regulatory issues, finance and general business matters. Blanchard brings to EPE more than 30 years of legal, regulatory and rate-making experience. Prior to Nebraska Public Power, Blanchard spent more than 20 years with Texas-New Mexico Power Company where he served as Vice President and General Counsel. As Vice President at Texas-New Mexico Power Company, Blanchard was responsible for Governmental Relations, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs. Blanchard graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and completed his Juris Doctorate at Texas Tech University.

El Paso Electric also welcomes John R. Boomer as Vice President, Treasurer. John brings a wealth of diverse management, operations and legal experience as he rejoins El Paso Electric from Helen of Troy. John succeeds Steve Busser after 12 years of service to the Company. John worked in a number of EPE legal and administrative positions, including assistant general counsel at EPE in 1998 and 1999, and earlier as shareholder/associate at Kemp, Smith, Duncan and Hammond. At Helen of Troy, John was most recently senior vice president responsible for investor relations and actively involved in merger and acquisition activities. Previously he held a variety of positions with Helen of Troy, including operating roles in their Latin America, Europe/Middle East and Asia/Pacific businesses. He also served as their first general counsel when that position was established. John is a resident of El Paso and holds a B.A. from Rice University in Houston and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in Austin.

"We are very excited to welcome Michael Blanchard and John Boomer to El Paso Electric," said Thomas V. Shockley, El Paso Electric Chief Executive Officer. "The knowledge, expertise and experience both Michael and John bring is invaluable to El Paso Electric."

El Paso Electric (NYSE:EE) is a regional electric utility providing generation, transmission and distribution service to approximately 394,000 retail and wholesale customers in a 10,000 square mile area of the Rio Grande valley in west Texas and southern New Mexico. El Paso Electric has a net dependable generating capability of 1,852 MW.

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