



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andrew O'Connor, 202-508-5489**

EEI AWARDS CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORP WITH 'EMERGENCY RECOVERY AWARD' FOLLOWING BLIZZARDS

WASHINGTON (March 2, 2011) – The Edison Electric Institute today honored Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp (Central Hudson) with the association's "Emergency Recovery Award" for outstanding efforts in restoring electric service following back-to-back heavy snowstorms.

The award is presented annually to U.S. and foreign-based member companies to recognize outstanding efforts in restoring electric service that has been disrupted by severe weather conditions or other natural events. Winners were chosen by a panel of judges following an international nomination process, and the awards were presented during EEI's Spring CEO meeting.

In February 2010, the most significant storm event in Central Hudson's 110-year history – including two separate storm systems – struck the Hudson Valley. The very wet snowfall led to accumulations as high as six feet in some parts, and affected over 200,000 customers. The snow weighed down branches, affecting power lines, and also caused damage to transmission infrastructure as well as to poles and service lines.

Central Hudson initiated its mutual aid plan prior to the blizzard, which amounted to more than 270 electric line crews and nearly 100 clearance crews to work alongside the company's 62 line crews. The combined effort of mutual assistance and Central Hudson crews successfully restored power to the affected two-thirds of the utility's customer base without one serious injury.

"Central Hudson was superb in dealing with an historic storm event, despite the considerable logistical challenge," said EEI President Tom Kuhn. "The utility's well-organized and aggressive response made the best of a bad situation, and the company has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that customers have power."

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation is a regulated transmission and distribution utility serving approximately 300,000 electric customers and 74,000 natural gas customers in portions of eight counties in New York State's Mid-Hudson River Valley, delivering natural gas

and electricity in a defined 2,600-square-mile service territory that extends north from the suburbs of metropolitan New York City to the Capital District at Albany. Central Hudson is a leader in promoting regional economic growth, improving system reliability and effective cost management.

#

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association of U.S. shareholder-owned electric companies. Our members serve 95 percent of the ultimate customers in the shareholder-owned segment of the industry, and represent approximately 70 percent of the U.S. electric power industry. We also have more than 65 International electric companies as Affiliate members, and more than 170 industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate members.