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For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, January 11, 2010

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Governor, Shanahan Announce Advanced Energy Award for Chemical Looping Pilot Project at Ohio State

Columbus, OH – Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Ohio Air Quality Development Authority Executive Director Mark R. Shanahan, also the governor’s energy advisor, today announced the award of a \$3.2 million Ohio Coal Development Office grant to The Ohio State University for a pilot project to demonstrate a method for producing hydrogen from coal syngas and a stream of CO₂ suitable for sequestration.

The award to Ohio State was approved today from the \$150 million Ohio Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Plan. This grant provides matching funds for a \$5 million U.S. Department of Energy American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant as part of the ARPA-E program.

“Ohio has a strong coal heritage, and, with Ohio still getting 87 percent of its electricity from coal, we know coal will be important to us for decades to come,” Strickland said. “This targeted state investment will strengthen Ohio’s leading role in the development of clean coal technologies.”

This ground-breaking project builds upon previous investments by the Ohio Coal Development Office. The process converts coal (or biomass) into electricity or hydrogen while efficiently capturing almost all carbon dioxide emissions. The coal, then, can become the feedstock for grid scale electricity generation, fuels cells or liquid fuels. The project will create eight full-time jobs and support the work of a number of graduate students.

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“The University System of Ohio is making significant contributions to the development of new clean coal technologies that can protect our environment, produce clean fuels and chemicals and aid in the mitigation of carbon dioxide,” said Shanahan. “This project uses state stimulus dollars to attract significant federal investment, confirms Ohio’s role in advanced energy technologies and prepares Ohio graduate students to face tomorrow’s energy challenges.”

Ohio’s Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program includes \$84 million for non-coal related technology projects and \$66 million for clean coal projects. The program is part of the Ohio Bipartisan Jobs Stimulus Plan signed into law by Strickland in June 2008. More than 200 applications for program funding have been received to date.

The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its Ohio Coal Development Office, OAQDA also oversees the State of Ohio’s coal research, development and technology deployment efforts.