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Funding Will Support Development of Hemisphere's Largest Industrial Gases Company

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, is pleased to announce that the Department of Energy has awarded Praxair Technology a \$1,237,513 federal grant. Under the terms of the cooperative agreement governing the funds, \$866,259 will be provided federally, with Praxair contributing \$371,254.

The grant is part of an ongoing government effort to promote clean coal technologies. Praxair will conduct one of twelve federally-funded projects that will aim to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

"We are fortunate to have an industry leader like Praxair working to improve both our energy independence and the quality of our environment," Rep. Slaughter said. "This is an issue of national importance, and I'm proud that the citizens and innovators of Western New York are at the forefront of the solution," she added.

Mark Weise, director of Industrial Applications at the Praxair Technology Center, also commented on the funding. "We are very pleased to have our project selected, which will accelerate progress in developing an effective, lower cost method to help coal-fired utilities remove mercury from their flue-gas emissions," he said. "We have worked closely with the Department of Energy to develop a wide variety of energy-saving and environmental applications technologies."

The Praxair Technology Center in Tonawanda is Praxair's flagship research, development, and technical center, employing more than 1,000 engineers, scientists and various other functional groups. Praxair is a widely recognized industry leader, and has developed technologies that help its customers improve energy efficiency, lower costs, and enhance environmental performance. Praxair, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, is the largest industrial gases company in

North and South America, and one of the largest worldwide, with 2005 sales of \$7.7 billion and 27,000 international employees.

BACKGROUND

Coal-fired power plants in the United States emit approximately 48 tons of mercury every year. This practice has drawn the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which in March of 2005 issued the Clean Air Mercury Rule. The regulation was designed to permanently limit mercury emissions, and to produce a 70 percent reduction in all mercury outputs from coal plants by 2018.

Twelve projects to take place around the country, all funded by the Department of Energy, will focus on post-combustion mercury control technologies that reduce mercury from plant emissions in a cost-effective manner.

Using numerous types of coal, Praxair, Inc. will explore technologies that can be used to remove mercury from plant emissions and to minimize its impact on fly ash, which will make concrete production easier.

Project architects hope to have the technologies being developed ready for commercial demonstration by 2010.