

For immediate release

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Solar Electric System Survives Hurricane Charley

Kingston, New York, October 19, 2004 – In 2002 SunWize Technologies designed and installed a 14.4kW hybrid solar electric system for park operations at the Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida on Loggerhead Key. One of the most remote and inaccessible of the U.S. National Parks, the Dry Tortugas islands are located approximately 70 miles west of Key West in the southern Gulf of Mexico. In August of this year, Hurricane Charley hit the islands with sustained 120 MPH winds for five hours and recorded gusts of 133 MPH. Throughout the storm, the SunWize system operated normally and maintained structural integrity. Mike Jester, Facility Manager at the Everglades National Park which oversees the Dry Tortugas National Park, said, "I was thrilled with the system performance. The system never went down during the hurricane." He was also impressed with the solar module support structure. During installation, one of the logistical challenges facing SunWize was the transportation of foundation materials to the site. To avoid the tremendous effort of hauling cement and aggregate, SunWize used earth augers as solar array anchor points. The augers were hand installed and exceed specifications for maximum wind loading at 120 mph.

Facilities on Loggerhead Key consist of two houses, an historic lighthouse and a number of other small buildings. The hybrid system provides power for employee housing including air conditioning, refrigeration and potable water production. SunWize's hybrid solar electric system replaced an inefficient generator system that consumed 10,000 gallons of diesel per year.

SunWize Technologies, a solar technology company, specializes in the design and manufacture of integrated solar power systems, and associated project development and product distribution. For more project information, contact David Love, Government Sales Manager, tel: 360-754-2564, email: sunwizewa@earthlink.net.

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