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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION AND ASPEN
SKIING CO UNVEIL RENEWABLE MICRO-HYDRO POWER PLANT AT SNOWMASS**

Denver, CO, July 21, 2004 – The Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation and Aspen Skiing Company (ASC), among other supporters, today announce the unveiling of the 115 kW micro-hydroelectric power plant at Snowmass Ski Area. By using existing renewable energy sources, this will save the resort thousands of dollars in annual energy costs. Other supporters of this project include Holy Cross Energy, the turbine manufacturer, Canyon Industries, the Town of Snowmass Village, the Community Office for Resource Efficiency, and the StEPP Foundation.

The micro-hydro power plant uses the existing snowmaking system's underground pipes to channel spring runoff through a turbine, generating electricity. The expelled water is returned to the stream. This system will run from May through August, when the snowpack causes the runoff to be at the highest levels.

The plant should generate 250,000 kilowatt hours of energy annually, which is comparable to powering 40 average-size homes per year and preventing a half-million pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted. Another benefit from this renewable energy source is that ASC will sell power to Holy Cross Energy, earning around \$15,000 each year. If this micro-hydro plant proves successful, ASC would replicate it at its other four mountains; providing the potential to power 400 homes.

"This project would not have been possible without overwhelming support from our partners. Now, it's a successful, transferable and eventually profitable example of on-slope renewables for the whole ski industry," said Auden Schendler of Aspen Skiing Company.

On July 22, there will be an unveiling of the micro-hydro plant with tours and a reception to follow.

Event Information:

- Open to the public, sponsors and community
- Date and Time: Thursday, July 22, at 4:00 p.m.
- Location: Fanny Hill at Snowmass Ski Area
- Reception: 5:00 Deck of the Cirque Café, on Fanny Hill, with live, free music
- Contact: Auden Schendler, Aspen Ski Co., (970) 923-8628

Directions to the Snowmass Micro-hydro Power Plant:

Drive to Snowmass Village and park in the ski lot opposite the Conoco station. Walk past the ASC Administration buildings above the lot, heading up Fanny Hill, staying under the lift line. The powerhouse is the small brown building next to the pond on the right, about a 15 minute uphill hike.

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