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SEL Director Named President of Women's Council on Energy and Environment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — March 23, 2009 — Sharla Artz, director of security and energy policy at Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL), has been named 2009 president of the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment (WCEE). Her presidency was officially announced at the organization's 28th annual Woman of the Year Event held in Washington, D.C., on March 5.

Artz assumes the presidency from Christi Tezak and will serve a two-year term. Artz served as WCEE vice president for the past three years; in that position, she was instrumental in the recently completed board reorganization that created 35 new leadership positions. As president, Artz will use her vast business knowledge and extensive leadership skills to further establish WCEE as the pre-eminent, forward-looking, nonpartisan, policy-neutral organization focusing on women, energy, and the environment. WCEE's role is to foster the personal and professional growth and leadership abilities of its members.

"I am honored to be named president of WCEE," Artz said. "I am humbled to have the opportunity to learn from and work with exceptional leaders in our industry. Our greatest resource is the diverse and talented membership, which now numbers almost 800.

"My role as president of WCEE is to help educate about issues facing the industry and to hear all sides of the story during this exciting time," Artz said, adding that her role at SEL and her WCEE presidency are complementary. "At SEL, we gain real-world experience from addressing and tackling issues, and use those experiences to help the educational efforts of the policymakers."

Artz joined SEL on March 1, 2008, in the Washington, D.C., office. In her role as director of security and energy policy, she establishes and maintains close working relationships with government officials, contributes knowledgeable insight for sound public policy decision making, and advocates on technology and business-related issues.

Prior to joining SEL, Artz was the vice president of legal and government affairs for Genscape, Inc., developing business relationships for the company with federal entities. Artz was the assistant general counsel for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, serving the 50 state utility commissioners on energy regulatory matters pending before the federal government. After receiving her juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center, Artz spent four years on Capitol Hill, working on energy policy for a former member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Artz also has a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She and her husband live in Alexandria, Virginia.

SEL serves the electric power industry worldwide through the design, manufacture, supply, and support of products and services for power system protection, monitoring, control, automation, and metering. SEL offers unmatched local technical support, a worldwide, ten-year product warranty, and a commitment to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

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