NRG ENERGY, INC. Form 10-K February 28, 2007

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

#### Form 10-K

- **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934** 
  - For the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2006.
- o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Transition period from to

#### Commission file No. 001-15891

### NRG Energy, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware** 

41-1724239

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

211 Carnegie Center Princeton, New Jersey

08540

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(609) 524-4500

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

### **Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

### **Title of Each Class**

Name of Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 5.75% Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock

New York Stock Exchange New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes b No o

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes o No b

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes b No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the Registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer b Accelerated filer o Non-accelerated filer o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No b

As of the last business day of the most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the common stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates was approximately \$6,599,652,171 based on the closing sale price of \$48.18 as reported on the New York Stock Exchange.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Section 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court. Yes b No o

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant s classes of common stock as of the latest practicable date.

Class

Outstanding at February 23, 2007

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

122,335,466

### **Documents Incorporated by Reference:**

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on April 25, 2007

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### **Glossary of Terms**

### Glossary of Terms (continued)

When the following terms and abbreviations appear in the text of this report, they have the meanings indicated below:

ABWR Advanced Boiling Water Reactor

Acquisition February 2, 2006 acquisition of Texas Genco LLC, now referred to as the

Company s Texas region

Acquisition Agreement dated September 30, 2005 underlying the

February 2, 2006 acquisition of the Company s Texas region

AMA Administrative Management Agreement between NRG Development

Company, Inc. and West Coast Power, LLC

APB Accounting Principles Board

APB 18 APB Opinion No. 18, The Equity Method of Accounting for Investments in

Common Stock

Average gross heat rate The product of dividing (a) fuel consumed in BTU s by (b) KWh generated

BACT Best Available Control Technology
BART Best Available Retrofit Technology

Baseload capacity Electric power generation capacity normally expected to serve loads on an

around-the-clock basis throughout the calendar year

BTA Best Technology Available
BTU British Thermal Unit
CAA Clean Air Act

CAIR Clean Air Interstate Rule

CAISO California Independent System Operator

CAMR Clean Air Mercury Rule

Capacity factor The ratio of the actual net electricity generated to the energy that could

have been generated at continuous full-power operation during the year

Capital Allocation Program Share repurchase program entered into August 2006

CDWR California Department of Water Resources

CERCLA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

CL&P Connecticut Light & Power

CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon dioxide

CPUC California Public Utilities Commission

Derate A derate exists whenever a generating unit is not capable of operating at its

tested dependable maximum net capability

DNREC Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
EAF The total available hours a unit is available in a year minus the sum of all

partial outage events in a year converted to equivalent hours, expressed as a

percent of all hours in the year

EFOR Equivalent Forced Outage Rates considers the equivalent impact that

forced de-ratings have in addition to full forced outages

EITF Emerging Issues Task Force

EITF 02-3 EITF Issue No. 02-3, Issues Involved in Accounting for Derivative

Contracts Held for Trading Purposes and Contracts Involved in Energy

EPAct of 2005 EPC Trading and Risk Management Activities
Energy Policy Act of 2005
Engineering, Procurement and Construction

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ERCOT Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the Independent System Operator and

the regional reliability coordinator of the various electricity systems within

Texas

ERO Energy Reliability Organization EWG Exempt Wholesale Generator

Expected annual baseload generation The net baseload capacity limited by economic factors (relationship

between cost of generation and market price) and reliability factors

(scheduled and unplanned outages)

FASB Financial Accounting Standards Board, the designated organization for

establishing standards for financial accounting and reporting

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FGD Flue Gas Desulphurization FIN FASB Interpretation

FIN 45 FIN No. 45 Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for

Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others

FIP Federal Implementation Plan

Fresh Start Reporting requirements as defined by SOP 90-7

GHG Greenhouse Gases

Hedge Reset Net settlement of long-term power contracts and gas swaps by negotiating

prices to current market completed in November 2006

Hg Mercury

ICT Independent Coordinator of Transmission IGCC Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle

IRS Internal Revenue Service

ISO Independent System Operator, also referred to as Regional Transmission

Organizations, or RTO

ISO-NE ISO New England, Inc. ITISA Itiquira Energetica S.A.

kW Kilowatts KWh Kilowatt-hours

LADEQ Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

LFRM Locational Factor Reserve Market
LIBOR London Inter-Bank Offered Rate
LNB/OFA Low NOx Burner with Over Fire Air

LSE Load-Serving Entity

MACT Maximum Achievable Control Technology

MADEP Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

MDL Multi-District Litigation

Merit Order A term used for the ranking of power stations in terms of increasing order

of fuel costs

MIBRAG Mitteldeutsche Braunkohlengesellschaft mbH

Moody s Investors Services, Inc., a credit rating agency

MMBtu Million British Thermal Units

MRTU Market Redesign and Technology Upgrade

MW Megawatts

3

MWh Saleable megawatt hours net of internal/parasitic load megawatt-hours

NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Net baseload capacity Nominal summer net megawatt capacity of power generation adjusted for

ownership and parasitic load, and excluding capacity from mothballed units

as of December 31, 2006

Net Capacity Factor Net actual generation divided by net maximum capacity for the period

hours

Net Generating Capacity Nominal summer capacity, net of auxiliary power

New York Rest of State New York State excluding New York City NiMo Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

NOx Nitrogen oxide
NOL Net Operating Loss
NOV Notice of Violation

NRC United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NSR New Source Review

NYPA New York Power Authority

NYISO New York Independent System Operator

NYSDEC New York Department of Environmental Conservation

OCI Other Comprehensive Income OTC Ozone Transport Commission

Phase II 316(b) Rule A section of the Clean Water Act regulating cooling water intake structures

PJM Interconnection, LLC

PJM Market The wholesale and retail electric market operated by PJM primarily in all or

parts of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New

Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia

PM <sub>(2.5)</sub> Fine particulate matter

PMI NRG Power Marketing, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of NRG which

procures transportation and fuel for the Company s generation facilities, sells the power from these facilities, and manage, all commodity trading

and hedging for NRG

Powder River Basin, or PRB, Coal Coal produced in the northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana,

which has low sulfur content

PPA Power Purchase Agreement

PSD Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PUCT Public Utility Commission of Texas

PUHCA Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005
PURPA Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 2005
RCRA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RECLAIM Regional Clean Air Incentives Market

Repowering NRG Technologies utilized to replace, rebuild, or redevelop major portions of an

existing electrical generating facility, not only to achieve a substantial emissions reduction, but also to increase facility capacity, and improve

system efficiency

RFP Request for proposal

RGGI Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

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RMR	Reliability Must-Run									
ROIC	Return on invested capital									
RTC	RECLAIM Trading Credit									
RTO	Regional Transmission Organization, also referred to as an ISO									
S&P	Standard & Poor s, a credit rating agency									
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986									
Sarbanes-Oxley	Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002									
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District									
Schkopau	Kraftwerk Schkopau Betriebsgesellschaft mbH, an entity in which NRG									
z conseption	has a 41.9% interest									
SCR	Selective Catalytic Reduction									
SDG&E	San Diego Gas & Electric									
SEC	United States Securities and Exchange Commission									
Sellers	Former holders of Texas Genco LLC shares									
SERC	Southeastern Electric Reliability Council/Entergy									
SFAS	Statement of Financial Accounting Standards issued by the FASB									
SFAS 71	SFAS No. 71 Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulation									
SFAS 87	SFAS No. 87, Employers Accounting for Pensions									
SFAS 106	SFAS No. 106, Employers Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other									
	Than Pensions									
SFAS 109	SFAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes									
SFAS 123	SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation									
SFAS 123R	SFAS No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment									
SFAS 133	SFAS No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging									
	Activities									
SFAS 137	SFAS No. 137, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging									
	Activities Deferral of the Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 133									
SFAS 138	SFAS No. 138, Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain									
	Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133									
SFAS 142	SFAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets									
SFAS 143	SFAS No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations									
SFAS 144	SFAS No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived									
	Assets									
SFAS 149	SFAS No. 149, Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments									
	and Hedging Activities									
SFAS 158	SFAS No. 158, Employers Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and									
	Other Postretirement Plans an amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88,									
	106 and 132(R)									
SFAS 159	SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial									
CNOD	Liabilities including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115									
SNCR	Selective non-catalytic reduction									
SIP	State Implementation Plan									
$SO_2$	Sulfur dioxide									

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SOP Statement of Position issued by the American Institute of Certified Public

Accountants

SOP 90-7 Statement of Position 90-7 Financial Reporting by Entities in

Reorganization Under the Bankruptcy Code

SPP Southwest Power Pool

STP South Texas Project Nuclear generating facility located near Bay City,

Texas in which NRG owns a 44% interest

STPNOC South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company TCEQ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Texas Genco LLC, now referred to as the Company s Texas region Uprate A sustainable increase in the electrical rating of a generating facility

US United States of America

USEPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. GAAP Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States

VAR Value at Risk

Virtual Units Products sold with scheduling characteristics for energy and ancillary

services that are based on an underlying unit physical characteristic

VOC Volatile Organic Carbon

WCP (Generation) Holdings, Inc.

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### PART I

### Item 1 Business

#### General

NRG Energy, Inc., NRG, or the Company, is a wholesale power generation company with a significant presence in major competitive power markets in the United States. NRG is primarily engaged in the ownership, development, construction and operation of power generation facilities, the transacting in and trading of fuel and transportation services, and the trading of energy, capacity and related products in the United States and internationally. As of December 31, 2006, NRG had a total global portfolio of 223 active operating generation units at 51 power generation plants, with an aggregate generation capacity of approximately 24,175 MW. Within the United States, the Company has one of the largest and most diversified power generation portfolios in terms of geography, fuel-type and dispatch levels, with approximately 22,940 MW of generation capacity in 207 active generating units at 45 plants. These power generation facilities are primarily located in Texas (approximately 10,760 MW), and the Northeast (approximately 7,240 MW), South Central (approximately 2,850 MW), and the West (approximately 1,965 MW) regions of the United States, with approximately 125 MW from the Company s thermal assets. NRG s principal domestic power plants consist of a diversified mix of natural gas-, coal-, oil-fired and nuclear facilities, representing approximately 45%, 34%, 16% and 5% of the Company s total domestic generation capacity, respectively. In addition, 15% of NRG s domestic generating facilities have dual or multiple fuel capacity, which allows plants to dispatch with the lowest cost fuel option, and consist primarily of baseload, intermediate and peaking power generation facilities, which are referred to as the merit order, and also include thermal energy production plants. The sale of capacity and power from baseload generation facilities accounts for the majority of the Company s revenues and provides a stable source of cash flow. In addition, NRG s diverse generation portfolio provides the Company with opportunities to capture additional revenues by selling power during periods of peak demand, offering capacity or similar products to retail electric providers and others, and providing ancillary services to support system reliability. In addition, NRG is pursuing opportunities to repower existing facilities and develop new generation capacity in markets in which NRG currently owns assets in an initiative referred to as Repowering NRG. In connection with NRG s acquisition of Padoma Wind Power LLC, the Company has and will continue to actively evaluate and potentially develop or construct domestic terrestrial wind projects as part of the Repowering NRG program.

### **Business Strategy**

NRG s strategy is to optimize the value of the Company s generation assets while using its asset base as a platform for growth and enhanced financial performance which can be sustained and expanded upon in the years to come. NRG plans to maintain and enhance the Company s position as a leading wholesale power generation company in the United States in a cost-effective and risk-mitigating manner in order to serve the bulk power requirements of NRG s existing customer base and other entities that offer load or otherwise consume wholesale electricity products and services in bulk. NRG s strategy includes the following elements:

Pursue additional growth opportunities at existing sites NRG is favorably positioned to pursue growth opportunities through expansion of its existing generating capacity and development of new generating capacity at its existing facilities. NRG intends to invest in its existing assets through plant improvements, repowerings, brownfield development and site expansions to meet anticipated requirements for additional capacity in NRG s core markets. In furtherance of this goal, NRG has initiated a company-wide program, known as Repowering NRG, to develop, construct and operate new and enhanced power generation facilities at its existing sites, with an emphasis on new baseload capacity that is supported by long-term power sales agreements and financed with limited or non-recourse

project financing. NRG expects that these efforts will provide one or more of the following benefits: improved heat rates; lower delivered costs; expanded electricity production capability; an improved ability to dispatch economically across the merit order; increased technological and fuel diversity; and reduced environmental impacts, including facilities that either have near zero greenhouse gas emissions or can be equipped to capture and sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

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Increase value from existing assets NRG has a highly diversified portfolio of power generation assets in terms of region, fuel-type and dispatch levels. NRG will continue to focus on extracting value from its portfolio by improving plant performance, reducing costs and harnessing the Company s advantages of scale in the procurement of fuels and other commodities, parts and services, and in doing so improve the Company s return on invested capital, or ROIC a strategy that NRG has branded FORNRG, or Focus on ROIC@NRG.

Maintain financial strength and flexibility NRG remains focused on cash flow and maintaining appropriate levels of liquidity, debt and equity in order to ensure continued access to capital for investment, to enhance risk-adjusted returns and to provide flexibility in executing NRG s business strategy. NRG will continue to focus on maintaining operational and financial controls designed to ensure that the Company s financial position remains strong. At the same time, NRG expects to continue its practice of returning excess cash flows to its debt and equity investors on a regular basis.

Reduce the volatility of the Company s cash flows through asset-based commodity hedging activities NRG will continue to execute asset-based risk management, hedging, marketing and trading strategies within well defined risk and liquidity guidelines in order to manage the value of the Company s physical and contractual assets. The Company s marketing and hedging philosophy is centered on generating stable returns from its portfolio of baseload power generation assets while preserving an ability to capitalize on strong spot market conditions and to capture the extrinsic value of the Company s intermediate and peaking facilities and portions of its baseload fleet. NRG believes that it can successfully execute this strategy by leveraging its expertise in marketing power and ancillary services, its knowledge of markets, its balanced financial structure and its diverse portfolio of power generation assets.

Pursue strategic acquisitions and divestures NRG will continue to pursue selective acquisitions, joint ventures and divestitures to enhance its asset mix and competitive position in the Company s core regions. NRG intends to concentrate on opportunities that present attractive risk-adjusted returns. NRG will also opportunistically pursue other strategic transactions, including mergers, acquisitions or divestitures.

### **Competition and Competitive Strengths**

Competition Wholesale power generation is a capital-intensive, commodity-driven business with numerous industry participants. NRG competes on the basis of the location of its plants and owning multiple plants in its regions, which increases the stability and reliability of its energy supply. Wholesale power generation is basically a local business that is currently highly fragmented relative to other commodity industries and diverse in terms of industry structure. As such, there is a wide variation in terms of the capabilities, resources, nature and identity of the companies NRG competes against depending on the market.

Scale and diversity of assets NRG has one of the largest and most diversified power generation portfolios in the United States, with approximately 22,940 MW of generation capacity in 207 active generating units at 45 plants as of December 31, 2006. The Company s power generation assets are diversified by fuel-type, dispatch level and region, which help mitigate the risks associated with fuel price volatility and market demand cycles. NRG s U.S. baseload facilities, which consist of approximately 8,745 MW of generation capacity measured as of December 31, 2006, provide the Company with a significant source of stable cash flow, while its intermediate and peaking facilities, with approximately 14,195 MW of generation capacity as of December 31, 2006, provide NRG with opportunities to capture the significant upside potential that can arise from time to time during periods of high demand. In addition, approximately 15% of the Company s domestic generation facilities have dual or multiple fuel capability, which allows most of these plants to dispatch with the lowest cost fuel option.

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The following chart demonstrates the diversification of NRG s domestic power generation assets as of December 31, 2006:

Reliability of future cash flows NRG has sold forward or otherwise hedged a significant portion of its expected baseload generation capacity through 2012. The Company has the capacity and intent to enter into additional hedges in later years when market conditions are favorable. In addition, as of December 31, 2006, the Company has purchased forward under fixed price contracts (with contractually-specified price escalators) to provide fuel for approximately 73% of its expected baseload coal generation output from 2007 to 2012. These forward positions provide a stable and reliable source of future cash flow for NRG s investors, while preserving a portion of its generation portfolio for opportunistic sales to take advantage of market dynamics.

Favorable market dynamics for baseload power plants In 2006, approximately 83% of the Company's domestic generation was fueled by coal or nuclear fuel. In many of the competitive markets where NRG operates, the price of power is typically set by the marginal costs of natural gas-fired and oil-fired power plants that currently have substantially higher variable costs than solid fuel baseload power plants. As a result of NRG's lower marginal cost for baseload coal and nuclear generation assets, the Company expects these ERCOT assets to generate power nearly 100% of the time they are available.

Locational advantages Many of NRG s generation assets are located within densely populated areas that are characterized by significant constraints on the transmission of power from generators outside the region. Consequently, these assets are able to benefit from the higher prices that prevail for energy in these markets during periods of transmission constraints. NRG has generation assets located within New York City, southwestern Connecticut, Houston and the Los Angeles and San Diego load basins; all areas with constraints on the transmission of electricity. This gives the Company the opportunity to capture additional revenues through offering capacity to retail electric providers and others, selling power at prevailing market prices during periods of peak demand and providing ancillary services in support of system reliability. These facilities are often ideally situated for repowering or the addition of new capacity, as well, because their location and existing infrastructure give them significant advantages over newly developed sites in their regions.

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### **Performance Metrics**

The following table contains a summary of NRG s operating revenues by segment for the year ended December 31, 2006. The table also reflects the realignment of the Company s new segment structure as discussed in Item 15 Note 17, *Segment Reporting*, to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Region	nergy venues		<b>A</b> ana	_	rtizatio	Therm Revenu		edge leset	ther enues <sup>(c</sup>	Op	Fotal erating venues
Texas <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 1,726	\$ 849	\$	(30)	\$ 609	\$		\$ (129)	\$ 63	\$	3,088
Northeast	966	321		144					112		1,543
South Central	334	199		13	19				5		570
West <sup>(b)</sup>	75	68		(3)					6		146
International	80	79							14		173
Thermal	12					12	4		16		152
Corporate/Eliminations											