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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID SURVEY SHOWS 80% OF BiH CITIZENS UNAWARE THEY CAN INFLUENCE ELECTRICITY PRICES**

Sarajevo, December 13, 2007 – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted a survey which showed that more than 80 percent of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina do not know that they can influence the price of electricity.

The survey showed that over 89.2% of citizens in the RS and 75.6 % in the Federation have neither heard about public hearings organized by the independent electricity regulators nor are they familiar with how to participate in public discussions on electricity prices.

The laws on the entity regulatory commissions, FERC and RSERC, enable citizens to attend and, through non-governmental organizations, to participate in public hearings about new electricity prices. Public hearings are organized upon requests from power utility companies (EPs) which need to justify any request to increase prices. After public hearings, FERC or RSERC approve or disapprove the new price.

USAID's Regulatory and Energy Assistance Project (REAP) is a four-year activity that aims to help BiH fully integrate its energy sector into the regional and European Union markets and to restructure and commercialize its energy companies. To date, the U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided over \$1 billion in assistance to support economic, democratic and social progress in BiH.

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