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NORTHERN BORDER PARTNERS, L.P. INCREASES QUARTERLY CASH DISTRIBUTION NEARLY 9 PERCENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, April 19, 2001

OMAHA, Neb. -- Northern Border Partners, L.P. (NYSE: NBP) announced today a nearly 9 percent increase in the Partnership's quarterly cash distribution to \$0.7625 per unit for the first quarter 2001, up from \$0.70 per unit. The indicated annual distribution is now \$3.05 per unit. This is the Partnership's fifth increase in distributions in four years and the second in the past six months.

"This distribution increase reflects the strong performance of all of our business groups in 2000, as well as our enthusiasm and confidence in the series of strategic acquisitions which we recently completed. Additionally, both Project 2000, which is currently under construction, and the acquisition of Midwestern Gas Transmission, which is expected to close in the next 30 days, should begin to contribute financially in 2001. We are excited about our growth and pleased to deliver the financial benefits to our unitholders," said Bill Cordes, chairman and CEO of Northern Border Partners.

The distribution is payable May 15, 2001 to unitholders of record April 30, 2001.

Northern Border Partners, L.P. owns a 70 percent general partner interest in Northern Border Pipeline Company, a 1,214-mile pipeline system that transports natural gas from the Montana-Saskatchewan border to markets in the Midwestern U. S. The Partnership also has

gathering systems and processing plants in the Powder River, Wind River and Williston Basins in the U.S.; owns and operates processing plants and gathering pipelines in Alberta, Canada; and transports coal-water slurry via a pipeline in the Southwestern U.S. The general partners of NBP are owned by Enron Corp. (NYSE: ENE), one of the world's leading electricity, natural gas and communications companies and by Williams (NYSE: WMB) providing innovative, reliable products and services through its extensive networks of energy-distributing pipelines and high-speed fiber-optic cables. Northern Border Partners, L.P. information may be found at <http://www.northernborderpartners.com/>.

This press release includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Although Northern Border Partners, L.P. believes that its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that such expectations will be achieved. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include competitive conditions in the gathering, processing, transportation and distribution of natural gas and natural gas liquids; timely approval of permits and construction delays and actions by the Federal Trade Commission in approving the acquisition.

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