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News Release

PLYMOUTH II SUBSTATION NOW ENERGIZED

Plymouth, MN (November 15, 2017) — As part of ongoing efforts to ensure electric reliability, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) recently energized its newest substation in Plymouth, Minn.

Substations such as this one in Plymouth are used to convert high voltage electricity from power plants into lower voltage levels suitable for distribution to homes and businesses. This substation is located northeast of the intersection of Cheshire Lane and Schmidt Lake Road in Plymouth, just west of Interstate 494.

“The new Plymouth II Substation will provide capacity to serve growing energy needs in Plymouth and surrounding communities, providing top-tier reliability for many years to come,” said Lance Hovland, VP of Energy Distribution and Generation. “WH engineers, construction crews and apparatus technicians, assisted by Great River Energy staff and contractors, completed this project on time and on budget. We especially want to thank City of Plymouth officials and neighboring property owners for their help and support.”

WH invested almost \$2 million in the new substation, including a massive 3-phase, 115 kilovolt transformer which took seven months to build. The new addition will supply up to 28 megawatts of energy capacity.

Initial planning for Plymouth II began in September 2016. The City of Plymouth approved the Conditional Use Permit on January 31, 2017, and ground was broken on May 15. The transformer was energized on Friday, October 27, and began providing electricity to members in the Plymouth area on Wednesday, November 1.

The Plymouth II substation is an addition to the existing Plymouth substation, which is located immediately adjacent on the same site. The new substation was required for growth in northwest Plymouth and will immediately serve 2,100 consumers.

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves more than 50,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held November 2 for the new Plymouth II Substation. Pictured (from left) are: Paul Kahlbaugh, Electric Apparatus Technician; Bryant Tauer, Engineering Supervisor; Lance Hovland, VP Energy Distribution and Generation; Elaine Anderson, Engineering Technician; Ben Sillerud, Lineman; Ken Heibel, WH Director; Jon Lee, Line Crew Foreman; Erick Heinz, WH Board Chair; Rich Horman, Lead Line Crew Foreman; Tim Sullivan, CEO; Lars Erickson, Lineman; Mike Winfield, Electric Apparatus Technician; Scott Gearey, Relief Line Crew Foreman; and Bruce Keranen, Lead Electric Apparatus Technician.