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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GVEC to Construct a New Western Operations Center

New Facility to Replace Existing Operation Centers, Accommodate Growth in Guadalupe County

Gonzales, Texas – November 30, 2009 – The Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) recently announced plans to move forward with the construction of a new Western Operations Center to be located on a Cooperative-owned 36-acre tract at the northwest corner of IH-10 and Nickerson Farms Road in Guadalupe County. The Cooperative plans to break ground as early as mid-December. Construction of the new facility is expected to take approximately 14 months to complete.

The center represents the final phase of the Cooperative's long-range facilities plan to keep pace with the growing population in Guadalupe and Wilson counties where approximately 65% of the GVEC membership resides. The first phase was the construction of the new Seguin Office Complex located on Highway 46. GVEC's membership now stands at over 66,000 accounts throughout its service territory. In the past ten years, the Cooperative has seen its membership expand by over 50%, primarily due to suburban expansion in Guadalupe County. A study conducted in 2007 by GVEC, projects that the current meter count may double in the next 20 years.

The Center will be located at the geographic center of Seguin, Schertz, New Braunfels, and the La Vernia service areas. All operations staff including engineering, technical service, line crews, as well as information services technicians from current Seguin, Schertz, and La Vernia operations will work out of the Center. This will also allow GVEC to consolidate its area warehousing, presenting opportunities for enhanced efficiency in purchasing and material handling. The Center will also ultimately provide redundancy for critical information management systems, outage prediction, and meter reading systems: all vital components used to control outage management and service reliability.

GVEC Board Approves Western Operations Center

Page 2

Site specifications incorporate renewable and conservation-related design and building processes ranging from eco-friendly construction materials to drought-tolerant landscape design as well as solar water heating and wind generation. The center is also designed to meet construction standards of LEED certification. LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED buildings use less energy and water ultimately saving money, and contributing to a healthier environment.

“This is the right time to build,” says GVEC General Manager and CEO, Darren Schauer. “Our current facilities have served us well for over 50 years, but we have now outgrown them. The current economic conditions, which has led to construction costs being significantly less than originally anticipated, makes this a good time to build for GVEC. The new facility will not only accommodate existing line crews, technicians and engineers, it will provide the space necessary to expand; ultimately creating new job opportunities for the surrounding areas.”

This facility is not intended to move employees from one location in the service territory to the other nor to replace jobs. It will be designed to provide the space necessary to expand as inevitable area growth dictates the need. This new Center will maximize efficiencies which will translate over time into lower operational costs. The Western Operations Center, which is a \$15 million project, is the final milestone in GVEC’s long-range facilities plan to keep pace with growing member needs.

GVEC is an electric cooperative that serves over 66,000 meters across 13 Texas counties. The service area spans 3,500 square miles across South Central Texas. The headquarters is located in Gonzales, Texas with four area offices in the cities of Schertz, Seguin, La Vernia and Cuero.

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