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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GVEC Celebrates Grand Opening for New Western Operations Center

New Facility will Accommodate Future Growth in GVEC Service Territory

Seguin, Texas – May 26, 2011– The Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) held a grand opening event today for their new Western Operations Center located at 6400 IH-10 West in Guadalupe County. Community business leaders, county and city officials, school board members and other government representatives from the area attended the celebration.

The program included three guest speakers: GVEC General Manager and CEO Darren Schauer, GVEC Board President Lewis Borgfeld and Guadalupe County Judge Mike Wiggins. There was also a wire cutting ceremony and facility tours for guests.

“Our new Western Operations Center will help position GVEC to effectively meet the significant growth demands of our service territory well into the future,” said GVEC General Manager and CEO Darren Schauer. “Opening this facility was an integral part of an ongoing, proactive plan to ensure the future of affordable and reliable electric service to our members.”

The Center, equipped to handle today’s capacity as well as future area growth, is 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. Studies conducted by GVEC also project the current meter count may double in the next 20 years within the GVEC service territory.

“GVEC is proud of its rich tradition of providing reliable power to our customers for over 70 years,” said GVEC Board President Lewis Borgfeld. “This new facility represents our ongoing commitment to our members to do our very best to serve them well by maintaining our service standards now and in the future. The Center was a necessary investment that will translate to lower operational costs over time and long-term value for our members.”

The Center will house all operations staff, including engineering, technical service, line crews and information services technicians from our Seguin, Schertz and La Vernia operations. This will allow GVEC to consolidate its area warehousing, presenting opportunities for enhanced efficiency in purchasing and materials handling. The Center will also provide redundancy for critical information management systems, outage prediction, and meter reading systems: all vital components used to control outage management and service reliability.

In addition, the facility incorporates renewable- and conservation-related design and building processes that include eco-friendly construction materials, drought-tolerant landscape design, solar water heating and wind generation. It’s also in the process of attaining LEED certification. LEED is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

GVEC is an electric cooperative that serves over 67,000 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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