

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Date: Dec. 17, 2007

Subject: Cooperative Employees Volunteer Their Time

The employees of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative of Le Mars, Iowa, and its member electric cooperatives in western Iowa contributed more than 6,000 hours of volunteer efforts to their communities during 2007.

NIPCO and its member electric cooperatives all are Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Because commitment to community is one of the four core values of Touchstone Energy cooperatives, NIPCO has recognized the employee volunteers for their service. Each of the employees who volunteered at least 25 hours during the year received a Touchstone Energy logo clothing item of their choice.

Three of the cooperatives significantly increased their volunteer work during 2007. Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative of Harlan increased hours by 32 percent from the previous year. At Harrison County REC in Woodbine, employees donated 28 percent more hours of volunteer work, and Western Iowa Power Cooperative employees in Denison and Onawa recorded an increase of 15 percent more volunteer time.

Cooperative employees volunteered in a variety of community activities, including blood donation; city council and other city government boards; hospital and church boards and committees; volunteer firefighting; leadership of church, civic and youth group activities; refereeing sports contests, and working on community celebrations.

The number of hours donated by each cooperative's employees include: NIPCO, 1,657; WIPCO, 1,360; Nishnabotna Valley REC, 758; North West Rural Electric Cooperative of Orange City, Le Mars and Ida Grove, 1,075; Harrison County REC, 567; Woodbury Rural Electric Cooperative of Merville, 172; Onawa Municipal Electric, 211; and Hinton Municipal Electric, 268.

NIPCO is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned by six rural electric cooperatives and a full-service municipal electric cooperative serving six western Iowa towns. Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 640 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a long-standing commitment to communities.

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