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Southern Illinois Power Cooperative Executes \$25 Million Dollar Wind-Power Agreement

PAXTON – Today, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) announced that they will be purchasing 10 megawatts of wind energy from the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm.

The wind farm is being developed east of Paxton, Ill. The three member-owned G&Ts will purchase 40 megawatts, Prairie Power, Inc., **Southern Illinois Power Cooperative** and Wabash Valley Power Association are entering into an 18-year power purchase agreement with Pioneer Trail Wind Farm, LLC, an affiliate of E.ON Climate & Renewables North America (EC&RNA). The agreement was coordinated through the National Renewables Cooperative Organization, which was formed to promote and facilitate the development of economically viable renewable energy resources for its member cooperatives across the United States.

Scott Ramsey, president/CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, said the G&T was one of the founding members of the National Renewables Cooperative Organization and has been looking for several years for the right partner and the right renewable energy contract. *“E.ON is a solid and reputable company that has global wind energy development and operational experience. They were in a position to offer us a competitively priced renewable energy contract. After doing the necessary due diligence we determined that now is the time and this is the contract that we have been looking for.”*

“The 10 megawatts of wind SIPC will utilize should begin service from EC&RNA in late 2012, complimenting the cooperative’s existing renewable-resource of hydro from the Southeastern Power Administration. This resource while representing more than \$25 million in investment from SIPC, will provide power at current market prices but will be an emission-free power source.”

Duane Noland, president/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, said the purchase agreement illustrates the ongoing effort of Illinois electric co-ops to provide affordable and reliable energy to electric co-op members, and support innovative energy efficiency and clean renewable energy projects such as the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm.

Noland said the agreement also helps the 21 electric distribution co-ops across the state that receive wholesale power from the three G&Ts by keeping rates affordable and diversifying the power supply. *“Cooperatives also live by a principle of commitment to community and we know that this project will produce not only affordable energy, but also jobs and new revenue for the area.”*

“Our Pioneer Trail Wind Farm is expected to provide clean power to approximately 45,000 households in the central Illinois region using North American made turbines, blades and towers,” said Steve Trenholm, CEO, EC&RNA. *“Locally, this project projects to spend more than \$29 million dollars in local taxes, paying \$8 million in local salaries and more than \$50 million to landowners. We expect to employ about 200 people during construction and also expect to establish 8 to 10 permanent positions for the life of the wind farm.”*

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About Southern Illinois Power Cooperative

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative. SIPC provides transmission and generation services to a population of more than 200,000 people thru its member-owners Southern IL Electric Cooperative, Southeastern IL Electric Cooperative, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Clay Electric Cooperative, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, and Monroe County Electric Cooperative. Wholesale contracts are provided to the Cities of Redbud, IL, and Mcleansboro, IL. In 2013 Norris Electric Cooperative will begin its Wholesale Power Contract expanding SIPC’s population served to approximately 250,000.

SIPC’s distribution cooperatives provide retail electric service to homes, farms, businesses and industries in 29 counties.

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About the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

Based in Springfield, the AIEC provides legal, engineering, communications, safety training, legislative and other services to 25 electric distribution cooperatives and four generation and transmission cooperatives. AIEC member cooperatives serve more than 279,334 farms, homes and businesses in 90 counties, with 55,592 miles of line.

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About the National Renewables Cooperative Organization

Cooperatives across the country formed the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO) to promote and facilitate the development of renewable energy resources for its members. NRCO’s main purposes are to facilitate the cost-effective, joint development of renewable resources nationwide for its cooperative owners.

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About EC&R

E.ON Climate & Renewables (EC&R) is responsible for the E.ON group's renewable energy and environmental protection activities around the world. Tapping renewable energy sources offers enormous alternatives, both from a business perspective and for the environment. E.ON Climate & Renewables will be investing €4 billion in renewable energy and environmental protection projects from 2010 - 2013 to expand the share of renewable energy in E.ON's portfolio for the long term. E.ON has thus taken a leading role in developing renewable energy sources worldwide.

E.ON Climate & Renewables North America is one of EC&R's six regional business units and is headquartered in Chicago, Ill. E.ON AG is one of the world's largest energy companies and the largest investor owned utility in the world. For more information, please visit www.eon.com/renewables.
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President and CEO of Southern IL Power Cooperative, W. Scott Ramsey

