

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **CONSUMERS ENERGY'S POWER SUPPLIER – CIPCO – PURCHASES WIND ENERGY FROM STORY COUNTY WIND ENERGY CENTER**

**Marshalltown, Iowa.** (December 2, 2008) Consumers Energy's power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), announced in late November to broaden investment in Iowa-generated wind energy through the purchase of an additional 42 megawatts of renewable energy. CIPCO entered into a 10-year contract with a subsidiary of FPL Energy to purchase this resource from their 150 megawatt Story County Wind Energy Center.

Having CIPCO add additional wind energy shows our commitment to developing renewable energy resources in Iowa while supporting the state's economic growth. This project enables us to continue to enhance our environmental stewardship by increasing our generation from carbon-free sources.

As a state-of-the-art energy provider, CIPCO uses a diverse fuel mix of coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, natural gas, and oil energy resources. Nearly 99% of the power CIPCO currently provides to Consumers Energy is generated in Iowa, and over one-third of our electricity is generated from carbon-free resources.

The Story County Wind Energy Center, located near Colo in northeastern Story County, consists of 100 wind turbines, each capable of producing 1.5 megawatts of wind power. Planning for the project started in 2005 and earth moving began in November of last year. The turbines became operational earlier this month. General Electric supplied all 100 machines. The turbines, which are expected to have an average life span of 25 to 30 years, are more than 260 feet high and have a rotor diameter of over 250 feet.

In addition to generating renewable energy, this project also generated dollars in the local economy. During construction as many as 125 to 150 workers were involved in erecting the wind turbines on any given day and 10-15 workers are responsible for ongoing inspection and maintenance of the equipment. Nearly 60 miles of wire was buried to complete the project, and 32 truckloads of concrete were used to form the foundation for each of the 100 turbines.

Consumers Energy is a local member-owned energy solutions cooperative specializing in energy delivery and energy management. The cooperative serves over 5,000 members and customers throughout six counties in Central Iowa: Marshall, Story, Jasper, Polk, Tama and Hardin.