

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STORY CONTACT: Steve Chalker
PHONE: 706-547-5013**

**JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE ACHIEVES HIGHEST
LEVEL OF SAFETY ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION**

(Wrens, November 12, 2009) Because electricity is an integral part of daily life and makes so many things possible, most people don't think about its power and the dangers it can present. Yet, Jefferson Energy Cooperative and its employees never lose sight of electricity's hazards or forget the importance of safety when it comes to delivering energy to the near 30,000 members it serves.

As confirmation of its commitment to safety, Jefferson Energy this year achieved safety accreditation through the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP). RESAP measures the effectiveness of a cooperative's safety and loss control program, with a focus on preserving life and preventing injury. Sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), safety accreditation is the highest accolade for safety measures in the electric utility industry.

Jefferson Energy received a Certificate of Excellence as recognition at the Georgia EMC annual meeting on Nov. 9 in Augusta. This year, in addition to Jefferson Energy, 12 other Georgia electric cooperatives received safety accreditation through the RESAP.

To receive accreditation, Jefferson Energy had to meet the program's stringent safety standards for protecting employees and the public, which exceed compliance

standards of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and the Department of Transportation. The cooperative underwent several evaluations during a three-year review period by a team of safety experts from accredited systems, led by Jim Wright, Georgia EMC's vice president of Training, Education & Safety, and the RESAP area administrator for Georgia. Jefferson Energy also submitted an application that represents a collaborative record of the cooperative's safety policies and procedures over the past three years.

One of the foremost measurements in the review is management's role and commitment to achieving and maintaining high safety standards for the protection of its employees and the community. "Our employees are exposed to hazardous situations every day, and they must operate within proper protocol and safety measures to reduce the risk of electrocution, fire, and other dangers. It is not just our employees we are responsible for protecting, it is also our members and community," says Steve Talbott, Director of Loss Control and Compliance with Jefferson Energy. "We take safety very seriously."

"The accreditation process is quite extensive," says Wright. "We look at many areas of a system's operations including 440 scoring elements in onsite observations and 395 elements in the application. A Certificate of Excellence is only awarded to EMCs that receive an 'above average' score."

###