



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MARCH 28, 2008

CONTACT: WILL HOLFORD OR BARBARA TURNER
(512) 332-7955

BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SCORES HIGH IN RURAL ELECTRIC SAFETY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

(BASTROP) – Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative received a 91percent score on the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP). The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program, administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), is a peer-review safety and loss control evaluation of electric utilities. It is an organized analysis of a system’s safety and loss control program that measures overall effectiveness.

“Every day, Bluebonnet employees work hard to ensure our members’ needs are met with quality work, reliability and a strong commitment to getting the job done safely.” said Mark Rose, Bluebonnet General Manager “This achievement speaks to our commitment of living up to the Foundation Values on which Bluebonnet is built.”

The RESAP program began in 1967, and has developed over the years into a tool to assist electric utility management to achieve and maintain high safety standards for the protection of its employees and the communities served. There are presently 437 accredited systems, including one municipal system. Although the focus of the program is toward cooperatives, any electric utility may apply for accreditation.

“The credit for this achievement goes to each and every employee who works hard and is dedicated to making Bluebonnet a preferred employer that places full and total emphasis on the safety of all employees,” said Allen Anderson, manager of Bluebonnet Safety Services. “Obtaining safety accreditation and following safety standards sends a clear and consistent message that we want our employees to return home safely at the end of a busy workday, and we want our members to know we’re committed to a safe working environment.

“Even though we scored extremely well, there's still room for improvement. We've already looked at the comments from the review and have started preparing for the 2011 accreditation process.”

RESAP, which falls under the Education, Research, and Technology Committee of NRECA, is overseen by a group of delegates, including representatives from the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association, NRECA, the insurance industry, and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). According to Texas Electric Cooperative, the industry average rating for Texas is 92 percent.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative owns and maintains about 11,000 miles of power lines, located across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 Southeastern Texas counties. Bluebonnet's service area stretches from Travis to Washington County and from Milam down to Gonzales County. For more information about Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative go to www.bluebonnetelectric.coop.