

News Release

Duane Highley Named CEO for Arkansas Electric Cooperatives

Little Rock, Ark. — October 17, 2011 — The boards of directors of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC) and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., (AECI), have selected Duane D. Highley to become president and chief executive officer of both Little Rock-based cooperatives effective Nov. 14.

Highley succeeds Gary Voigt, who has led both organizations since 1996. Sam Davis of Lamar, AECC board chairman and Mitchell Johnson of Springdale, AECI board chairman, made the announcement upon conclusion of a nationwide search.

A 28-year veteran in the utility industry, Highley has served as director of power production at Associated Electric Cooperative in Springfield, Mo. He is a registered professional engineer with bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri-Rolla (*now Missouri University of Science and Technology*) and has completed the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

AECC, a power generation and transmission cooperative, provides wholesale electricity to 17 electric distribution cooperatives in Arkansas, serving about 500,000 members. AECC owns 2,977 megawatts of generation capacity and has 250 employees.

AECI, a service cooperative, provides a variety of utility services to cooperatives and utilities in a five-state region. These services include transformer sales, construction and right-of-way work, governmental relations and safety training. AECI also publishes the state's largest circulation monthly magazine, *Arkansas Living*. AECI has 370 employees working across the state.

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