

October 2, 2007

## **Plant Dedicated to Harry L. Oswald, Electric Cooperative Pioneer in Arkansas**

Little Rock, Ark. — Oct. 2, 2007 — Today, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation dedicated its 548-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant at Wrightsville and named the plant in honor of Harry L. Oswald, the cooperatives first general manager and rural electrification pioneer.

Oswald, who passed away on Dec. 18, 2006, worked for Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI), a statewide service organization, from 1948 to 1980 as the cooperatives' general manager.

“Mr. Oswald’s contributions to the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas are paramount but perhaps most importantly, was his dedication to bringing electric service to Arkansans,” said Gary Voigt, president/CEO of AECC/AECI. “He often said that his happiest memories were witnessing electricity being brought into homes for the first time.”

AECC purchased the Wrightsville plant from Mirant, an Atlanta-based energy company, for \$85 million in 2005. The state-of-the-art power plant has nine generators – seven combustion turbines and two steam turbines.

“The electric co-op movement was fortunate,” said former Arkansas Sen. David Pryor. “Harry Oswald had the vision to see and appreciate what needed to be done...and he was the person to use his unique leadership skills to literally accomplish miracles. A visionary with a mission. He was single minded and passionate. Because of Harry Oswald, life is truly better for all of us.”

With the plant, AECC has 2,977 megawatts of generating capacity. In addition to the new plant, AECC owns and operates three hydropower plants on the Arkansas River, three natural gas/oil-fired plants, one simple-cycle natural gas-fired plant, and owns/leases portions of three coal-fired plants. During the past 18 years, AECC has invested nearly \$600 million in expansion and upgrades to its generation capacity.

Little Rock-based AECC is a generation and transmission cooperative owned by the state’s 17 electric distribution cooperatives. AECC supplies wholesale electricity to those 17 cooperatives. Collectively, Arkansas’ electric cooperatives provide electricity on the retail level to more than 480,000 customers, or members, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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