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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Marshall wind power project will provide 18.7 megawatts of renewable energy**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. -- More than 18 megawatts of wind power will be added to the region by the end of 2007 when a new wind farm begins commercial operation near Marshall, Minn.

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) has signed an agreement to purchase the power produced by the project. MRES, which is based in Sioux Falls, is an organization of 60 member communities in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. MRES member communities own and operate local electric distribution systems. MRES is a provider of electric power and energy to its members. Other parties to the agreement are the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA), Marshall Municipal Utilities, John Deere Wind Energy , and the Rahn Group.

John Deere Wind Energy and The Rahn Group will co-develop the project. John Deere Wind Energy, headquartered in Johnston, Iowa, will provide the wind turbines and be the majority owner of the Marshall Wind Project. The Rahn Group, a private investment firm based in Edina, Minn., will be minority owner.

John Deere Wind Energy will construct nine wind turbines at the site. Two of the turbines will be rated at 2 megawatts of capacity; seven of the turbines will be rated at 2.1 megawatts. The two-megawatt generators will qualify for the State of Minnesota's Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI). REPI projects receive an incentive of one cent per kilowatt-hour produced for a ten year time period.

The seven remaining turbines will be Community-Based Economic Development (C-BED) projects. The Minnesota Legislature passed into law the C-BED initiative in 2005, which seeks "to optimize local, regional, and state benefits from wind energy development, and to facilitate development of community-based wind energy projects throughout Minnesota."

The project is expected to generate more than 60,000 megawatt-hours of energy annually, which is enough to meet the electrical needs of more than 5,800 homes.

WMMPA, which is the primary financing affiliate for MRES, will own 7.6 miles of transmission lines from the new Marshall Southwest Substation to the wind turbine facilities.

“Construction of the 18.7-megawatt project will start within the next month,” said MRES Director of Marketing and Development Jeff Peters. “In addition to providing clean, renewable energy, this project, along with others we are involved with, will help MRES meet the State of Minnesota’s new ’25 by ’25’ Renewable Energy Standard.” The Renewable Energy Standard, passed earlier this year by the Minnesota Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Tim Pawlenty, requires renewable resources provide electric utilities with 25 percent of the power they sell in Minnesota by the year 2025.

“The Marshall Municipal Utilities assisted greatly in the planning and development of this project,” Peters said. “Without their help, this project probably would not have come to fruition.”

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*For more information, contact Jeff Peters, MRES Director of Marketing and Development; phone 605-338-4042.*