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NEWS RELEASE

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CHELCO COMPLETES SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

CHELCO broke ground on a solar demonstration project at its Operations Center on Highway 331 North in DeFuniak Springs in May and recently completed its construction.

The project will serve members and the community as a hands-on educational site for learning about solar energy production. Production data will eventually be displayed at www.chelco.com so daily energy output can be reviewed year-round. CHELCO is planning an open house this summer and will announce details soon.

“We sized the array to simulate a typical solar installation that a member might chose to install on his/her own,” said Steve Wolfrom, CHELCO vice president of member services. “We will provide objective information and actual data for our members investigating solar.”

The array is owned by PowerSouth, CHELCO’s wholesale power supplier. The solar array is 5.3 kilowatts total and is expected to produce roughly 8,700 kilowatt-hours per year. The 10 panel assembly is fairly typical of the size array residential members might consider for their home.

“CHELCO is supportive of renewable energy sources, such as solar, provided it makes financial sense for our members and does not negatively impact service reliability,” said Steve Rhodes, CHELCO CEO. “CHELCO will continue to work hard to find affordable ways for our members to receive renewable energy.”

CHELCO is investigating the potential for a community solar project, possibly in 2017. The launch of the project will depend on member interest and other factors. Community solar

would allow a member to purchase a share of the output of a large solar array. One advantage of larger community solar is that the project produce energy at a lower cost than a typical array built on a residential lot.

Also, a community project would allow members who might not be able to install their own solar to participate in buying renewables. Obstacles like upfront costs, improper roof orientation, excessive shading, homeowner's association restrictions or apartment living are frequently barriers for those investigating solar. CHELCO will provide more information as it becomes available.

CHELCO is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving more than 48,000 members in Walton, Okaloosa, Holmes and Santa Rosa counties. Please visit www.chelco.com for more information.

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CHELCO's solar demonstration project panels placed during construction by Compass Solar.