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DREMC Board Matches Available Funds: Additional \$300,000 to be Available to Assist with Payment of Winter Energy Bills

Many members of Duck River Electric Membership Corporation have received electric bills higher than they have ever been during the past few months. DREMC is doing its part to assist qualifying members. Many have expressed their concerns in person, through the internet and through public blogs in various communities. DREMC's Board of Directors is concerned about our members and has made a commitment of up to \$70,000 to assist needy members with the payment of this winter's energy bills.

South Central Human Resource Development Agency (SCHRDA) has federal funds available through the state to help each county with energy bills. The LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) money appropriated for each county varies by county, but when matched provides \$2 for every \$1 matched by local private or public funds. The \$70,000 authorized by the Duck River Electric Board qualifies as private funds that can be applied toward this match. County funds available to be matched throughout the DREMC area include: Bedford - \$16,284; Franklin - \$15,052; Coffee - \$21,702; Marshall - \$10,354; Maury - \$27,135; Moore - \$1,751 and Giles \$11,856. When

these dollars are matched, a total of over \$300,000 will be available through SCHRDA to assist families with their utility expenses.

In most of these counties, Duck River Electric is only one of several utility providers supplying energy to parts of the counties for home heating purposes. Municipal electric and gas utilities, private gas utilities, public utility gas districts and others also provide a portion of the county with energy. To gain access to the full \$300,000 of additional funds, these other utility providers will need to join with Duck River Electric in pledging funds toward achieving the full match. “With this \$70,000 commitment, the Duck River Electric Board has done its fair share toward assuring access of the full \$300,000 plus for residents in the counties we serve,” noted President & CEO Jim Allison. “We challenge our municipal, investor-owned and utility district neighbors to now step up to do their share to make certain that needy families in our areas can gain full access to all these available funds.”