

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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**Date:** *April 9, 2009*

**Subject:** *Economic Development Honors Given at Meeting*

Three electric cooperatives were recognized for their economic development activities with awards presented by Iowa Area Development Group at the annual meeting of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative April 7 in Sioux City.

Rand Fisher, president of the IADG, headquartered in West Des Moines, presented the awards. Recipients of the awards were:

- Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative was recognized for its leadership and support of the development of the Southbridge Business Park in Sioux City, where the cooperative will supply electric services. The cooperative received IADG's Site Development Impact Award.
- North West Rural Electric Cooperative received the IADG Community Development Impact Award for leadership and assistance in building a new medical clinic in Remsen. The cooperative secured a USDA grant to help finalize the project.
- NIPCO was recognized with an Economic Development Impact Award for its assistance and support of a variety of local economic development initiatives involving NIPCO's member utility systems.

The Iowa Area Development Group is the marketing and economic development agency for Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives and select municipal electric utilities. Established in 1985, IADG and its member systems have assisted with more than 950 successful business expansions and start up companies. This growth represents capital investment of more than \$3.5 billion and more than 35,000 jobs for Iowa.

NIPCO, a Touchstone Energy cooperative headquartered in Le Mars, is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned by six rural electric cooperatives and also by a full-service municipal electric cooperative serving six western Iowa towns. Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 660 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a long-standing commitment to communities.

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