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For Immediate Release

‘Something for Everyone’ at Annual Gaff-n-Go Rodeo *Electric Utility Lineman Day Will Be Celebrated May 20 at Meadow Event Park*

Doswell, Va. — You only need to lose electricity at your home or business for a short time to appreciate the critical role of line crews who work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. The skills and equipment of these heroes will be on display May 19-20 at the 15th Annual Terex® Gaff-n-Go Equipment Operator’s & Lineman’s Rodeo. This family-friendly event at Meadow Event Park is free and open to the public.

More than 150 line workers and volunteer judges from five states are slated to compete at Meadow Event Park in Doswell. Friday’s competition starts at 11 a.m. with the equipment-operators’ rodeo, which will test each team’s ability to maneuver the bucket trucks and digger derricks used to help maintain electric distribution systems. Beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo will feature competitions among 47 individual apprentices and 20 three-man journeyman teams.

“There’s something for everyone at the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo,” says Richard Johnstone, president and CEO of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), which hosts this event.

Johnstone explains that the name Gaff-n-Go refers to the “gaff,” or metal spike, that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles. “Working 40 feet above the ground on a course of utility poles, these professionals will be judged on whether a variety of tasks are performed according to safe and efficient work practices, as well as the time it takes them to complete each,” he notes.

Saturday has been declared “Electric Utility Lineman Day” by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. Parking as well as admission are free both days, with a food vendor on site. Families can also enjoy a petting zoo, face-painting and balloon-artist activities from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

For more information and directions to Meadow Event Park, visit www.gaff-n-go.com. Facebook fans can check out photos from previous years and find out the latest news at www.facebook.com/gaffngo.

About VMDAEC

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives that serve Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The Glen Allen, Va.-based Association provides its members with safety training, continuing education, legislative and regulatory support and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. The magazine has the largest circulation of any Virginia publication, with more than 550,000 subscribers. For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com.