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### **CMMPA/CMPAS Announces CEO Steve Thompson's Retirement**

Blue Earth, MN — January 29, 2018 — After a 38 year distinguished career in the electric power industry, Steve Thompson has made the decision to retire from Central Municipal Power Agency and Services (CMPAS). CMPAS provides utility management services to Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (CMMPA) and other electric municipal utilities. "Working for CMMPA has been one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs in my career," said CEO Steve Thompson.

Steve worked at CMPAS for a total of 18 years as the Chief Operating Officer, Deputy CEO and as CEO since 2008. Prior to CMPAS, Steve worked at Xcel Energy for 20 years as an electrical engineer in the distribution, transmission and generation areas working in planning, engineering, construction and operations.

During his 18 years at CMPAS, Steve provided the agency the crucial leadership needed through challenging times during the early development of the agency. Steve led the agency and its members in the planning and procurement of their first wholesale power portfolios to replace their legacy full requirement contracts with Xcel Energy.

CMMPA/CMPAS is a "project-based agency" with each member having a unique power supply portfolio and autonomy over the composition of their portfolios. "The most satisfying part of the job was helping consumer-owned municipals plan for their future by providing them with the critical information to make well-informed decisions. We viewed our role as being consultants or portfolio advisors for each of our members," said CEO Steve Thompson.

Under Steve's leadership, the agency participated in its first baseload coal project (Nebraska City #2) and its first major transmission project (CAPX Brookings to Twin Cities 345 KV) requiring its first municipal bond financing. Under Steve's guidance the agency further diversified their power supply portfolios with long-term nuclear and wind purchases. As a result, CMMPA members currently have some of the lowest wholesale power supply rates in Minnesota while also being well positioned for the uncertainties of the future with diversified portfolios.

"The agency is largely what it is today because of Steve's leadership and strategic vision. Steve has left a significant legacy with our agency," said Bob Elston, CMMPA/CMPAS Board of Director and General Manager from Sleepy Eye Public Utilities.

"The agency has a lot of gratitude for Steve's extraordinary dedication and contribution to the CMMPA agency. Steve leaves CMMPA and its members well positioned for their future and their transition to new leadership," said Tim Stoner, CMMPA/CMPAS President and General Manager of Blue Earth Light and Water.

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