



**Mississippi
Headwaters
Chapter**

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Green Building Council - Mississippi Headwaters Chapter Meeting to Feature USGBC President and Founder

WHAT: The USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter, of Minnesota will host its first quarterly meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, from 5 to 9 p.m. The meeting will include keynote from Rick Fedrizzi, CEO, President and Founding Chairman of USGBC, and tours of Great River Energy, which is planned to be Minnesota's first LEED® Platinum building.

The Chapter's quarterly meeting is a new initiative to provide updates on the Chapter and Regional level, orient new members, network and provide an opportunity on a larger scale event similar to the Annual Chapter Meeting held in October. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a certification methodology developed by USGBC (www.usgbc.org).

The event will also include tours of Great River Energy's new headquarters. Great River Energy is Minnesota's second largest utility provider based on generating capacity. It opened its new headquarters in April 2008, which includes an onsite wind turbine – providing up to 15 percent of the building's energy needs – solar panels and rain water harvesting technology.

This is a carbon positive event with carbon offsets purchased from Bonneville Environmental Foundation at www.b-e-f.org.

Registration for the event is required. Register by July 8, 2008 at www.usgbcmn.org for the early-bird rate. Cost for this event is \$25 for chapter members and \$40 for non-members; space is limited.

OPPORTUNITY: Interviews with Rick Fedrizzi and Chapter leaders, as well as photo opportunities and tours of Great River Energy.

WHEN: Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at 5 p.m.

WHERE: Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Blvd., Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718.

BACKGROUND: **RICK FEDRIZZI**
The USGBC has embarked on a new era of growth, openness and transparency under Fedrizzi's leadership. He has spearheaded a number of critical initiatives, including a major refinement of the LEED Green Building Rating System™. Fedrizzi extended the LEED Rating System to homes, schools and healthcare facilities. He's credited with driving growth of the USGBC's 70-plus chapters, and reorganizing USGBC to align with and meet its strategic goals. USGBC membership has grown to nearly 15,000 organizations, representing millions of employees, stakeholders and communities. USGBC undertakes ambitious

domestic and international initiatives, including collaborating with the Clinton Global Initiative, the International Codes Council, and other national and international NGOs and trade associations.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Great River Energy is the fifth largest generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in the United States in terms of assets. The utility provider offers wholesale electric service to 28 distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, which distribute electricity to more than 600,000 homes, businesses and farms. Great River Energy opened its new headquarters in April 2008. Perkins+Will designed the new facility, and McGough Construction built it.

About the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter

As the built environment fundamentally impacts peoples' lives and our planet's health, the mission of the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter is to positively transform the building processes, building industry and communities of the Minnesota region, by drawing upon the experience of stakeholders in the built environment. The Mississippi Headwaters Chapter promotes the design, construction and operation of buildings and communities that are healthy places to live and work, environmentally responsible and economically viable on a lifecycle basis. The Chapter serves its members and communities by promoting best practices in design and technology usage, advocating green building policies and facilitating information exchange and education. The Chapter encourages the widespread acceptance and use of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ and other complementary tools and standards. For more information, visit www.chapters.usgbc.org/usgbcmn.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is the nation's leading coalition of corporations, builders, universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working together to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. Since its founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 7,500 member companies and organizations, a broad portfolio of LEED products and services, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, and a network of 75 local chapters, affiliates and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

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