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For Immediate Release

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BEMC to Add Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage to Local Grid

SUPPLY, N.C. (January 7, 2022) – Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) today announces the planned installation of cutting-edge battery energy storage technology in Bolivia. The battery project will be integrated at an existing electric substation, adding local energy resources that will enhance system resilience and reliability for co-op consumer-members.

“Brunswick Electric is committed to innovation that advances our Brighter Future vision for electricity that is affordable, reliable and supports our sustainability goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050,” said Josh Winslow, CEO of BEMC.

The battery in Bolivia is one of 10 substation batteries being deployed in rural locations this year by North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives, including BEMC. Collectively, the batteries will provide 40 MWs of power, and will be charged when demand for electricity is low and discharged during moments of peak demand for power. This not only enhances electric reliability but is expected to provide cost savings over the lifetime of the batteries. Because cooperatives are not-for-profit, at-cost energy providers, co-op members will benefit from those savings.

Installation of the battery energy storage system will begin early this year, with activation anticipated in the summer. The installation will create temporary construction jobs and help enhance area resources for future investment.

In addition to substation batteries, BEMC and the network of cooperatives in North Carolina have worked together for years to lead innovative energy strategies, including community solar, microgrids, demand response programs and solar plus storage initiatives.

“We will continue to lead the integration, management and optimization of resources and technologies that benefit our community and local consumer-members, now and in the decades to come,” said Winslow.

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BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC
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BEMC is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit corporation. It is the second-largest electric cooperative in North Carolina and serves more than 98,000 meter locations in Brunswick, Columbus, and parts of Bladen and Robeson counties. Founded in 1939, BEMC has a longstanding commitment to the communities it serves, providing support for a wide variety of activities that contribute to the quality of life for all citizens.

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