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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Lake Erie Electric Renewable Energy Solutions Takes Another Step Toward Helping Ohio Become a Leader in Solar Power

*RES Manager one of only five in Cleveland area to hold NABCEP certification, demonstrating commitment to the highest industry standards for installation*

**Cleveland, OH, May 27, 2010** - Lake Erie Electric (LEE) Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) Manager Tom Whitby is one of only a handful of installers to gain the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) certification for Solar PV installations in the Cleveland area. This industry certification positions LEE RES to help Ohio escalate efforts to become a leader in advanced energy, ensuring quality service and maximum savings for consumers on energy investments.

"We are committed to the growth and sustainability of the solar industry. As a leader in Ohio's renewable energy market, it's crucial we provide the highest quality installation and services to our clients. This certification says to our customers – LEE RES will do the job right," said Renewable Energy Solutions Manager Tom Whitby.

Whitby is one of only 36 other installers throughout Ohio to become NABCEP certified compared to other states like Colorado, which has nearly 100 certified Solar PV installers and California, which has nearly 200. In Ohio, government grants to reduce the cost of solar installations are only available to applicants who use a NABCEP certified installer for their project.

"With the incentives available today, it's possible for a solar power system to pay for itself in 3-5 years. The remaining 20-25 years of system operation will then provide an additional revenue stream to the owner. The incentive programs provide a tremendous cost savings for businesses and homeowners making the transition to clean energy and we're positioned to help them take advantage of those available dollars," Whitby added.

Ohio has established one of the most aggressive renewable energy standards in the nation requiring electric utilities generate at least 25 percent of their power from advanced energy sources including solar, wind, bio-fuels, nuclear and clean coal by 2025.

**About Lake Erie Electric**

Lake Erie Electric was founded in 1952. Committed to providing electrical construction services that strive to exceed customer expectations, LEE operates Ohio offices in Cleveland, Akron, Dayton and Mansfield, with affiliated offices in Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain and Detroit, Michigan. LEE is consistently ranked in the ENR top 50 electrical contractors, is a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and their electricians and field supervision are IBEW employees that come from the jurisdictions where they work.

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