

**3M ACCR Added to List of Materials by Rural Utilities Service's
Technical Standards Committee 'A'**

*Decision Enables Deployment in Projects with RUS Financing;
Breakthrough Conductor Already in Use by Major Utilities in U.S. and Other Nations*

ST. PAUL, Minn., October 6, 2009 – The 3M Aluminum Conductor Composite Reinforced (ACCR), a breakthrough overhead transmission conductor designed to more than double transmission capacity without rebuilding or replacing towers, is now eligible for use in projects financed by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Programs.

The Electric Programs Technical Standards Committee "A" of RUS has granted "conditional acceptance" for 3M ACCR to be included on its IP 202-1 List of Materials Acceptable for Use on Systems of USDA Rural Development Electrification Borrowers when RUS financing is involved. The term "conditional" means the borrower's permission is required and the conductor should be installed according to 3M's recommendations.

3M ACCR is already in use by major utilities in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, China and India as a means of upgrading transmission lines in locations where tower construction could pose costly and time-consuming environmental and logistical problems.

In rural areas in particular, the light-weight, low-sag conductor enables the use of fewer or shorter towers across environmentally sensitive rivers and wetlands, helping to preserve the natural environment. In addition, 3M ACCR's low-sag properties assist in improving or maintaining clearances across pastures and grazing lands, as well as above distribution or telecommunication wires that may run on the same or under-built poles.

"3M ACCR is a dependable, cost-efficient problem-solver that already has helped nearly two dozen utilities on three continents avoid potentially expensive delays in completing

line upgrades,” says Tim Koenig, director of the 3M High Capacity Conductor Program. “We are very glad that this innovative solution is now available for RUS-financed projects.”

To receive the Technical Standard Committee “A” conditional acceptance, 3M demonstrated that 3M ACCR was developed and tested according to industry standards, passed all pertinent tests, is in commercial field use, and is manufactured in the United States or eligible countries. In addition, 3M had to show that the entire system required for use of the conductor, including accessories and installation procedures, is readily available and meets RUS requirements.

Under the authority of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Electric Programs of the Rural Utilities Service, which is part of the Department of Agriculture, makes direct loans and loan guarantees to electric utilities serving rural customers. These programs help finance electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, as well as demand-side management, energy conservation, and on- and off-grid renewable energy systems.

Through the Electric Programs, the RUS has helped approximately 700 electric system borrowers in 48 states and three territories.

3M ACCR’s strength and durability result from its core, composed of aluminum oxide (alumina) fibers embedded in high-purity aluminum, utilizing a highly specialized and patented process. The constituent materials can withstand high temperatures without appreciable loss in strength, even over long periods of time.

3M ACCR was developed with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy, which tested the conductor at its Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee, and with early contributions by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The ORNL tests demonstrated the conductor retains its integrity after exposure to temperatures even higher than the rated continuous operating temperature of 210 degrees Celsius and the emergency operating temperature of 240 degrees Celsius. It has the durability and

longevity of traditional steel core conductors, even when operated continuously at high temperatures.

Also, since 3M's ACCR is based on aluminum, it is not susceptible to environmental conditions such as moisture or UV exposure and it has the corrosion resistance typically associated with aluminum-based conductors.

3M holds 18 patents on its ACCR technology, which has been recognized by *R&D Magazine* with an R&D 100 Award as one of the most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace, and by the Minnesota High Tech Association with a Tekne Award for innovative development.

3M ACCR is offered by 3M's Electrical Markets Division (EMD), which designs, manufactures and markets products for electrical utilities, electrical construction and maintenance, and electrical/electronic device manufacturers. EMD has more than 60 years of experience serving utility customers with highly reliable products, including high-capacity transmission conductors; power cable splices and terminations; electrical wire connectors, terminals and tools; wire marking products; cable ties; electrical insulating tapes; electromagnetic shielding and absorbing materials; heat shrinkable tubing and molded shapes for electrical insulation; and cold shrink sealing and insulating tubes.

More information about the 3M high capacity conductor is available at www.3M.com/accr.

About 3M

A recognized leader in research and development, 3M produces thousands of innovative products for dozens of diverse markets. 3M's core strength is applying its more than 40 distinct technology platforms – often in combination – to a wide array of customer needs. With \$25 billion in sales, 3M employs 75,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 60 countries. For more information, visit www.3M.com.

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