



Contact: Joe Verkennes, Monroe County Community College, (734) 384-4207, or Scott Simons, DTE Energy, (313) 235-8808

September 28, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GROUND SCHEDULED TO BE BROKEN NOV. 15 ON
DETROIT EDISON SOLAR INSTALLATION AT MCCC**

*MCCC First Educational Institution to Participate in Solar Currents Program;
Installation to be Program's Largest on a College Campus*

MONROE, Mich. – Pending approval by the Monroe Charter Township Planning Commission, ground is scheduled to be broken November 15 on the construction of a Detroit Edison solar installation on the Main Campus of Monroe County Community College, Darrick Whitaker, principal engineer for major engineering projects at DTE Energy, announced last night at a regular meeting of MCCC's Board of Trustees.

In July, Detroit Edison – a subsidiary of DTE Energy – and MCCC announced the signing of a 20-year agreement that will provide the utility's customers with renewable energy generated from the sun.

The installation is part of Detroit Edison's pilot *SolarCurrents* program that calls for photovoltaic systems to be installed on customer property or rooftops over the next five years to generate 15 megawatts of electricity throughout Southeast Michigan.

(more)

MCCC is the first educational institution to participate in the program, and its installation will be Detroit Edison's largest *Solar Currents* installation on a college campus.

The 500-kilowatt, \$3 million photovoltaic system – which will be installed on the east side of campus – is expected to be operational in February, Whitaker said.

The utility plans to invest more than \$100 million in the *Solar Currents* program, which requires customers to participate for 20 years. The solar energy systems will be owned, installed, operated and maintained by the utility. In return, customers will get an annual payment or credit on their energy bill based on the system size, as well as a one-time, upfront construction payment to cover any inconvenience during installation.

Detroit Edison recently announced that it is building a 200-kilowatt, \$1 million solar installation on the roof of a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan parking structure in downtown Detroit. In addition, Ford Motor Company will host a 500-kilowatt solar-energy system.

The utility will complete a 60-watt solar installation next month on DTE Energy property in Scio Township that will replace a photovoltaic installation completed in 1996.

The *SolarCurrents* system at MCCC will also be used as a demonstration for alternative energy education and instruction at the college, providing an opportunity for students to observe a working photovoltaic system that will generate an equivalent amount of power that would be consumed by about 100 homes in a year.

The installation of the system builds on an already-established partnership between DTE and the college to increase the availability of renewable energy training opportunities in the region.

In May, the DTE Energy Foundation announced a \$45,000 grant and additional in-kind donation

(more)

of solar equipment to MCCC in support of curriculum development to establish an academic program that would encompass solar, wind, hybrid and hybrid/electric technologies.

The company, which is upgrading to new equipment for the *SolarCurrents* program, donated existing infrastructure that is still viable for instruction, including 26 working solar panels, various inverter controllers and disconnect switches, and racking and framing hardware.

Detroit Edison expects to invest nearly \$2 billion in the coming years to add more than 1,200 MW of renewable energy to meet the state's renewable energy goals. In addition to the solar installations, the company plans to acquire or build wind farms and other green energy facilities for half of that capacity, and contract with third party vendors for the rest.

About Detroit Edison

Detroit Edison is an investor-owned electric utility serving 2.1 million customers in Southeastern Michigan and a subsidiary of DTE Energy (NYSE:DTE), a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Information about DTE Energy is available at www.dteenergy.com.

About Monroe County Community College

Founded in 1964, Monroe County Community College is a public, two-year institution supported by tax monies from Monroe County, educational funds from the State of Michigan and student tuition. The college's mission is to provide a variety of higher educational opportunities to enrich the lives of the residents of Monroe County. The Main Campus is located on South Raisinville Road in central Monroe County with easy access to Toledo and Detroit. The Whitman Center is located in Temperance, near the Ohio-Michigan Border. Information about MCCC is available at www.monroeccc.edu.

###