



Media Contact:

Quiana Pinckney
Specialist, Public Relations & Community Affairs
Telephone: 770-852-9057
E-mail: quiana.pinckney@hdsupply.com

**HD SUPPLY UTILITIES SIGNS CONTRACT WITH
CENTERPOINT ENERGY ELECTRIC SUBSIDIARY FOR INTEGRATED SUPPLY**

ORLANDO, FLA. – August 27, 2009 – HD Supply Utilities, North America’s largest electric utilities distributor, today announced it signed a contract with CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC, the electric transmission and distribution subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas. As part of the contract, the two companies have integrated their supply chains, in an effort to improve inventory management and lower costs for CenterPoint Energy.

HD Supply Utilities owns, supplies and manages inventory for approximately 3,000 items used by CenterPoint Energy in the distribution of electric power within its 5,000-square-mile service territory in the Houston area. CenterPoint Energy has transferred its existing inventory to HD Supply Utilities, who established a team at the customer location for inventory management. Material handling and warehousing will continue to be managed by CenterPoint Energy. Additionally, the two companies integrated their systems, allowing for more accurate order entry, automated data flows and lower transactional costs.

“Through our integrated supply program, we plan to improve our supply chain strategies by leveraging sourcing, enhancing material requirements planning and eliminating duplicated processes, inventories and facilities,” stated David Hess, Manager, Purchasing and Logistics, CenterPoint Energy. “HD Supply Utilities’ innovative approach, and a high level of collaboration, should lead to new ways of better managing the supply chain. They will also be a key partner in our Emergency Operating Plan and power restoration support providing us with real-time access to their local, regional and national inventory and resources.”

“The cultural alignment and commitment of both companies to leverage each others’ strengths has resulted in the creation of an innovative solution to further optimize the supply chain for CenterPoint Energy,” added Tim Hein, Vice President Sales & Operations, HD Supply Utilities. “We are very excited about this integrated approach.”

About HD Supply Utilities

As North America’s largest electric utilities distributor, HD Supply Utilities (www.hdsupply.com/utilities) is a business of HD Supply (www.hdsupply.com), a leading wholesale distribution company, providing a broad range of products and services to professional customers in the infrastructure & energy, maintenance, repair & improvement and specialty construction markets. With a diverse portfolio of market-leading businesses, HD Supply is one of the largest diversified wholesale distributors in North America, with approximately 900 locations.

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