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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KCP&L Announces Plans to Develop a Multi-Purpose Operations Center**

*First stage of the development to include a consolidated service center and regional training facility*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. – (Aug. 13, 2008)** -- KCP&L, a subsidiary of Great Plains Energy (NYSE:GXP), today announced plans to build a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose operations center in south Kansas City at I-470 and Raytown Road. The first stage, of what will eventually be a complete operations support campus, will be a KCP&L service center and an electric crafts training facility that will double as the home of a Regional Training Center for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

“We are excited about our continuing partnership with Kansas City in the growth and economic development of our region,” said Michael Chesser, chief executive officer for KCP&L.

“Consolidating our service centers into one more efficient facility will streamline operations and help reduce operating costs for our customers.”

KCP&L’s proposed operations campus, which is expected to be completed over the next five years, will bring 300-500 jobs into south Kansas City and include the following facilities:

- A **service center** combining the company’s existing Blue Springs, Dodson and Lee’s Summit service centers into one facility. The new, consolidated service center will provide improved customer service, better response times and increased operational efficiencies resulting in customer savings.
- An **electrical crafts regional training center** developed in collaboration with the IBEW. One of only five regional training centers in the United States, the new facility will support recruiting and training for the electric utility trades and will include both classroom and hands-on outdoor instruction.

- An **expanded operations support campus**, including the future home of KCP&L's engineering group, a central machine shop and a customer contact center to serve all of KCP&L's expanded service territory.
- A **nature education and conference center** designed to be environmentally friendly and blend in to the natural setting of the surrounding woodland areas. Once completed, the conference center will be used for employee development and educational gatherings on sustainable energy technology.

"This is great news for Kansas City," announced Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser. "KCP&L is a great corporate citizen, and their plans for a new service center and regional training facility in the southern part of our city demonstrates their strong commitment to our area."

Jim Hunter, utility department director for the IBEW, added, "The Regional Training Center is an exciting announcement for the future of the utility industry. We applaud KCP&L for partnering with us to reduce training costs for utilities, create efficiencies and offer consistent training for the entire region."

The new multi-purpose operations center will be located on nearly 90 acres of heavily wooded land, dotted with streams and nature trails. The project will feature low-profile, LEED-certified buildings, employ advanced sustainable energy technology and will be arranged in a campus style environment.

"Our new south Kansas City campus will be designed to maximize the productivity and well-being of our employees and customers who visit the facility," said Chesser. "The architecture, design and layout of the campus will embrace its natural setting by creating sustainable buildings that use less energy, reduce waste and preserve the existing ecosystem."

Not only will the campus serve to support KCP&L utility operations, but the company intends to make the nature education center and conference facilities available for use by school children across its service territory in order to enhance their educational experience in the areas of nature observation, conservation and sustainability.

“Our concept for this facility is to create a true community resource,” Chesser added. “This will be a place where we actively research and refine sustainable business operations and where our customers and communities can congregate in collaboration with us to improve our region’s total living environment.”

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**About Great Plains Energy:**

Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., Great Plains Energy Incorporated (NYSE: GXP) is the holding company of Kansas City Power & Light Company and Aquila, Inc. (doing business as KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company), two of the leading regulated providers of electricity in the Midwest. Kansas City Power & Light and Aquila use KCP&L as a brand name. More information about the company is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.greatplainsenergy.com>.