



BUILDING CONFIDENCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gene Hill Construction — Building Green for family health

Sun Prairie, WI — TECO's Green Verified branch is pleased to announce that Gene Hill Construction of Marshfield has achieved Silver Certification status on a new home located within the Rolling Hills subdivision in Marshfield, Wisconsin through the National Association of Home Builders™ (NAHB) National Green Building Standard™. Many of the homes within Rolling Hills have green features that focus primarily on energy efficiency, but this home's certification proves environmental friendliness on a much bigger level. The Green Building Standard is the newest and most widely approved green building program applicable to residential home construction. Within it are six important green building categories. Every home certified must meet these minimum categories for success. Gene Hill Construction has voluntarily built to the Silver status minimum and is excited to be claiming the first NAHB Green home built in Central Wisconsin.

Important green categories that this Silver home met include:

- Resource Efficiency
- Water and Energy Efficiency
- High Indoor Air Quality

Jed Hannemann, (originally from Stratford, WI) Green Building Specialist with TECO and NAHB Approved Verifier, has been working with Jeff Hill, Owner of Gene Hill Construction, in Verifying this high profile residential home to the green Standard. This green certification may be new to the nation but Jeff Hill is no stranger to high-performance and environmentally friendly homes. Jeff Hill is an Energy Star™ qualified builder and has experience with building multiple homes with Energy Star™ Certification which tests for whole home tightness and energy efficiency. Mr. Hill takes pride on tailoring to the customer's need. "When Doctors David Kim and Kajal Sitwala brought up the idea of living in a green home, I didn't hesitate for one minute. In fact, I made special arrangements before the build started to attend green building classes all over the country and am now a Certified Green Professional. I understand what it means to truly build eco-friendly. The Rolling Hills Development (three miles north of Marshfield behind Belvedere Supper Club) is the perfect place to show the relationship between human development and the outdoors, this is an integral part of the green building process," explains Hill.

This ecological and health-friendly focused home started on paper with a goal to minimize the disturbance of the existing landscape. This is done by choosing an on-site building footprint with less developed slope disturbance, incorporating erosion controls, utilizing the south facing sun, and implementing a storm water management plan. High-performance comes with this home's Energy Star™ Certification package; building and testing for air tightness, and utilizing highly rated Energy Star lights, fixtures and appliances. The home will save on water costs incorporating low flow shower heads, faucets, and WaterSense™ rated toilets using only 1.28 gallons per flush. "Members of the Sitwala family have breathing sensitivities associated with dander and mold, so clean indoor air was a high priority," Hill states. Carbon monoxide alarms have been hard-wire installed near all bedrooms, the best air infiltration technology incorporated in the HVAC system and no volatile organic compound (VOC) containing paints have been used for covering walls within this house. Green building programs are scored using a point rated system. The highest number of points was achieved in the Indoor Air Quality category with 65 points needed to meet the Silver level, Hill achieved an incredible 144 points! These listed elements are only a small hand-full of the green features this whole house showcases. "It has been a fun and eye-opening building project."

Gene Hill Construction of Marshfield, Wisconsin, is a member of the Central Wisconsin Home Builders Association. Unique customer building requests are what Hill provides to the Marshfield community. He is proud to have taken over the tradition of fine homebuilding that his father, Gene, established over 30 years ago.

TECO is based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and in addition to Green Building Verification offers certification and testing for a variety of engineered wood products and eco-friendly focused auditing for manufactured home facilities. Founded in 1933, the company is recognized to certify products for use in the U.S., Canada, and Japan, and operates testing laboratories in Oregon and Louisiana.

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