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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Capitol Building Air-Conditioning Shut Down

OKLAHOMA CITY - Due to a broken water line servicing the State Capitol HVAC system, the Department of Central Services (DCS) has been forced to shut off air conditioning in the Capitol building. Contractors have been working to isolate the problem since 4:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon. The water line services the cooling tower, which is a major component of the Capitol air conditioning system.

The State Capitol air conditioning system works off water wells supplemented by the cooling tower. "It takes both the wells and the cooling tower to sufficiently cool the State Capitol," said John Richard, Director of the Department of Central Services. "We attempted to keep the system running but the water wells just don't have the capacity to cool the building alone."

Richard stated that computer server rooms in the building can be temporarily switched over to an alternate water system to ensure cool temperatures are sufficiently maintained.

"We have located a broken valve and anticipate its replacement to be complete at approximately 3:00 p.m. today," said Mike Enneking, DCS Director of the Office of Facilities Management. "We will test the system after repairs are complete and the water supply is restored," Enneking said. "If no additional problems arise, we anticipate Capitol temperatures will be back to normal by morning," he stated.

Richard first notified the Governor and Legislative leadership of the decision to shut down the air. Notice to remaining Capitol tenants followed. The decision for agencies located in the Capitol to remain open will be at each Director's discretion. "We will keep State Capitol tenants informed of the status of the repairs as soon as we receive updates," stated Richard.

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