



## NEWS RELEASE

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
West Central Region**

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**DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2009**

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**SUBJECT: Hutchinson Technology Inc. reaches for Green Tier status**

**EAU CLAIRE** – Hutchinson Technology Inc., which manufactures precision suspension assemblies for computer disk drives, has applied to the state Department of Natural Resources to be accepted into Wisconsin's Green Tier program. The DNR will accept public comment through Nov. 23.

Based in Hutchinson, Minnesota, the company's largest manufacturing facility is located in Eau Claire with approximately 1,500 employees. The Wisconsin plant specializes in volume production of high technology suspension assemblies that hold magnetic read-write heads at microscopic distances above hard drive disks.

Wisconsin's Green Tier program encourages a collaborative approach to environmental performance between the DNR and Wisconsin businesses. Green Tier organizations exceed regulatory compliance and voluntarily commit to superior environmental performance.

Hutchinson Technology Inc, or HTI, has formed teams of employees and suppliers to tackle energy use, waste reduction, recycling, and health and safety. Starting in 2007, the teams have so far identified 91 projects that have saved 7.6 million kWh of electricity and more than 383,000 therms of natural gas. To put that in perspective, each therm is the equivalent of burning 100 cubic feet of gas.

The "Re-Team," formed in 2008, achieved a 60% recycling rate of all solid waste in its first year, preventing the burial of 170 tons of cardboard, plastics and metals.

HTI has adopted an environmental management system, a key component of Green Tier, incorporating the principals of the International Organization for Standardization 14001.

Specific information on this application and on the Green Tier program can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/environmental/comment/index.htm>

Comments can be directed to Mark Harings at DNR, 1300 W. Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54702 or at [Mark.Harings@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Mark.Harings@Wisconsin.gov) or by calling 715-831-3263.