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## **Plymouth Public Safety Building expansion receives the Governor's MnGREAT Award**

Minneapolis, Minnesota — March 8, 2007 — BKV Group, a Minneapolis based architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, engineering, and construction administration firm is pleased to announce the Plymouth Public Safety Building expansion received the Governor's MnGREAT Award. The award was presented on February 28 at the MPCA's Air;Water;Waste Environmental conference.

The Governor's MnGREAT Award program recognizes environmental achievements and focuses on the prevention of waste and pollution, the reduction of waste at its source, conservation of energy and water, recycling, and composting. The Governor's MnGREAT Awards are sponsored by the state's Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT), which meets quarterly to share information and offer case studies on pollution prevention, waste reduction and resource conservation within state departments and agencies. IPPAT is coordinated by the Pollution Control Agency.

The Plymouth Public Safety building expansion was selected for benefits to the environment, including:

- Erosion control limits on site disturbance through phased building helped reduce impact of sedimentation on local waterways. In the long term, storm water management was integrated into the landscape design.
- A green roof with native plants and grasses was installed to reduce runoff.
- The sustainable building plan called for reuse of major portions of the existing building.
- Construction waste was reduced as much as possible through recycling and reusing materials. Plumbing materials, wire, concrete, steel and aluminum were all recycled, along with lighting fixtures, ballasts and fluorescent bulbs. Carpet tiles were selected to allow for worn or damaged carpet to be selectively replaced.
- Low VOC materials were selected wherever possible. Paints, carpet, composite wood and adhesives are some of the materials that were assessed for VOCs. Choices were also made that reduced the amount of formaldehyde-containing products.
- Large windows were installed in the new building area to provide daylight and reduce energy use for lighting. High performance glass was used for the windows to reflect heat into or out of the building as conditions change.
- Conditioned air in the new lobby and conference room will be blown in from grates near the floor. As the warm air rises, it carries dust and pollutants up and away from the part of the room occupied by people. Choosing to manage the air only where people use it saves the cost and energy of conditioning the air all the way up to the ceiling.
- A heat recovery system draws energy from the exhausted air and transfers it, as heat, to the incoming air. This reduces the load on the heating system, and, in turn, the energy use.
- Cooling units that use new, ozone-protecting refrigerants were selected, ahead of possible mandates for such system in the future.
- High efficiency lighting was incorporated throughout the new building.
- The program was reviewed under Xcel Energy's Energy Design Assistance Plan Review program. The review process benchmarks against Minnesota state code. Over a quarter of a million kilowatt hours are saved over code from the City's efforts in energy efficient design. That conserves energy equivalent unplugging about 25 homes.

Founded in 1978, BKV Group is an award winning 80+ person multi-disciplinary firm providing services for a wide range of market segments including Community Development, Corporate, Education, and Government. Recent projects include: Pacific Flats, Silver Lake Village Redevelopment, MoZaic Mixed-Use Development, Ramsey City Hall and Police Department, Pine County Government Center.

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