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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Duke Energy Completes Essential Equipment Replacement at Mecklenburg County Detention Center

(Charlotte, N.C.) – On Saturday, Oct. 19, Duke Energy successfully conducted a crucial project to replace essential gear switch equipment at the Mecklenburg County Detention Center – Central. The project, while necessary for maintaining infrastructure, resulted in temporary power outages affecting both the Detention Center and Arrest Processing (AP).

During the outage, both facilities experienced darkness for approximately 30 minutes. The AP unit's computers were temporarily down; however, the backup generator functioned as intended, enabling staff to maintain operations using logbooks. Duke Energy did not have Basement Control listed as essential, so while basic functions in AP continued, phone lines were out of service. This led to delays in processing releases as the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was also temporarily offline.

Despite the challenges, all operations are now back online at both facilities. No health or custody issues arose during the outage. The detention center's staff closely monitored residents' wellbeing, and no one was affected throughout the incident.

Sheriff Garry McFadden says like any other complex maintenance project, setbacks are inevitable, but throughout the process, MCSO staff remained vigilant and committed to the care and custody of residents.

"We are dedicated to resolving any remaining issues swiftly and ensuring the continued safety and security of our facilities," said Sheriff McFadden. "We were prepared for this maintenance and managed to reduce the anticipated downtime from 10 hours to just seven hours, ensuring minimal disruption."

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