



NEWS RELEASE

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NEEP Ends Service Administering Regional BOC Program

The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc. (NEEP) announced a recent decision to end its service administering the Building Operator Certification (BOC) program in the Northeast region. This decision follows a successful five year history administering the program in partnership with utility and state partners in New England and New Jersey. NEEP administers the program under a license agreement with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC), the national administrator of BOC. NEEP is working with NEEC to implement a transition plan in 2007 that assures program continuity for customers and sponsors in the Northeast.

NEEP has administered the BOC program since 2000, generating a solid customer base of 1,700 owners and operators of commercial and institutional facilities throughout the Northeast. BOC provides competency-based training and certification in energy efficient operational practices for building operators. Under NEEP's administration, the program was subject to two formal, independent third-party evaluations which showed that graduates of BOC training achieved utility bill savings of \$20,000 in the first year and were able to document a decrease in the number of tenant complaints. In 2002, NEEP received the ACEEE's "exemplary program" award for its achievements in BOC.

Susan Coakley, NEEP Executive Director, stated that "The BOC course is a tremendous resource for an under-served audience – building operators – providing valuable hands-on information to improve building energy performance through best practices in building operation and maintenance."

NEEP will complete its existing obligations for BOC courses currently in progress and those it has committed to under formal agreement with the State of Connecticut and three community colleges. NEEP is working with NEEC to refer all other requests for BOC to NEEC staff for follow up. In the coming weeks, NEEC will work in partnership with BOC sponsors in the Northeast to develop a 2007 program plan to ensure a successful transition that effectively serves market demand.

"Much of the success of the BOC concept is due to the efforts and diligence of NEEP staff," said Stan Price, Executive Director of NEEC. "We have enjoyed our partnership with NEEP on the BOC program and have great respect for the outstanding work that Sue Coakley and team have done with BOC in the Northeast."