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**For Immediate Release
 October 12, 2010**

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Columbus Day Signals Beginning of Heating Season in Maine

Augusta--- The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its weekly oil survey and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.73 per gallon**, up seven cents from last week.

“Despite recent job loss reports that typically correspond with slow economic growth and weak demand for petroleum products, crude and oil prices have shifted upward,” said OEIS Director John Kerry. “In the meantime, a weaker dollar is contributing to more expensive oil. As the heating season begins and Maine energy auditors and contractors kick into high gear to evaluate and improve homes and businesses, we hope to see the attention to energy efficiency and conservation enhancements continue to grow among Maine citizens.”

As of October 12, 2010

Heating Oil	Statewide	Southwest	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern
Average	2.73	2.65	2.75	2.80	2.63	2.91
High	2.96	2.80	2.90	2.86	2.80	2.96
Low	2.50	2.55	2.65	2.71	2.50	2.90
Kerosene	3.07	2.94	3.12	3.14	2.95	3.31
Propane	2.74					

It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.50 per gallon was found in the Western region. The highest price of \$2.96 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.07 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 600 gallons a year is \$2.74 per gallon. The table above provides current Maine cash prices in dollars rounded to the nearest penny. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$82.21.

For assistance please contact Efficiency Maine and ask about their Home Energy Savings Program. It links Maine homeowners with qualified, certified contractors who provide one-stop-shop access to a whole-house approach to home improvements. The first **pre-approved** homes in the program will receive up to \$3,000 each in incentives for approved energy-efficiency projects that meet minimum heating and hot water energy savings requirements. For program details call 866-376-2463 or visit www.energymaine.com. Businesses should take advantage of Efficiency Maine’s small business loan program to make energy upgrades: http://www.energymaine.com/business_programs.htm.