

Maine Public Utilities Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Maine Public Utilities Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maine PUC To Review Efficiency Maine Programs

AUGUSTA, MAINE – On Wednesday, August 17, 2005, the Maine Public Utilities Commission issued a Notice of Proceeding designed to evaluate the energy conservation programs it operates under Maine law. The notice seeks input from the public on the Commission’s efforts in this area.

Three years ago, the Maine Legislature directed the PUC to operate programs that would increase the energy efficiency of Maine homes and businesses, promote sustainable economic development, and provide environmental benefits. By its own rules, the Commission must review the programs it offers every three years.

“Using energy more efficiently is extremely important in periods of rapidly rising prices,” said Commission Chairman Kurt Adams. “Toward that end, the PUC has endeavored to run high quality, cost effective electricity conservation programs that provide benefits to a wide variety of Maine consumers. This proceeding will allow us to review what we are doing and compare it to similar programs around the country. The information we gather should help us to make an already good program better.”

“With rising fossil fuel prices driving up electricity costs and putting a squeeze on Maine businesses and families, we need every tool available to ease the burden,” said Adams. “We need to be sure that we are getting the most out of energy efficiency investments.”

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine’s environment. Over 39,000 homeowners and 441 Maine businesses have participated since the start of the program in

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2002. Together, these homes and businesses are saving an estimated 41 million kilowatt hours each year – enough to power 6,500 homes and avoid the emission of 29,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Through this proceeding, the Commission will seek input from the public, industry, and experts on effective means of using energy more efficiently. The Commission expects to conclude the review in the late fall.

As part of the process, the Commission will conduct a public hearing on September 14, 2005 (at 1:30pm in Augusta) and host a conference during October featuring the country's top experts on conserving electricity. Members of the public interested in learning more about this investigation or offering comments to the Commission may view the notice on the Commission's website under Docket No. 2005446 (<http://mpuc.informe.org/easyfile/>).

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Efficiency Maine, <http://www.energymaine.com/>

All PUC News Releases may be found on our website at:

http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/staying_informed/news/press_release.shtml

To arrange an interview with Chairman Adams or Commissioners Diamond or Reishus, please contact Phillip Lindley at 207.287.1598 or by e-mail at phil.lindley@maine.gov. The Commission's website may be accessed through the Maine School and Library Network at all public libraries in Maine.