



A Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Press Release

Efficiency Maine and Maine Air National Guard Team Up to Save Money and Electricity

April 23, 2009

Bangor, Maine – Efficiency Maine and the Maine Air National Guard today announced the successful completion of a lighting retrofit project at its main hangar – the first in a series of projects which should ultimately save some \$80,000 a year in avoided electricity costs.

Maine Public Utilities Commission member Jack Cashman noted that the bulk of Maine's electricity supply is generated using fossil fuels.

"The more we can do to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels from overseas, the better for our economy, our environment and our national security," Commissioner Cashman said. "The Air National Guard has been a great partner in this effort and we thank them for helping to lead the way to a brighter energy future for Maine and the nation."

In a ceremony at the Air Guard's headquarters in Bangor, Commissioner Cashman presented a certificate of appreciation to the Guard, accepted by Chief Master Sgt. James Winchenbach (WINCH-en-batch), who is overseeing the Guard's retrofit projects. Chief Winchenbach conducted a tour of the facilities, including the well-lit aircraft hangar, which are benefiting from retrofits with high-efficiency lamps and other state-of-the-art efficiency equipment.

"With the Efficiency Maine incentives we expect these projects will pay for themselves in two years or less," Chief Winchenbach said. "The new systems are already lighting up corners of the facility that were hard to see before – and the crews tell me they really appreciate how quiet the hangar is now, because the old lights filled it with a constant hum."

Since it was established in 2002, Efficiency Maine's incentives and programs have assisted projects which will save more than \$310 million for the Maine economy, while averting the emissions of more than 1.6 million tons of Carbon

Dioxide. That's equivalent to taking more than 39,000 cars off the road for a decade.

Commissioner Cashman noted that Efficiency Maine, which provides technical and financial assistance for efficiency efforts to businesses and organizations throughout Maine, would provide up to \$70,000 in cash incentives once the projects are completed. The Guard is expected to spend roughly \$230,000 on the projects.

The Maine Public Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that consumers have access to safe and reliable service for public utilities and that the rates for these utilities are just and reasonable. MPUC programs include Maine Enhanced 911 Service, Dig Safe, and Efficiency Maine.

To arrange an interview with Chairman Reishus, Commissioner Vendean Vafiades or Commissioner Jack Cashman, please contact Fred Bever at 207.287.6141 or by e-mail at fred.bever@maine.gov. The Commission's website, www.maine.gov/mpuc may be accessed through the Maine School and Library Network at all public libraries in Maine.