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STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
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July 25, 2007


Jaclyn A. Brillling
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Department of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

RE: Case 07-M-0548—Proceeding on Motion of the Commission Regarding an Energy
Efficiency Portfolio Standard

Dear Secretary Brillling:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced proceeding, please find an original and five (5) copies of the Department of Public Service Staff's response to Hon. Eleanor Stein's questions posed in her June 22, 2007 letter to the parties. This response has also been served electronically via the listserve established in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,


John C. Graham
Assistant Counsel

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Proceeding on Motion of the
Commission Regarding an Energy
Efficiency Portfolio Standard

Case 07-M-0548

New York State Department of Public Service
Staff Response to ALJ's Questions

The Department of Public Service hereby responds to Question Number 1, directed to all parties, posed in Hon. Eleanor Stein's June 22, 2007 letter to the parties in the above-referenced proceeding.

Question 1:

Can you please identify any inventories in New York State of existing building stock, appliances and fixtures that might be used to identify and target efficiency opportunities?

Response:

The United States Census Bureau maintains information on existing building stock. The Census Bureau takes a census every 10 years, and the most recent census was done in 2000. Census information is captured in Census Tracts¹ and Block Groups². The Department's Geographic Information Services (GIS) Office is able to aggregate census information by utility service territory areas or by other areas as needed. The census data provides a wealth of information about housing units such as: number of rural versus urban units, occupied versus non occupied,

¹ Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or statistically equivalent entity delineated by local participants as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program. The U.S. Census Bureau delineated census tracts where no local participant existed or where a local or tribal government declined to participate. The primary purpose of census tracts is to provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of decennial census data.

Census tracts in the United States generally have between 1,500 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people. Counties and statistically equivalent entities with fewer than 1,500 people have a single census tract. Census tracts on American Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and special places must contain a minimum of 1,000 people. (Special places include correctional institutions, military installations, college campuses, workers' dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes, and group homes.)

² A block group (BG) is a cluster of census blocks having the same first digit of their four-digit identifying numbers within a census tract. BGs generally contain between 600 and 3,000 people, with an optimum size of 1,500 people. BGs on American Indian reservations, off reservation trust lands, and special places must contain a minimum of 300 people. (Special places include correctional institutions, military installations, college campuses, worker's dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes, and group homes.)

Most BGs were delineated by local participants as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program. The U.S. Census Bureau delineated BGs only where a local, state, or tribal government declined to participate or where the U.S. Census Bureau could not identify a potential local or tribal participant.

owned versus rented, number of people occupying a housing unit, year structure was built, household heating fuel used, number of bedrooms in a household, number of rental units that include utilities in rent, and value of owner-occupied home.

In addition, the New York State Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) maintains a database of real property located within the State of New York. Property is grouped into the following classes:

- 100 - Agricultural - Property used for the production of crops or livestock.
- 200 - Residential - Property used for human habitation. Living accommodations such as hotels, motels, and apartments are in the Commercial category - 400.
- 300 - Vacant Land - Property that is not in use, is in temporary use, or lacks permanent improvement.
- 400 - Commercial - Property used for the sale of goods and/or services.
- 500 - Recreation & Entertainment - Property used by groups for recreation, amusement, or entertainment.
- 600 - Community Services - Property used for the well being of the community.
- 700 - Industrial - Property used for the production and fabrication of durable and nondurable man-made goods.
- 800 - Public Services - Property used to provide services to the general public.
- 900 - Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks - Reforested lands, preserves, and private hunting and fishing clubs

These classes of property are further broken down into subcategories. For instance, the residential class contains the following subcategories: one-family year-round residence, two-family year-round residence, three-family year-round residence, rural residence with acreage, estate, seasonal residence, mobile home, and residential multipurpose structure. The ORPS' "Assessors Manual – Property Type Classification and Ownership Codes" lists and explains the subcategories of property classes. The ORPS database also contains existing building information, including lot size, square feet of living space, year built, and building style.

The ORPS data is organized by county for each parcel in the county. The Department's GIS Office can aggregate this data to the utility territory areas or other areas as required. The ORPS data is collected annually, and 2006 data is the most recent that is currently available. The 2006 data, however, is incomplete for the counties of Broome, Oneida, Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester.

Regarding information on appliances and fixtures that might be used to identify and target efficiency opportunities, the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects information that may be useful. The EIA conducts surveys of households, commercial buildings, and manufacturing. The household survey is done every four years. The 2001 results for New York are available at: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/rebs/enduse/er01_ny_tab1.html. The 2005 survey results will likely be released at the end of this summer. This data is available only on a state-by-state basis than for the entire state. Results are also available for the Mid-Atlantic Region (see 2001 Mid-Atlantic Appliance Report at http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/rebs/appli/mid_atl.html).

The EIA conducts a Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) every four years. The most recent survey was done in 2003 and there is currently a survey underway in New York. The most granular level of geographic detail available is the Census division, of which there are nine in the U.S. No state-level data are available. The data available can be found at:

http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cbecs/cbecs2003/detailed_tables_2003/detailed_tables_2003.html#consumexpen03.

The EIA conducts a Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS) every four years. The latest survey for which results are available is the 2002 survey. This data is only reported at the regional level. It can be found at:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mecs/mecs2002/data02/shelltables.html>.