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BAY STATE GAS COMPANY JOINS COALITION FOR ENERGY STAR® WATER HEATERS

Local Energy Utility Joins Others to Encourage the Purchase of ENERGY STAR Rated Water Heaters to the Public

WESTBOROUGH, MA. (May 6, 2009) – Bay State Gas Company has joined forces with other utility companies from across the nation, four leading water heater manufacturers, and the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) to become part of the Coalition for ENERGY STAR® Water Heaters.

With the launch of ENERGY STAR® qualified water heaters in 2009, CEE determined a need for a coalition of industry leaders to increase awareness of high efficiency water heaters among the general public and other targeted audiences. CEE sought out companies and organizations with a like interest and approached them about a partnership. Bay State Gas Company was selected because of its dedication to wellness in its staff, community, and the world as a whole, as visible in its environmental, health and safety program.

“Bay State Gas Company has made it a priority to educate its workforce and its customers about the importance of protecting the environment,” said Kara Rodgers, CEE senior program manager. “The dedication from Bay State Gas is admirable, and we are honored that they are willing to devote time and resources to making a difference in long-term energy consumption in the U.S.”

Bay State Gas Company is one of 12 utility companies nationwide that serve on the Coalition for ENERGY STAR Water Heaters. Bay State Gas Company is one of the largest natural gas utilities in New England, serving nearly 300,000 customers in Massachusetts.

“Bay State Gas is passionate about the effects energy consumption has on our environment, and we wanted to take part in encouraging consumers to make wise decisions in this area,” said Derek Buchler, manager of demand side management for Bay State Gas Company. “ENERGY STAR water heaters are an ideal way to combat the high energy usage of water heaters, and we are excited to work with the Coalition for ENERGY STAR Water Heaters to help make a difference.”

The Coalition for ENERGY STAR Water Heaters has also partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada to promote consumer adoption of energy-efficient water heaters.

About Bay State Gas Company:

Bay State Gas Company is an energy services company serving nearly 300,000 natural gas customers in Massachusetts. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NiSource Inc., based in Merrillville, Ind. NiSource Inc. is a Fortune 500 holding company with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., whose core operating companies engage in natural gas transmission, storage and distribution, as well as electric generation, transmission and distribution. NiSource operating companies deliver energy to 3.7 million customers located within the high-demand energy corridor stretching from the Gulf Coast through the Midwest to New England.

About CEE:

CEE is a consortium of efficiency program administrators from across the U.S. and Canada who work together on common approaches to advancing efficiency. Through joining forces, the individual efficiency programs of CEE are able to partner not only with each other, but also with other industries, trade associations, and government agencies. By working together at CEE, administrators leverage the effect of their funding dollars, exchange information on effective practices and, by doing so, achieve greater energy efficiency for the public good.

About ENERGY STAR:

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy

efficient products and practices. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products, new homes, and commercial and industrial buildings. Products and buildings that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency specifications set by the government. In 2007 alone, Americans, with the help of the ENERGY STAR program, saved about \$16 billion on their energy bills while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 27 million vehicles.

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