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\$1.5 MILLION AWARDED FOR THE VT SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

Montpelier, VT – Commissioner David O'Brien announced today that the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) has awarded the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) a two-year contract to administer the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Program following a competitive bidding process. Nearly **\$1.5 million** will be available to Vermonters to support photovoltaic, solar hot water, and small-scale wind installations.

The Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Program was signed into law by Governor Douglas in June 2003. The Program provides incentives to individuals, businesses, farms, schools, and municipalities for a portion of the cost of installing small-scale solar and wind systems. There are special incentives available for farms, schools, local/state governments, and low-income multi-family housing buildings. One important change being made to the program is that it will now support micro-hydropower systems. Since its inception, the program has provided \$2,259,847 in incentives to support the installation of 583 renewable energy systems.

The new incentive funding is expected to support the installation of approximately 250 new renewable energy systems throughout the state, which could generate an estimated 540 MWh of electricity annually

The \$1.5 million funding for the Program comes from the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF), which was established in 2005 through ACT 74 and is funded through proceeds due to the state under the terms of two memoranda of understanding between the DPS and Entergy. The purpose of the CEDF is to promote the development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electric power resources for the long-term benefit of Vermont electric customers. In addition to the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Program, the CEDF awards grants and loans for renewable energy and combined heat and power projects.

More information is available on the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Program at: www.erc-vt.org/incentives or by calling the toll-free hotline at: 1-877-888-7372.

Additional information on the CEDF, including the grant and loan programs, is available on the DPS website at:

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html .

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