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Columbia University Joins Energy-Reduction Incentive Program *Academic facilities will receive funding for reducing energy use during shortages*

New York, Feb. 5 — Columbia University has enrolled in the award-winning, electric demand response program, Operation Save New York, the largest in the United States, administered by Energy Curtailment Specialists, Inc. (ECS). Columbia joins thousands of New York facilities in receiving payments for their agreement to conserve electricity in certain areas of their operations when there is an electric shortage in New York State. Other notable, participating academic facilities include Pratt Institute, Polytechnic University, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Suffolk Community College and the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

“We are honored to welcome Columbia University into the Operation Save New York program and look forward to their participation,” said Glen Smith, president and CEO of ECS.

The idea behind demand response programs is to have consumers reduce electric use when demand for electric is forecasted to reach or exceed available supply. Without these programs, the typical method for dealing with imbalances on the grid is to enact rolling brownouts, which leave communities in the dark without warning. Demand response programs allow facilities to choose to participate in electric conservation, with advance notice, and receive monetary compensation in return.

With electric supply remaining stagnant while demand increases every year, demand response programs are very necessary. On Aug. 2, 2006, New York State set a new record peak electric demand of 33,939 megawatts, breaking the prior year’s record by 1,864 megawatts. Demand response programs currently have the ability to lower total demand by over 3 percent in New York State.

“Columbia’s students, faculty and staff have a long-standing commitment to responsible environmental stewardship,” said Matthew Early, associate vice president of operations at Columbia University Facilities. “We are looking forward to making a positive impact on our community by joining Operation Save New York.”

Columbia will receive day-ahead notice of periods when the electric grid is forecasted to be unstable and they will respond by reducing chiller set points, running the HVAC system at a lower setting, and turning off lighting, elevators and noncritical equipment. ECS will also install metering in academic buildings at the university’s main Morningside Heights campus, Baker Field Athletic Complex, Nevis Laboratories and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

“Metering will improve our ability to collect data,” said Nilda Mesa, Columbia’s director of environmental stewardship. “With the data, we can begin to measure our energy usage and carbon footprint, and then develop strategies for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. With the knowledge we will gain, we will also be able to develop incentive programs to manage our energy usage effectively.”

“Columbia’s enrollment in the program demonstrates their goodwill and commitment to being a leader in their community,” said Stephen Lynch, a principal of ECS.

ECS is in the process of completing a detailed energy audit to discover ways to make Columbia’s facilities more energy efficient on a day-to-day basis and provide them with enabling technology for responding to electric shortage emergency events.

Energy Curtailment Specialists, Inc. is the largest full service demand response company in the United States, with a current focus in New York, California and New England. ECS recently launched Cut Back California, a demand response program exclusive to California businesses. ECS has an aggregate curtailment pool of 500 megawatts, more than enough electricity to power all the homes in Nassau County or San Francisco, and a total peak load of 1,900 megawatts. For more information, visit www.ecsny.com or www.ecscal.com or call 877-711-5453.

Columbia University is one of the top academic and research institutions in the world, conducting path-breaking research in medicine, science, the arts, and the humanities. It includes three undergraduate schools, thirteen graduate and professional schools, and a school of continuing education. For more information, visit www.columbia.edu or call 212-854-1754.

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