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Historic Battleship USS New Jersey Undergoes 21st Century High Energy Efficient Technology Upgrades

-Modernizations to significantly reduce annual energy bills for America's most decorated battleship

TRENTON, NJ – Today, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board), the Home Port Alliance for the USS New Jersey, Inc., and the Camden County Improvement Authority announced the on-going installation of 21st Century high energy efficient technologies aboard the historic Battleship USS New Jersey are expected to reduce the ship's total energy related costs by about \$200,000 annually. The three energy efficiency projects' total cost is approximately \$1.4 million and is being offset by Board approved *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (CEP)* incentives totaling about \$511,000.

Funding provided by the Camden County Improvement Authority and the Board are making energy efficiency improvements that include upgrading about 2,500 historic interior light fixtures containing antiquated fluorescent tube bulbs with 5,000 new high energy efficient solid state LED tube bulbs, and the conversion of the ship's very inefficient electric heating system to two natural gas fueled RBI Futera Condensing Boilers. A third project to replace exterior lighting with LED upgrades will begin after the current two projects have been completed.

“America's largest and most decorated Battleship is the pride of New Jersey, for whom she is named,” said Richard S. Mroz, President, N.J. Board of Public Utilities. “My fellow Board commissioners and I are honored that we are able to contribute to the preservation of this symbol of American freedom. For nearly five decades she and those who served aboard her protected our country and freedom; now, by using 21st Century high energy efficient technology we can help protect and better preserve her for generations to come.”

The project is the latest example of the Christie Administration's commitment to make New Jersey a more energy efficient state. In the past 15 years, New Jersey has invested more than \$2.6 billion in about 1.5 million energy efficiency projects across the state; reducing electricity usage by approximately 7 percent. The cumulative energy savings over the lifetime of those projects is enough energy to power about 3.1 million homes for a year.

The State's energy efficiency efforts benefit all ratepayers as reduced electricity consumption and demands upon the electric grid result in lower energy prices for residents and businesses. Since the adoption of the Christie Administration's 2011 State Energy Master Plan (EMP), the average retail prices of electricity are down by 7.6 percent (U.S. Energy Information Administration year-end 2015).

The mission of the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial is to restore, preserve, exhibit and interpret the history of the USS New Jersey and her veterans. The Home Port Alliance for the USS New Jersey, Inc. is the private, 501(c) (3) non-profit, responsible for the restoration and management of the vessel. The Battleship provides a unique blend of history, education, tourism and hospitality.

"Now students and visitors who come aboard the USS New Jersey will, in addition to learning about the Battleship New Jersey's prestigious history and the those who served aboard her, also gain an appreciation for the importance of energy conservation and how new technologies can help in preserving our nation's most sacred memorials," said Captain Walter Urban, USN (Ret.), Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Home Port Alliance for the USS New Jersey, Inc.

Currently, the annual electric utility service to light and heat the Battleship costs more than \$640,000. Once the interior and exterior LED lighting upgrades and the conversion to natural gas heating have been completed, the Battleship's annual utility expenses are expected to drop by about \$200,000, or about 32 percent.

The interior solid state LED retrofit lighting upgrades includes the replacement of 5,000 T-12 fluorescent light bulbs with efficient LED light tubes in about 2,500 historic fixtures located throughout the ship's interior. The associated savings total approximately \$57,000 annually.

The heat conversion to natural gas fueled boilers is expected to save approximately \$120,000 in energy costs to heat the battleship. During cold winter months, the Battleship New Jersey's metal hull is floating in frigid water. While her hull and interior spaces must be heated, for safety reasons open flames are not permitted aboard the ship. To assist in addressing the high cost of heating the ship and to conserve demands upon the distribution grid, PSE&G contributed to the energy efficiency efforts by installing a natural gas supply line to an area near the ship's dock. With Board approved CEP incentives and funding provided by the Camden County Improvement Authority, the Home Port Alliance is installing two RBI Futera Condensing Boilers, with a 95 percent efficiency rating. These new units are expected to provide energy

savings of over \$120,000 annually. The estimated \$128,000 CEP P4P incentive helped to offset the total project investment of approximately \$1,038,000.

“The light of the battleship reflecting off the Delaware River each night is truly an iconic symbol of the revitalized Camden waterfront, acting as a beacon for all of the new development that will soon join it on our shore,” said Camden County Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez.

Once the two current upgrade projects have concluded, a Request for Proposal (RFP) to address the ship’s exterior lighting will be issued. Exterior lighting costs currently exceed \$36,000 annually and do not adequately highlight the majesty of the ship. Once completed, external lighting upgrades are expected to produce significant energy cost savings while greatly improving the ship’s appearance.

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