

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarification Statement on *ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes Grant Program*

Montréal, May 30, 2007 – The Canadian GeoExchange Coalition wishes to inform geoexchange industry stakeholders of important guidelines recently announced regarding admissibility to the *ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes* grant program.

In order to qualify under the *ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes* program, earth energy systems (i.e., GeoExchange™, geothermal, ground or water source heat pumps) must meet the following standards:

- CAN/CSA-C448 Design and Installation of Earth Energy Systems; and
- CAN/CSA-C13256-1-01 Water-Source Heat Pumps – Testing and Rating for Performance - Part 1: Water-to-Air and Brine-to-Air Heat Pumps; or
- CAN/CSA-C13256-2-01 Water-Source Heat Pumps – Testing and Rating for Performance - Part 2: Water-to-Water and Brine-to-Water Heat Pumps

Industry stakeholders should note that as of January 1, 2008, all eligible systems must be certified by the Canadian GeoExchange Coalition. In the meantime, it is strongly recommended that design and installation be performed by a professional accredited by the Canadian GeoExchange Coalition. CGC has already received a number of accreditation applications and will be processing them as soon as possible.

In the interim until January 1 2008, in order to qualify for the *ecoEnergy* retrofit grant, system installers must complete a "**CSA 448 Design and Installation Compliance & Commissioning Report**" (available on CGC website at www.geo-exchange.ca), forward it to the Canadian GeoExchange Coalition and provide a copy to the homeowner. The homeowner must then show this copy to the energy advisor at the time of the post-retrofit evaluation.

CGC staff have recently been informed of a number of cases where the customers have been misled about their eligibility for the grant program. The CGC wishes to remind industry stakeholders that they are fully responsible, both morally and legally, to accurately understand and accurately inform their customers about those guidelines. To participate in CGC Global Quality GeoExchange™ Program®, CGC also wishes to remind stakeholders they must fully comply with CGC Code of Conduct.

Finally, CGC staff have also been informed that some industry stakeholders have been using their CGC Training Certificate in an inappropriate manner. The CGC training certificate itself is not an accreditation. Making customers believe so, or failing to correct their misimpressions, violates many articles of CGC Code of Conduct and may result in an eventual denial of CGC accreditation for those individuals.

The Canadian GeoExchange™ Coalition acts as the industry catalyst to unite private and public sector stakeholders, and to expand the market for ground source heat pumps and geoexchange™ technology in Canada. As the nexus of information, training, certification, standards and public awareness, our mandate is to work with stakeholders to build the necessary infrastructure to foster the growth of the Canadian geoexchange™ industry. For more information, visit www.geo-exchange.ca

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