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**Mississippi's State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program Launches April 22; Nearly 7,500 Appliance Rebates Reserved to Date!**

On Thursday, April 22, 2010, the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP) launched in Mississippi. Created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the SEEARP is a first-come, first-served rebate program designed to encourage Mississippians to replace energy inefficient appliances with new ENERGY STAR®-qualified appliances. Since the program's launch, rebates have been reserved for nearly 7,500 appliances. To date, 32 percent of the program's available funds has been reserved.

Mississippi residents interested in participating in the SEEARP, which offers rebates ranging from \$50 to \$750 depending on the appliance purchased, must act quickly, as the program ends once funds have been depleted. To receive a rebate, residents must purchase ENERGY STAR®-qualified appliances in person on or after the program launch date of April 22; appliances purchased prior to this date or online are not be eligible for a rebate. Eligible appliances include freezers, room air conditioners, refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, central air conditioners, water heaters, gas furnaces, air source heat pumps and geothermal heat pumps.

The SEEARP is being administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), which is partnering with many of the state's utility

companies and over 250 retailers statewide to encourage participation.

Available rebate funds are updated automatically on the program website as applications are processed. To view the amount of program funds remaining and a list of eligible appliances, visit [www.MississippiRebate.com](http://www.MississippiRebate.com) or call (877) 304-4451.

### **Free Procurement Development Workshop Offered May 4 in Prentiss Helps Small Businesses Secure Government Contracts, Access Programs**

The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA's) Minority and Small Business Development Division, the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP) and the Jefferson Davis County Community Development Association will sponsor a Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop in Prentiss on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. The workshop will be held at Jefferson Davis Community Hospital's Arrington Fitness and Rehab Center, located on Berry Street, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The workshop will provide representatives from small businesses with information on how to secure government contracts, take advantage of Mississippi Planning and Development District Finance Programs and Small Business Administration (SBA) 8a Programs, benefit from Jones County Junior College's (JCJC's) Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and do business with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Presentations will be given by Jonithan Hatcher from MPTAP, Alice Doss from SBA, Crystal Nail from JCJC's SBDC and Shirley Reed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop is free-of-charge, and interested persons can register before or at the event. Details are available online at [www.msccpc.com](http://www.msccpc.com) ; select the "Events" link from the left menu, then select "Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop" from the May 4 box. A registration link is available at the bottom of the information page. For more information, contact Joycie Lenoir with MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-3448 or [jlenoir@mississippi.org](mailto:jlenoir@mississippi.org).

### **Mississippi Hosts Over 400 Attendees, Over 320 Business-to-Business Meetings During 2010 SEUS-CP Alliance Conference**

Hundreds of public and private sector leaders were welcomed to Mississippi recently for the 2010 Southeastern United States - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance Conference, held April 11-13 in Biloxi. Over 400 attendees, including governors, premiers, economic development professionals, public officials and business leaders, participated in the event, where over 320 business-to-business meetings took place between businesses from the southeastern U.S. and Canada.

The SEUS-CP Alliance, a strategic partnership between states in the southeastern U.S. and provinces from Canada, promotes trade and investment opportunities between and among its member states and provinces, and delegations from each member state and province in the Alliance convene annually for a business-to-business conference. According to Mississippi Development Authority Executive Director Gray Swoope, hosting this event gave Mississippi an opportunity to showcase the southeastern U.S. and our state in particular to an international audience. Since the current administration took office in 2004, the state has focused on strengthening and building strategic international relationships, and Mississippi's hosting of events such as the SEUS-CP Conference is an important part of those efforts.

The 2011 SEUS-CP Alliance Conference will be hosted by the province of New Brunswick. For more information about the SEUS-CP Alliance, visit the organization's website at [www.seuscp.org](http://www.seuscp.org).

### **MDOT and MDA Partner to Celebrate National Work Zone Awareness Week and Go Orange Campaign April 19-23**

Last week, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) partnered to recognize **National Work Zone Awareness Week and the Go Orange campaign**, held April 19-23.

The week-long celebration kicked off with a press conference at the MDOT Administration Building in Jackson and featured speakers Melinda McGrath, Willie Huff, Ken Wallace and Brian Ratliff, all of MDOT, and Mary Beth Wilkerson of MDA's Tourism Division. Throughout the week, MDOT and MDA employees were on site at several Welcome Centers in the state to display and provide information about work zone safety.

**National Work Zone Awareness Week** is held each year to raise awareness of the dangers construction workers face every day in roadway work zones and to remind drivers to obey the speed limit and slow down in work zones to protect the lives of men and women who work to provide a safe transportation network. The **Go Orange campaign**, formerly known as Operation Orange, was launched in 2007 in conjunction with National Work Zone Awareness Week to draw attention to the need for work zone safety. Each year, agencies and organizations across the U.S. illuminate landmarks and buildings in orange to show solidarity for National Work Zone Awareness Week.

For more information about National Work Zone Awareness Week and the Go Orange campaign, visit [www.workzonesafety.org](http://www.workzonesafety.org).

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