

# 15<sup>TH</sup> National Conference on Building Commissioning

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Building Commissioning –May 2-4, 2007, Chicago, IL**

***Where commercial building and energy industry leaders meet.***

Portland, OR- Building green has become the answer for many in the commercial building industry as a means to improve the quality, performance and energy efficiency of their buildings – as well as their bottom line. A key component to all green commercial building practices is building commissioning, a process for ensuring that a building – new or existing – is operating at its optimal performance. On May 2nd, industry leaders will again convene in Chicago for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Building Commissioning (NCBC). This is the second time in five years that the National Conference on Building Commissioning has been hosted by ComEd and the City of Chicago. With the help of Mayor Daly's push for sustainable buildings, the conference is geared up to spend another four days in one of the most hospitable and green cities in the country.

Since 1993, the NCBC has been the premier venue for building owners and operators, engineers, designers, commissioning service providers, and utility and government representatives. The conference is unique in bringing together such a diverse group of building and energy professionals, and presenting the latest developments and practices in the commissioning industry.

Over the past decade, building owners and managers have come to see commissioning as a critical quality assurance component of building construction and operation. They increasingly accept commissioning as a cost-effective process for reducing energy use, minimizing maintenance costs, improving indoor air quality and occupant comfort, and increasing overall net operating income. The NCBC provides the most current information on commissioning practices and resources, as well as valuable lessons learned from a range of commissioning case studies.

Strong advocates for building commissioning in Illinois, this year's host sponsors are ComEd and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. According to George Malek, ComEd's Energy Efficiency Services Manager, "In 2002, the NCBC in Chicago saw an industry working hard to make commissioning 'business as usual' in buildings. As ComEd has continued working on making this goal a reality, we are excited to host the 2007 NCBC in Chicago so that we can celebrate the industry's success and help it move toward maturity."

In addition, "The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation is excited to co-host with Commonwealth Edison the NCBC in Chicago in 2007. The Foundation has recognized the importance of commissioning by supporting this essential work as part of its "Green" building design program since 2001. The Foundation has also supported 'stand-alone' retro and re-commissioning activity which will inform us on future program opportunities," said Bob Romo, Program Officer for the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

NCBC is produced by Portland Energy Conservation, Inc. (PECl). Information about the conference can be found at [www.peci.org/nbc](http://www.peci.org/nbc), and by contacting Summer Lewis at [slewis@peci.org](mailto:slewis@peci.org) or 503-595-4484. The conference will be held May 2-4, 2007 at the Sheraton Towers, Chicago, IL.

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## **Defining Commissioning and Retrocommissioning**

New construction commissioning is the process of ensuring that systems are designed, installed, functionally tested, and performing in conformity with the design intent. Existing building commissioning, or retrocommissioning, applies a systematic process for improving and optimizing a building's operations and supporting those improvements with enhanced documentation and operator training.