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**CONTACTS:**

Amy Norquist, Deputy Director                      or              Regan Chichester, Project Manager  
anorquist@thebeaconinstitute.org                      rchichester@thebeaconinstitute.org  
Phone: (845) 838-1600  
www.thebeaconinstitute.org

**RIVERS AND ESTUARIES CENTER  
BREAKS GROUND ON FIRST BUILDING AND ANNOUNCES NEW NAME**

Beacon, NY, March 15, 2006: The Rivers and Estuaries Center celebrated the groundbreaking on its first building on Denning's Point and the announcement of its new name on Wednesday.

John Cronin, Managing Director, announced that the organization will hereafter be called **The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries**, explaining that the change "reflects an appreciation for the organization's chosen home and its commitment to building a global center for the study of rivers and estuaries."

The name change was timed to coincide with a groundbreaking ceremony for The Institute's first permanent building in Beacon on Denning's Point, a state park where the Institute's main campus will be located. The 4,000 square foot building will house the Institute's exhibitions and educational programs, as well as serve as a field office and visitors center.

**State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro** stated, "Today's groundbreaking and introduction of the new name and logo underscore the progress taking place in the continuing development of the newly designated Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries here along the riverfront at Hudson Highlands State Park. With Governor Pataki's \$25 million investment included in the Executive Budget and today's milestone groundbreaking for Building One, the Institute is that much closer to becoming a premier environmental research and education facility."

Building One, as it is temporarily called, is being funded with total \$3.8 million in support

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from Dutchess County, NY, Environmental Protection Fund, NY Power Authority, US Environmental Protection Agency, and US Housing and Urban Development. The Beacon Institute is also grateful for core support from the Dyson Foundation that has made the organization's launch possible.

It was the initial commitment from Dutchess County that set the building project in motion. "Since the first day Governor Pataki announced plans to create a Rivers and Estuaries Center, I committed the necessary resources to enable Dutchess to compete successfully for selection as the host county for what will surely be a world renowned site," said **Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus**. "In April 2003 we learned Dutchess County and Beacon were successful in our selection efforts. Now we are here to break ground on Building One at the Center, and Chairman Kendall and I are proud Dutchess County's \$750,000 contribution toward the project has made this construction possible."

Steinhaus also noted, "It's vital we set priorities and create opportunities to ensure Dutchess County's place on the world map; we must continue our focus on enriching cultural, historic, and educational venues to 'brand' Dutchess as a destination point of distinction. Governor Pataki's Rivers and Estuaries Center is one more example of the progress we've made in recent years."

**Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature, Bradford H. Kendall**, R-Dover/Union Vale, stated, "Today's groundbreaking at The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries is very much like Henry Hudson's journey in the 1609. Just as Henry Hudson's quest for a northwest passage led to unimagined discoveries, so too will this Institute lead to unimagined knowledge of the ecosystems around us. The Beacon Institute is more than just one building. It will serve as a hub of our educational infrastructure throughout the Hudson Valley."

**Mayor Clara Lou Gould** said, "Once again we applaud Governor Pataki for his vision in creating an institute to study rivers and estuaries here on our Hudson River - an American Heritage River in a National Heritage Area. Our community is excited to have been selected as one of the sites and our young people look forward to the learning opportunities and the job opportunities it will create. The ground breaking of the first facility on Denning's Point is bringing it a step closer to the wonderful reality. The renaming ceremony will surely add to community pride and reflects our willingness to be a model - a beacon - for positive development."

Building One is scheduled to open in the fall, and aims to meet LEED-Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for its rigorous sustainable approach and design innovations. The New York office of Arthur M. Gensler, Architecture, Design & Planning Worldwide, developed the design of the building. Building One will feature foam-flush composting toilets, solar evacuated tube collectors, a geothermal system for heating and

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cooling and roof-mounted wind towers to assist natural ventilation. There will be a green roof of indigenous plants that will both reuse storm water and help control the buildings' heat gain and loss. Even the parking area and surrounding courtyards will be constructed with innovative bioretention methods to control storm-water runoff.

One of Building One's main programs will be the Learning Laboratory, a resource and training center for K-12 teachers in the region. The teacher programs will help teachers incorporate the study of rivers and estuaries, the Hudson River in particular, into their science, history, art and other classes while meeting state curriculum standards. This program is being planned now, and will be launched next winter.

The Beacon Institute has already begun designing the second building on the Denning's Point campus, the Center for Advanced Environmental Technology. In January, Governor Pataki announced \$25 million in his 2006/07 budget to fund the construction of this 37,000 square foot laboratory on the industrial site of a former paper clip factory.

The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries "will help to usher in a new era of scientific and educational discovery, and develop new strategies to ensure that our rivers, estuaries and watersheds are clean, healthy, and accessible," **Governor Pataki** said on January 11. "This \$25 million investment and the start of construction demonstrate our commitment to building a vibrant, world-class institution that will attract leading scientists and help people young and old learn about the river and our role as environmental stewards. "

*Headquartered on the Hudson River in the City of Beacon, in Dutchess County, New York, The Beacon Institute's mission is to create a global center for interdisciplinary research and education for the study of rivers and estuaries and the central role they play in the lives of nearly every living creature. Our plans include satellite facilities along the Hudson in Rockland and Rensselaer counties and in New York City. With a team of scientists, educators, engineers, historians and other experts, The Beacon Institute will become a center for excellence in the study of rivers and estuaries and a bold voice for policies and practices to benefit waterways and society alike.*

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