



**For Immediate Release**

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## Beacon Announces Team to Head Master Planning and EIS Processes for its Research and Development Laboratory

The Beacon Institute of Rivers and Estuaries today announced that STV, a top planning and design firm, and the Louis Berger Group, a leading engineering and environmental science consultancy, have been selected to oversee the master planning and environmental impact statement processes for the construction of its state-of-the-art research and development laboratory, along the Hudson River.

Beacon Institute Executive Director John Cronin said, “Working in partnership with the Parks Department and the Dormitory Authority, we set out to find the best advisors for the construction of our laboratory – the Center for Advanced Environmental Technology. Both firms have proved themselves to be highly qualified for the job and share our enthusiasm for the scientific significance of this project. We look forward to working together to create a nexus of resources, energy and ideas about the rivers and estuaries in our world.”

Headquartered in Douglassville, PA, STV is one of the premier consulting firms in the country and a national leader in the planning and design of infrastructure, transportation systems and facilities. The firm provides full engineering, architectural, planning, environmental and construction management services.

As the overseers of the master planning process, STV will conduct an in-depth assessment and analysis of the site, formulate approaches to big picture issues and create a step-by-step plan of actions. The master plan document will comprehensively describe a long-range physical development concept through narrative and maps. This process will include describing the project vision and goals, identifying issues and opportunities, facilitating public and community input, and recommending priorities and next steps.

Headquartered in East Orange, NJ, and with offices around the globe, the Louis Berger Group is one of the leading infrastructure engineering and environmental science operations in the world. The firm’s environmental specialists have provided services for a wide range of facilities and have been involved extensively in the preparation of environmental documentation.

Working with Beacon, the Berger Group will assist in assessing the project-generated environmental impacts and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for State Environmental Quality Review.

The Center for Advanced Environmental Technology, or CAET, will firmly establish the Beacon Institute as the leading scientific center for the monitoring and study of rivers and estuaries in the

United States. The 40,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility will develop remote sensing devices that can measure the chemical, physical and biological processes of rivers in real-time. It will be located at Denning's Point, a 64 acre peninsula, and part of Hudson Highlands State Park.

The Beacon Institute's inaugural facility on Denning's Point is currently under construction and will feature public lectures, interpretive education, a learning laboratory for area teachers, serve as a park visitor's center and offer other public resources.

The Beacon Institute plans on breaking ground on CAET by the spring of 2008.

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**About the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries**

*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, policy-making and education regarding rivers, estuaries and their connection with society. The Beacon Institute is committed to developing a cadre of scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts whose collaborative work will focus on some of the most important and endangered bodies of water in the world. It also aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for the development of advanced monitoring and observation technologies for rivers and estuaries.*