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For Distribution

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Philips Lighting Company R-CFLs Prove They Can Take the Heat

Two models pass rigorous testing and specification requirements

July 29, 2004 – The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (Alliance) is pleased to announce that two models of reflector compact fluorescent lamps (R-CFLs) manufactured by Philips Lighting Company have met the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) stringent performance criteria for its R-CFL project, including ENERGY STAR® certification and a minimum of 6,000 hours of elevated temperature life testing. Both models, the SLS/R40 20 watt and the EL/A BR30 16 watt Reflector Flood, are part of the Philips® Marathon™ line and available through The Home Depot Supply Inc. (the commercial subsidiary of Home Depot) and other channels. The EL/A BR30 16 watt is new to the market, while SLS SLS/R40 20 watt has been available to consumers for some time.

Recessed can fixtures are a popular lighting choice in many homes and businesses, and almost all of these fixtures use reflector incandescent lamps. Using the screw-based R-CFLs in place of incandescent reflector lamps in recessed can fixtures will cut fixture energy use by up to two-thirds. Generally, recessed cans are installed in insulated ceilings and designed to be airtight to prevent loss of conditioned air into unconditioned spaces above, such as attics. However, airtight (ICAT) cans in an insulated ceiling create harsh operating environments for screw-based CFLs because they trap heat, which can cause them to fail prematurely.

The Alliance and DOE created the R-CFL project to address this issue and encourage manufacturers to develop and bring to market R-CFLs designed for use in these types of fixtures and operating conditions.

“Anywhere between 25 and 40 recessed cans are installed in new homes today,” said Alliance Executive Director Margie Gardner. “With up to two-thirds reduction in energy consumption, the opportunity for energy savings with R-CFLs is tremendous.

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However, the key to transforming the market from incandescent bulbs to R-CFLs in recessed can fixtures is to ensure high product quality – precisely what the R-CFL project was designed to achieve.”

“DOE is proud to be a sponsor of this collaborative effort to encourage the widespread use of R-CFLs specifically designed for use in insulated ceiling rated, airtight downlights,” stated David Garman, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at DOE. “These lamp models have successfully demonstrated their durability and performance, and they offer consumers and businesses alike substantial energy savings over conventional incandescent lamps.”

Commercial buildings, such as restaurants, hotels and multifamily housing facilities, are also often equipped with recessed can fixtures. Apartment buildings and hotels, for example, often use recessed cans in common areas, many of which remain lit for extended hours. Energy use in these applications could be reduced significantly by using R-CFLs rather than incandescent reflectors.

While the project focused on developing R-CFLs for ICAT cans, the Philips models selected will perform equally well in non-ICAT cans, tracks or even wall-mounted floods. ICAT cans are generally required on the uppermost floor of a building with gypsum wall board ceilings in contact with insulation, so they are more commonly found in residential versus commercial buildings. R-CFLs are not recommended for spotlight applications where a narrow, directed beam is required.

Since 2001, demand for CFLs has surged. Due to their significant energy-savings potential, CFLs are popular with energy-efficiency groups and electric utilities that frequently offer their customers incentives to convert to lamps that consume less energy. In 2003, these programs totaled over \$43 million in incentives and advertising and serve more than 60 million customers. CFL sales in the Northwest alone are projected by the Alliance to increase by 750,000 to 1 million annually from the 2003 level of 3.8 million lamps sold, reaching total sales of 9 million per year by 2010.

About the DOE/Alliance R-CFL Project

DOE’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) received proposals from five manufacturers representing 12 R-CFL models in response to its November 2002 Request for Proposals (RFP). PNNL completed technical evaluations of all of the lamps to make sure they met rigorous program requirements for light output, size, beam angle and operating temperature. Furthermore, the lamps had to meet ENERGY STAR specifications. The lamps also had to undergo short- and long-term testing in a simulated insulated ceiling environment to test whether they would continue operating correctly for their rated lifetime. The two Philips models, SLS/R40 and the EL/A BR30 Reflector Flood, were the only lamps to pass all of the tests.

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DOE plans to continue the project to test and identify more R-CFLs suitable for use in ICAT recessed cans. To order the winning Philips lamps, contact The Home Depot Supply Inc. at 800-431-3000. For more information on the R-CFL project, visit www.pnl.gov/R-Lamps.

About ENERGY STAR and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Today, the ENERGY STAR program is a joint partnership between EPA and Department of Energy and delivers the technical information and tools that organizations and consumers need to choose energy-efficient products and services. For a complete list of ENERGY STAR qualified products, retailers, manufacturers and energy savings information, call 1-888-373-2283 or log onto: www.energystar.gov.

The R-CFL project is supported by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, a non-profit corporation supported by electric utilities, public benefits administrators, state governments, public interest groups and energy efficiency industry representatives. These entities work together to make affordable, energy-efficient products and services available in the marketplace. For more information about the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, please visit their website at www.nwalliance.org.

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