Funding from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will help with lost tax revenue from retired Montaup Power Plant

BOSTON – Wednesday, January 7, 2015 – Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Acting Commissioner Meg Lusardi today announced a $531,000 award to the Town of Somerset to offset lost tax revenue from the retirement of Montaup Power Plant.

This, and other reimbursements, to the communities impacted by the recent retirement of coal power plants comes from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds.

"With this funding, Governor Patrick continues his commitment to creating prosperity and success in every community in the Commonwealth," said Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Maeve Bartlett.

Pursuant to G.L. c.21A, §22(c)(1), certain communities that hosted retired power plant sites are eligible for RGGI proceeds to meet the gap in tax receipts following plant decommissioning.

DOER has also made $2 million available to Somerset for a clean energy project. This $2 million is funded through Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP), which are paid by electrical retail suppliers if they have insufficient Renewable or Alternative Energy Certificates to meet their compliance obligations under the Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard programs.

"DOER continues to work closely with communities across the Commonwealth as we transition to a cleaner energy future," Lusardi said. "We have partnered with cities and towns to look at all aspects of their energy portfolio."

In addition, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is working with Somerset and Holyoke to identify and analyze potential reuses of coal-fired power plants that have retired or will retire soon. These studies will assist the communities with the Mount Tom, Brayton Point and Montaup coal-fired plants’ transitions to alternative uses of the sites.

"As we continue our efforts on the state level to help the town of Somerset address its fiscal future, this funding is not only necessary, but a reminder of how vital the long-standing partnership with the Patrick administration has been to the South Coast" said Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues. "Governor Patrick has always been a friend to our region and we applaud his continued commitment even as the sun sets on his time in office."

"I am pleased that the Patrick Administration has committed these much-needed funds to the town of Somerset during the waning hours of his administration", stated Rep. Patricia A. Haddad, Speaker Pro Tempore, "He has always been a friend to our area as evidenced by the awarding of these lost revenues".

Since taking office, the Patrick Administration has been committed to helping individuals, businesses and institutions manage their energy costs, mitigate the impacts of climate change and grow the clean energy economy by advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Commonwealth. As a result, Massachusetts now has more than 800 megawatts of wind and solar installed and has established the most ambitious energy efficiency plans in the nation.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has named Massachusetts number one four years in a row. Last year, Governor Patrick set a new solar goal to install 1,600 megawatts by 2020, after reaching the previous goal of 250 megawatts four years early. The clean energy revolution is yielding economic benefits as well, with 10.5 percent job growth in the last year and 47 percent growth since 2010; nearly 88,000 people are employed in the nearly 6,000 clean tech businesses in Massachusetts.