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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Department of Buildings and Department of Environmental Protection Announce the Merger of Boiler Filings

### Synchronization of Reporting Requirements Expected to Ease Process for Building Owners

Department of Buildings' Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Emily Lloyd announced the merger of their agencies' boiler report filing processes. The new filing procedures will take effect on September 6, 2005. The merger of the two filings will simplify the process for building owners, licensed plumbers, licensed oil burner installers and the insurance industry personnel who perform boiler inspections.

Currently, Buildings requires the submission of annual boiler inspection reports under Local Law 62 of 1991 by December 31st of each year. This law requires owners of boilers that heat six or more residential units, units in commercial areas, and units in mixed-use spaces to file annual inspection reports with the Department.

DEP requires triennial boiler filings for air quality monitoring purposes but its submission requirement is on the anniversary date of the original filing, creating double work for those who must file with both agencies. The variations in requirements and processes cause confusion and unnecessary burdens on those owners who must file with both agencies. Furthermore, each agency tracks boilers in its own independent database; consequently, correlating filing status is difficult and time-consuming.

The departments expect the joint project to be performed in multiple phases. The first phase, to be launched in September 2005, addresses the problem from the applicant's point of view. The agencies will provide a single application intake center at the Buildings Department where the two filings will be submitted on one form designed to capture the data required by each agency.

Commissioner Lancaster said: "Through the front-end merger of the boiler filing processes, Buildings and DEP are able to make it easier and faster to file. It is a convoluted customer service issue that has needed resolution for years.

### MORE INFORMATION

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I want to thank Commissioner Lloyd and her staff for their cooperation in helping to get this important initiative off the ground."

Commissioner Lloyd stated: "This is another example of the Bloomberg Administration working to eliminate burdensome regulations for New Yorkers. This move will help streamline the process for thousands of hardworking businesspeople and property owners who need to file vital information with the City."

The Rent Stabilization Association (RSA) added its support for the merger. RSA President, Joseph Strasburg, said, "RSA represents 25,000 small residential building owners throughout the five boroughs and our members will benefit tremendously by the elimination of the dual filings at both agencies. The streamlined process is further proof that the Bloomberg Administration means business when it comes to making it easier to work with the City of New York."

The second phase of the project involves extensive analysis and changes to existing procedures, databases, applications, and staffing. Additional proposed changes would include aligning the two filing periods and normalizing the fee structure.