

Mississippi Development Authority  
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**FOR RELEASE AFTER 10:30 A.M.**

**GOVERNOR MUSGROVE PROCLAIMS OCTOBER AS  
“ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH”**

Jackson, Miss., - In a ceremony held this morning at Walton Elementary School in Jackson, Governor Ronnie Musgrove presented Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) a proclamation as part of MDA's observance of the U.S. Department of Energy's October Energy Awareness Month Program, "Energy: Securing Our Future."

The Mississippi Development Authority's Energy Division, along with energy partners across the state will sponsor or participate in activities and educational programs to garner awareness of the role energy plays in Mississippi's economy.

"The Energy Division of MDA oversees energy management programs for the state of Mississippi, ensuring an environmentally acceptable, adequate and dependable supply of energy," said Governor Musgrove.

The Division administers programs, which benefit homeowners, farmers, manufacture's, commercial businesses, fleet operators, local governments, state agencies, and public institutions.

"Energy is a vital part of retaining and attracting new business and industry to Mississippi," said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, MDA. "Recognizing the importance of this industry is crucial to our continued success and growth."

During the morning press conference, Jim Powell, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Energy participated in the presentation of a symbolic check in the amount of \$2 million. This figure represents the amount of funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Mississippi for the period of April 1, 2002 through the end of 2003.

**(MORE)**

A kick-off luncheon will begin with remarks by Lt. Governor Tuck at 11:30 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson. Powell will serve as the keynote speaker for the event.

Following his remarks special recognition will be given to the following outstanding energy projects of merit in Mississippi:

Energy Awareness – Walton Elementary School

Energy Environmental Awareness - North Mid-Town Community Development Corporation

Energy Efficiency – Mississippi River Corporation

Economic Development in Energy – Mississippi Lignite Mining Company

Energy Innovation & Technology Transfer – University of Southern Mississippi's Polymer Science Institute

For a complete listing of the month's planned activities, please contact the Energy Division of MDA at 601-359-6600.

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