



The Environmental Business Council of New England Announces Environmental and Energy Industry Winners of the 24th Annual EBEE Awards

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2017 - **Boston, MA** - The Environmental Business Council of New England (EBC) is pleased to announce that the XSS Hotels Brownfields Project is the recipient of the 2017 EBC James D.P. Farrell Award for Brownfields Project of the Year.

The rise of this particular development brings full circle what started as a ruinous debris pile after a major fire leveled an entire City block in Chelsea in May 1974. The City of Chelsea Economic Development Board (EDB) acquired the 1.2 acre property in 1999 as part of a larger redevelopment strategy for the area adjacent to Route 1. While the area's proximity to Boston and the improving economy allowed all other parcels to be redeveloped, this property was unable to be sold or redeveloped due to widespread elevated concentrations of PCBs in soil.

However, the vision and persistence of XSS Hotels and PROCON, with additional support and cooperation of team partners including the City of Chelsea, the Chelsea EDB, the U.S. EPA, MassDEP, and MassDevelopment, resulted in the successful remediation, capping and redevelopment of the site. The hotel, which opened in March 2017, added over 60 permanent jobs, mostly hired from the local community, and will provide a consistent source of state and local tax revenue.

Each year, the EBC recognizes companies, organizations and individuals for outstanding environmental and energy accomplishments in the promotion of a sustainable, clean environment through the EBEE Awards Celebration. These awards were established by the EBC to encourage companies, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and environmental professionals to serve as models for others to emulate and, in doing so, further the mission and objectives of the EBC.

This award, established by resolution of the Board of Directors on March 4, 2002, is awarded to a Brownfields project in which an EBC member organization has had significant involvement and that serves as an example of excellence notwithstanding the social, economic, technical and institutional challenges imposed.

To honor and acknowledge the special contribution of James D.P. Farrell to the Brownfields Program, a resolution of the Board of Directors on January 10, 2005 advanced the name of this award to the James D.P. Farrell Brownfields Project of the Year Award.

James D.P. Farrell (1958-2004) actively participated in the EBC Brownfields Committee and Brownfields programs while at the Massachusetts AG's office where he was chief of the brownfields unit. He was instrumental in making the brownfields redevelopment process work in Massachusetts and was often involved in delicate negotiations among developers, municipalities and former owners of contaminated sites. Jim was admired for his work on complex Superfund negotiations – including negotiations in New England. As a DOJ attorney on the General Electric Pittsfield case, Jim's ideas during negotiations helped parties reach an unprecedented settlement. Jim's work for the AG's office strengthened the partnership between EPA New England and the state. He was a valued member of the South Weymouth Naval Base case team, where he helped bring together representatives of the business, environmental and military communities for site cleanup and redevelopment.

Prior to 1999, he worked in the environmental enforcement division at the U.S. Department of Justice and as an aide to U.S. Senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire.

The XSS Hotels Brownfields Project will be honored at the Annual EBEE Awards Celebration on June 8 at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Environmental Business Council of New England (EBC) was established in 1990 by environmental and energy company executives who began meeting on a regular basis to exchange ideas and share experiences. The EBC was the first organization in the United States established to support and foster the development of the environmental industry. The goal of the EBC is to enhance business and job growth of both established and emerging environmental and energy businesses. For more information, please contact Ann Gisinger at (617) 505-1818 or ebc@ebcne.org.