ExxonMobil Pipeline Company Supports Restoration of Historic Lighthouse

Light to soon shine again

ExxonMobil Pipeline Company (EMPCo) has joined the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) to begin the restoration of the 134-year-old Pomham Rocks Lighthouse in East Providence, Rhode Island. The historic lighthouse, one of the oldest on Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay, has been owned by ExxonMobil since 1980 and sits on a small island near the Company's East Providence Terminal.

The beginning of the initial phase of the restoration project was celebrated by a June 6 flag-raising event at the lighthouse, hosted by EMPCo, ALF, and its newly established local chapter, the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. Representatives of the organizations and the U.S. Coast Guard raised both the American flag and the U.S. Lighthouse Service pennant to symbolize the return of keepers to the lighthouse.

The first phase of restoration work, which will continue through the fall of 2005, will focus on the exterior of the structure and include the replacement of the roof, the stabilization of the tower, the repair of the pier, as well as the installation of new windows and gutters. Another key objective is to reinstall the island's navigational beacon into the lighthouse tower. The Coast Guard will consider placing the light back in the structure after it is restored.

The picturesque structure was built in 1871 by the Unites States Lighthouse Service and came under Coast Guard jurisdiction in 1939. The Coast Guard removed the red navigational light from the tower when it deactivated the station in 1974. Because of its proximity to the Company's terminal and its navigational value, ExxonMobil purchased the lighthouse in 1980 when it was offered for sale.



The American flag again flies high at the lighthouse as restoration work begins.

"The lighthouse is still very sound, considering its age, and for that, we can thank ExxonMobil, which has put a great deal of financial and sweat equity into keeping it in good shape," said Don Doucette, chairman of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

To date, EMPCo has leased the historic structure at no cost to ALF to enable the restoration, and has made two contributions totaling $50,000 towards the project. A local fundraising effort has been established to provide the additional funds to complete the project.

The inspiration for restoring Pomham Rocks sprang from the shared vision of EMPCo's East Providence employees, ALF, and the local community to return the lighthouse to its former glory. Terminal Superintendent Greg DeMarco has played a key role in helping to advance the project. "We have been very impressed with the efforts that the local community and the American Lighthouse Foundation have put toward the project's planning and fundraising. It's been a great partnership," said DeMarco. "Beyond restoring the structure, we look forward to broadening the appreciation of the lighthouse's role in Rhode Island's maritime history by increasing educational outreach initiatives with area schools and the community," he added.



Greg DeMarco, EMPCo's East Providence Terminal Superintendent, presents the second of the Company's two $25,000 contributions to Don Doucette, Chairman of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

While the lighthouse has been deactivated for 31 years, the excitement is starting to build to see this Victorian-era structure returned to its earlier role and splendor. As a result of the partnership between ExxonMobil Pipeline Company, the American Lighthouse Foundation and local supporters, the light is expected to again soon shine in the lighthouse's tower, guiding vessels to a safe harbor and reminding viewers of the area's long, colorful, and important maritime history.