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**CITY LAUNCHES NEW EXHIBIT CELEBRATING
THE DEVELOPMENT OF NYC'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 – Today the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and the Department of Records unveiled the first-ever exhibit demonstrating the importance of energy in the City over the last three centuries. Located at the Department of Records Visitors Center within the Surrogate's Court Building at 31 Chambers Street in Manhattan, the exhibit will run for three weeks and features unique, never-publicly presented items selected from the City Hall Library and Municipal Archives, as well as rare artifacts contributed from the collections of Con Edison, Alt Power, New York Power Authority and City agencies that illustrate both the history of energy in the City and the latest innovations. Commissioner Edna Wells Handy (DCAS) and Deputy Commissioner Eileen Flannelly (Records) were joined by Kristin Barbato, Deputy Commissioner for Energy Management at DCAS, and Sergej Mahnovski, Director of the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability.

The exhibit shows the importance of New York's energy infrastructure in accelerating the economic and financial growth of the City over the past three centuries and shows the significance of timely innovative investments in the City's energy future, including items referencing energy supply in New York City prior to the wide-scale use of electricity.

- The exhibit includes the franchise granted to one of the original six gas companies, the Harlem Gaslight Company, in 1855. The City's first gas pipes were laid in the City in the 1820s, and by the mid-1870s, before they became Consolidated Gas, there were six companies providing gas service in New York City.
- The introduction of gas also changed the way the City powered street lights. Among the items on display are exquisite hand-colored designs for gas lamps in Central Park from the 1870s, and the 1826 Common Council "Special report on the expense of introducing gas light to City streets." With the introduction of gas, the City could replace the whale oil lamps that were first installed in the 1760s.

- An original copy of the City’s first electrical codes enacted in 1902 will be on display, as will a copy of the 1942 Wartime Protection Manual for Municipal employees. Today, New York City has some of the most progressive Electrical Codes in the country.

“New York City is often at the center of innovation, and I’d like to thank Eileen Flannelly and Kristin Barbato for this collaborative exhibit, which illustrates how far we have come over the last three centuries, and charts a clear path for New York’s City’s energy future,” said Edna Wells Handy, Commissioner for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. “This exhibit is proof positive that our partnerships will continue to make New York City better, faster, cheaper, and greener for centuries to come.”

“Working closely with DCAS over the past several years, I have witnessed first-hand the tremendous accomplishments of the DCAS Energy team under Commissioner Handy’s leadership,” said Eileen Flannelly, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Records. “This joint exhibit traces the history of energy from as early as the 1700s and has been a truly eye-opening and educational experience that I hope all will enjoy. Our new Deputy Commissioner of Energy, Kristin Barbato, exudes her own personal brand of ‘energy’ and is sure to bring vibrant new ideas to this already illuminated group!”

“It’s no coincidence that New York City became the financial center of the world at the same time our energy and communications infrastructure were being built at terrific speed in the lower Manhattan area,” said Kristin Barbato Deputy Commissioner of Energy Management for DCAS. “This exhibit that Commissioner Flannelly and her team have put together in cooperation with DCAS, a number of City agencies, and our private partners demonstrates the ingenuity of energy innovations in the last three centuries, and our commitment to continue ‘carrying the torch ‘.”

“New York City has always been at the cutting edge for energy and technology,” said Sergej Mahnovski, Director of Mayor’s Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. “The City will lead that spirit of innovation to achieve the PlaNYC goals of making our energy cleaner and more resilient, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30%, and having the best air quality of any large U.S. city.”

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