



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Horizon Utilities Cancels Free Holiday Season Light Exchange

Hamilton/St. Catharines, ON, November 24, 2006 – As a result of safety concerns with regard to a supply of 36-bulb LED (light emitting diode) holiday season lights, Horizon Utilities announced today they are taking the precautionary step of canceling their *powerWISE*® Holiday Season Light Exchanges that were scheduled to be held in Hamilton today and tomorrow at the Hamilton Farmers' Market.

Exchanges scheduled to take place in the St. Catharines Market Square on December 2 and in Hamilton during Christmas in Gore Park on December 9 have also been cancelled. The entire schedule of cancelled events appears below.

"Public safety is always our first concern," noted Sandy Manners, Director of Corporate Communications for Horizon Utilities. "As soon as we were made aware of the potential quality and safety issues with this particular brand of lights, we took immediate action to prevent them from being distributed to the public."

Energy efficient LED holiday lights are 95% more energy efficient than incandescent lights and last up to 100 times longer. This can result in real savings for consumers. For example, ten strings of incandescent festive lights operating during the evening hours throughout the month of December will cost approximately \$80.00 compared to only 80 cents for LED holiday lights.

"Despite the fact that we discovered some unfortunate quality issues with the particular batch of lights we had planned on distributing at our light exchanges, we encourage consumers to continue to purchase LED holiday lights from their local retailers in order to save on their hydro bills this holiday season," stressed Manners.

The Canadian Standards Association and the Electrical Safety Authority are investigating this matter and will issue a public safety alert regarding the specific make and models of lights if warranted.

Horizon Utilities regrets any inconvenience the cancellation of these events may have caused its customers. Further questions may be directed to Horizon Utilities Customer Service at info@horizonutilities.com or by calling Hamilton – 905-522-9200 or St. Catharines - 905-984-8961.

CANCELLED **SEASONAL LIGHT EXCHANGE EVENTS**

Hamilton

Hamilton Farmers' Market — Friday, November 24th (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
Hamilton Farmers' Market — Saturday, November 25th (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
Christmas in Gore Park, Hamilton — Saturday, December 9th (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

St. Catharines

Market Square, St. Catharines — Saturday, December 2nd (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Horizon Utilities Corporation is the third largest municipally owned electricity distribution company in Ontario and provides electricity and related utility services to over 240,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Horizon Utilities Corporation is proud to be a founding member of *powerWISE*®, a brand created to promote energy conservation and reduce the demand for electricity in Ontario. *powerWISE*® is a joint initiative of the Ontario government and six of Ontario's largest electricity distribution companies. For more information, visit: www.horizonutilities.com and www.powerwise.ca.

For further information, please contact:
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