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## **ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING WILL HELP INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF WILLIAMSPORT HOSPITAL**

**WILLIAMSPORT** – In a demonstration of federal recovery funds already at work conserving energy and creating jobs in Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger today helped celebrate the completion of the new energy service center at Susquehanna Health’s Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center.

The event marked a milestone in Susquehanna Health’s Project 2012, a multi-year, multi-million dollar expansion and modernization project.

“As facilities expand, they require more energy to meet operational needs. The new energy service center ensures the hospital has enough energy resources to meet those needs,” said Hanger. “Improvements in energy efficiency must also keep pace with the increase in demand. We now look forward to the next step, the installation of a cogeneration system that will make this new facility even more energy efficient.”

In March, Governor Rendell awarded Susquehanna Health a \$1 million Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority grant to install a new, two-megawatt cogeneration system that will generate electricity and also capture and reuse waste heat to provide heat and hot water for the hospital. This project is one of the first in the state to receive funding through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The system will generate more than 15 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year, equivalent to the energy used by more than 1,500 average homes. The project also created 35 jobs.

“This is an example of how we are putting the stimulus funds to work by implementing advanced energy measures and creating green collar jobs,” said Hanger. “The federal funding presents us with opportunities to move forward shovel-ready projects that otherwise might have been left on the drawing board. This allows more projects to become a reality and produce multiple benefits for all Pennsylvanians.

“By utilizing stimulus funding, the region’s major health care provider and a major employer is continuing its efforts to provide its patients with the best medical care possible, and its employees with the best working environment possible.”

Project 2012 is an ambitious \$250 million undertaking that will expand the hospital’s physical footprint from 500,000 to 800,000 square feet. By replacing the hospital’s two boilers that were installed in 1947, carbon emissions will be reduced by 50 percent. When the cogeneration system is fully operational, the hospital will realize a total energy savings of more than \$1 million annually.

To learn more about how the federal economic stimulus will benefit communities across Pennsylvania, visit [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov).

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