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DOT restores 15 ton weight limit on Denning's Point bridge

Beacon Institute's CEIE and Denning's Point trails to reopen to the public in April

Beacon, NY—The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) informed the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries that it has restored the 15 ton weight limit on the bridge into Denning's Point.

The bridge, which is owned by New York State and passes over the Metro-North commuter rail line, provides vehicle and pedestrian access to Denning's Point, a peninsula on the Hudson River which is part of New York State's Hudson Highlands park system and is also home to Beacon Institute's Center for Environmental Innovation & Education (CEIE).

A routine inspection in November 2010 led DOT to reduce the 15 ton weight limit on the bridge to 5 tons as a precautionary measure, pending a more extensive investigation. As a result, Beacon Institute suspended programming at CEIE, due to reduced fire and emergency medical access to the facility.

Over the last several months, Beacon Institute, with the assistance of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), retained the independent professional engineering firm Amman & Whitney to conduct a thorough investigation and evaluation of the structural integrity of the bridge. Beacon Institute submitted a report of Amman & Whitney's findings to the Department of Transportation for its review. DOT agreed with Amman & Whitney's conclusions and restored the bridge's weight limit to 15 tons.

"We are grateful to the officials at New York State's Department of Transportation, Dormitory Authority and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, as well as the City of Beacon, for their tremendous support and cooperation as we worked to find a solution," said John Cronin, Director and Chief Executive Officer of Beacon Institute. "We are looking forward to welcoming the public to an exciting and informative schedule of events at Beacon Institute's Center for Environmental Innovation & Education this year."

The CEIE will re-open to the public on Monday, April 4, with hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The NYS OPRHP re-opens the trails around Denning's Point on April 1.

Beacon Institute's 2011 event season at CEIE kicks off with a Third Thursday talk just in time for Earth Day titled, "[Sensor Technology: Smaller, Faster, Cheaper,](#)" by James S. Bonner, Ph.D., P.E., the Institute's Chief Research and Education Officer, on Thursday, April 21, 2011, at 7 p.m. More details about Beacon Institute's [full 2011 event season can be viewed online](#).

About Beacon Institute

Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, with offices in Beacon and Troy, New York, is a not-for-profit environmental research organization engaging scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts in collaborative work focusing on real-time monitoring of river ecosystems. It aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. www.bire.org

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