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Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Expansion Achieves LEED® Gold Certification

The Expansion is among the first hotels to receive the LEED® GOLD Certification in Illinois and the Midwest

CHICAGO (February 24, 2014) – The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) today announced the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place expansion has been awarded LEED® Gold certification. It is among the first hotels to achieve the LEED Gold certification in Illinois and the Midwest. The LEED rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is the foremost program for buildings, homes and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

The Hyatt Regency McCormick Place expansion has achieved LEED Gold certification for implementing practical and measureable strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Examples of notable sustainability efforts during the design and construction project included: a green roof, water efficient plumbing and irrigation systems, energy efficient windows, lighting and HVAC systems, regionally sourced construction materials, daylight and views and the use of low-emitting materials.

"We are honored to have achieved the LEED Gold certification that will enhance our competitiveness in the convention and tradeshow industry and result in long-term cost-savings," said Jim Reilly, MPEA CEO. "This achievement for the Hyatt McCormick Place expansion signifies our commitment to the environment and our continuing efforts to implement green initiatives throughout the McCormick Place campus."

"Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is proud to be operating this new LEED Gold certified tower on behalf of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority," said Paul Daly, General Manager of Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. "Our hotel's commitment to the environment is embodied through our "Hyatt Thrive" program which, among other things, is designed to help make our communities places where our associates are proud to work, our guests want to visit and our neighbors want to live. We look forward to advancing our hotel's sustainability efforts further by exploring other environmentally-focused endeavors."

"The Hyatt McCormick's LEED certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "The urgency of the USGBC's mission has challenged the industry to move faster and reach further than ever before, and the Hyatt McCormick serves as a prime example of just how much we can accomplish."

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About the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority owns McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel. Together, the North, South and West Buildings as well as the Lakeside Center offer 2.6 million square feet of exhibition space. Located along Chicago's lakefront, McCormick Place features 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world. For more information visit: www.mpea.com.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, the Center for Green Schools and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org, explore the Green Building Information Gateway (GBIG) and connect on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

About LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of green buildings. Every day, more than 1.5 million square feet of space is certified using LEED. More than 57,000 commercial and institutional projects are currently participating in LEED, comprising 10.5 billion square feet of construction space in 147 countries and territories. In addition, more than 50,000 residential units have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system. Learn more at usgbc.org/LEED.