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Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area in Southbury to Open on December 26th

Free Eagle View Celebrating Historic 25th Season – Make reservations starting December 8th

The Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area in Southbury, CT is celebrating its silver anniversary as it opens for an historic 25th season on December 26th. The Observation Area is run by FirstLight Power Resources, a GDF SUEZ Energy North America company, which owns and operates several hydroelectric facilities along the Housatonic River.

Observation times are **Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from Saturday, December 26, 2009 through Wednesday, March 17, 2010**. Although admission is free of charge, advance reservations are required and will be taken beginning **on Tuesday, December 8th**. To make reservations for individuals, families, and groups, simply call **toll-free at 1-800-368-8954** between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

“For 25 years, Shepaug has remained one of the top areas in New England to view these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. It is a wonderful, free of charge outing for individuals, families, and school groups,” said Gary Smolen, coordinator of FirstLight’s eagle observation program. “We are again opening during the week of most school vacations, so we’d love to have kids with their families, seniors, and anyone having an appreciation of wildlife come and visit. It’s an experience they will not soon forget.”

The Shepaug dam area is a popular spot for eagles in winter months when the turbulence below the dam keeps the water from freezing, and the fish below the dam provide a ready food source. Local experts report an average of eight eagles per day feeding at the dam this time of year. Other birds seen in the area include red-tail hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, goshawks, great blue herons, and a variety of waterfowl.

Specialists will be on site with high-powered telescopes to help visitors see the eagles in action and to answer questions about America’s national symbol. Visitors are encouraged to dress warmly since the observation area is unheated and to bring binoculars if possible, given the limited number of onsite telescopes.

About GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc.:

GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc. manages a range of energy businesses in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, including electricity generation and cogeneration, natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) distribution and sales, asset-based trading and origination, and retail energy sales and related services to commercial and industrial customers.

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