

**Additional Questions Submitted to DECD on behalf of GOC
regarding Status of Actions on OPEGA Recommendations Not Fully Addressed
from 2006 Report on Economic Development Programs**

- A. With regard to Finding 4, recommendation C on the List of Recommendations Not Fully Addressed - Please provide, or direct OPEGA to, any DECD reports on Pine Tree Development Zones submitted to the Legislature to fulfill the requirements of 30-A MRSA §5250-P for the years 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015. Please specify which of these reports, if any, or provide any other report that informs the Legislature as to whether the PTZ program meets the criteria given in 5 MRSA §13070-O.
- B. With regard to Finding 3 – DECD has indicated that it does not currently have the resources to take on the role of Portfolio Coordinator and related responsibilities as described in OPEGA’s 2006 report (pages 32-34). What resources would DECD need to take on this role with all the elements described in OPEGA’s report? What elements of that role, if any, would be difficult or unworkable for DECD to fulfill and why? What statutory changes that would be needed to support DECD’s role as Portfolio Coordinator?
- C. With regard to Finding 3 and Finding 5 – What resources would DECD to take on the role and responsibility of regularly collecting program and performance data for the full inventory of economic development programs (whether administration of them falls under DECD’s responsibility or not)? What authorities would DECD need to require and compel businesses to report data? What statutory changes would be needed?
- D. With regard to Finding 1 – What is DECD’s perspective on the advantages and disadvantages of folding the independent evaluations currently required by 5 MRSA §13056-A and §13107 into the newly established process for legislative review of tax expenditures described in Public Law 2015 Chapter 344?
- E. What role does DECD play in setting the overall economic development strategy for the State, including establishing the related goals and monitoring whether the goals are achieved? What is the current economic development strategy and what specific goals is the State trying to achieve?
- F. Some legislators have heard concerns from local businesses that it is difficult and confusing to get assistance from DECD. What is DECD doing, and what more can be done, to be effective and helpful in assisting local businesses that need help?