Bulletin #FY06-10

SUBJECT: MFASIS Upgrade Deployment Update

DATE: April 4, 2006

TO: All Departments and Agencies

FROM: Edward A. Karass, State Controller

MFASIS Upgrade Deployment Update

As most of you know, we have been working diligently on the MFASIS Upgrade Project since March of 2005 with a planned go-live date of July 1, 2006. This project is the first under the CIO's new project management approach and as such, the CIO and staff from the CIO's office have been closely monitoring the project and associated risks. The project has been progressing as planned with the usual set backs that are expected on a project of this size. The project team has been able to mitigate, or willing to accept most of those risks associated with the planned go-live date.

During the last two weeks, some critical path tasks affecting the project have not progressed as planned. For example, several agency interfaces have not completed sufficient testing to allow final certification before go-live. Also, some earlier challenges on the project have left training and documentation with a very compressed timeline. During the CIO's review of the MFASIS project status and comparing these results to other development areas within certain interfaces, the difficult question of how much risk we could afford at go-live was asked. The resulting answer was that the risks were too high to allow the planned go-live of 7/1.

On Tuesday March 28, after reviewing several deployment options for go-live, the project Executive Oversight Committee decided to implement an extended deployment strategy that would reduce any risks to a more acceptable level. This deployment strategy requires that

14 State House Station
Burton M. Cross Building, 4th Floor
Augusta, ME 04333-0014

Phone: (207)626-8420
Fax: (207)626-8422

www.maine.gov

ongoing development and testing efforts continue toward their currently planned completion dates and that additional testing occur with all interfaces.

In order to accommodate these additional tasks and to time the project with a planned release strategy for all interface partners, the revised go-live date of the project is now planned for 10/1/2006.

To accommodate this new date, project team members have been focusing over the last few days on the new cutover strategy for a mid-year conversion. We believe we have a workable approach for cutover but still have many details to work out. Some of the activities planned in the near future will include meetings with agencies to understand the impact of this decision on their business processes and to develop strategies to mitigate those risks.

As always, we appreciate your assistance on the project and remain confident that the software solution being implemented will provide answers to many of today's issues with the current system. Those of us on the project are very excited about the CGI-AMS Advantage 3.6 product and staff that we are working with and look forward to sharing the product with the rest of government.

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