

ABC News July 5, 2007 Beacon Lighting

Company asks for permission to use beacon again



July 5, 2007 - The beacon on top of the Palmolive Building was switched back on for first time in years.

The beacon, which is revolving in a narrow arc over Lake Michigan, was tested for four hours. Originally known as the Lindberg Beacon for famed aviator Charles Lindberg, it began operating on the Palmolive Building in 1930. Pilots could see it more than 300 miles away. It went dark in 1981 to conserve energy-- and because it shined into homes and offices in taller nearby buildings.

"The beacon that's on the building is a refurbished World War Two beacon," said Kim Dooley, Draper & Kramer Inc. spokesperson. "(It's) the largest beacon in the world that's moveable."

The management company is now working to get permission to operate the beacon on special occasions.