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Manufacturer's Representatives for Ontario's Power Industry

Welcome to the May 2010 e-newsletter providing you with product updates and the latest news from Ontario's electricity sector.

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## What's On

The Corona Inspection Training Institute will be holding its next class on May 11-13 in Michigan. For details see OfilSystems below or email [info@ofilsystems.com](mailto:info@ofilsystems.com).

From May 9-11, Schneider Electric will be at the Vancouver CIM Mining show at the Vancouver Convention Exhibition Centre, Kiosk 0717. They will be presenting on the topic: Identifying opportunities to reduce the consumption of energy across mineral processes and recovery plants. See [www.schneider-electric.com](http://www.schneider-electric.com).

Ofil Systems will be presenting its latest models of corona cameras at the IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution Exposition in New Orleans LA May 20-22, 2010 Booth #2919.

The EDA Upper Canada District Metering Technologies Committee Spring Conference will take place May 26-27 at the Holiday Inn in Oshawa. For registration information contact [snash@opuc.on.ca](mailto:snash@opuc.on.ca).

## Ontario News

**Retiring Coal** -Environment Minister Jim Prentice has told Canada's major electricity producers that they'll have to gradually retire their coal-fired plants and replace them with cleaner sources of power – a plan that would be a boon to natural gas producers. Under Ottawa's proposal, power companies would have to close their coal-fired facilities as they reach the end of their commercial life, largely over the next 10 to 15 years. The companies would not be allowed to refurbish the plants to extend their usefulness or replace them with new coal units, unless they include technology to capture the carbon dioxide and sequester it underground. For full story see [theglobeandmail.com](http://theglobeandmail.com)

**The Reality of Electricity Prices** - The OEB has set new electricity prices that will take effect on May 1. Consumers now pay 5.8 cents a kwh for the first 600 kwh they use each month in the summer, or the first 1,000 kwh in the winter. Starting May 1, that price rises to 6.5 cents a kwh. Beyond those thresholds, consumers now pay 6.7 cents a kwh. Starting May 1, they'll pay 7.5 cents. For those customers switched to time-of-use rates, the new price schedule will boost the offpeak rate to 5.3 cents a kwh from 4.4 cents – a hike of 20 per cent – while the peak rate rises to 9.9 cents from 9.3 cents. The "midpeak" rate remains frozen at 8 cents a kwh. [See oeb.gov.on.ca](http://See oeb.gov.on.ca)

In a related story Ontario is about to rival Prince Edward Island as the province with the highest electricity prices in Canada, and rates will, for the first time, exceed the average cost of keeping the lights on in the United States. See [theglobeandmail.com](http://theglobeandmail.com)

**Quiet Taxation**- A \$53.7 million "fee" imposed on electricity users to support green energy programs is not just expensive, it's illegal, says a study prepared for the C.D. Howe Institute. That's because the fee is really a tax, says the study. And taxes must be approved by the Legislature. The advantage of raising money through regulation is that it is quiet, and achieved "with a minimum of debate," they say. "Yet it is against the

public interest for the government to impose taxation through regulation. Taxation through regulation is taxation without representation.” For full story see [thestar.com](http://thestar.com)

**Consumer Protection-** The Ontario Legislature passed the Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010, this month. In the past three years, energy retailers have cracked the top 10 list of consumer complaints received by the Ministry of Consumer Services. Currently, the OEB logs between 100 and 150 consumer complaints a week about the practices of energy retailers. Most of the new rules are expected to come into effect January 1, 2011. For full press release see [news.ontario.ca](http://news.ontario.ca)

**Getting FITter-** Contract offers were awarded in April for almost 2,500 MW of renewable energy under the province's Feed-In-Tariff program. These projects are in addition to the 510 renewable energy contract offers totalling 112 MW approved last month. The 184 projects announced in April are located in communities across the province. Seventy-six of the approved projects are ground-mounted solar photovoltaic, 47 are on-shore wind and 46 are waterpower projects. There are also seven biogas, two biomass, four landfill gas, one roof top solar and one off-shore wind projects. For details see [powerauthority.on.ca](http://powerauthority.on.ca)

**Solar Bonanza** - Solar power in southeastern Ontario has the potential to produce five gigawatts of energy through roof top solar panels and up to 90 gigawatts through solar farms on land of little economic value, according to two studies conducted by the Queen's University Applied Sustainability Research Group located in Kingston. These studies are the first to explore the region's solar energy potential. For full article see [energybusinessdaily](http://energybusinessdaily)

**Targetting LDCs** - Ontario is establishing conservation targets for all local electricity utilities. The OEB and the OPA will be directed to implement these targets. Programs will include Province-wide Programs, Collective Local Distribution Company Programs, and Individual Local Distribution Company Programs. For press release see [news.ontario.ca](http://news.ontario.ca) [news.ontario.ca](http://news.ontario.ca)

**Power Theft** - Theft of power, frequently associated with marijuana growing operations, involves rerouting power, and can often result in damaged electrical equipment, fire, and power outages. Hydro One monitors irregular customer consumption data from billing records and works with tips from customers to identify potential sources of power theft. Hydro One then provides evidence to police so that a search warrant for theft of electricity can be obtained, or to enhance a drug search warrant. Customer tips and Hydro One's investigations into theft of power led to more than 90 successful arrests last year alone. For full press release see [hydroone.com](http://hydroone.com)

### Product Spotlight!... - Virtual Power Plants

Schneider Electric plans to create virtual power plants from commercial and industrial buildings. Most commercial leases are written to make tenants responsible for their own energy bills. But that means the building owner has no incentive to make energy efficiency improvements. The owner would have to bear all the costs, but the tenants would get all the savings.

Schneider Electric plans to use its expertise to wring out significant efficiencies from large buildings. Next, they will offer up that reduced demand to power marketers and aggregators. Then they will pass some of the resulting savings back to the building owners. Equally important, they will finance all this on their own. The building owners don't have to put up any money; they simply sign up and start reaping the benefits.

For full article see [smartgridnews.com](http://smartgridnews.com)

### Schneider Electric - Inefficiency Can Kill You

“Energy efficiency is so big, but it's a silent killer,” says John Murphy, director, solution marketing, for enterprise asset management systems at Infor. “You're getting the work done, but you're closer to the edge than you might realize. Like high blood pressure, it's not overt but it can kill you. You can't ignore it.” Shaving a peak might be small potatoes compared to the savings a plant can see from a reworking a compressor room, replacing a boiler or updating lighting. But, once those high-visibility projects are done, monitoring is not only an essential tool for further improvements in energy efficiency, it's also necessary to prove and maintain the project savings.

Fortunately, the ability to gather, analyze and act on energy data is rising as fast as the need. Wireless is becoming common, meter costs have come down and protocols make monitoring reasonable for a large number of industrial facilities. For full article see [plantservices.com](http://plantservices.com)

### **Ofil Systems - Corona Rings - Are They Needed?**

Two hundred 115-kV and 138-kV insulators were removed from service for evaluation. Evaluation of the units found the following: the degradation observed could be directly attributed to dry corona activity or wetting discharge activity; varying levels of degradation were observed on more than 80% of the units evaluated; degradation varied from initial degradation to severe damage that would result in a high risk of failure of the unit; the older the units, the more significant the degradation; and severe damage was only observed on units that had been installed more than seven years, with units exceeding 12 years in service having the most significant damage. For full article see [tdworld.com](http://tdworld.com)

### **Radian Research - Tech Tip RD-3X Family of Dytronic Reference Standards**

The Radian RD-3x family of products are known to be the most versatile multipurpose instrument for use in measuring electrical parameters and power quality. To maintain the high accuracy provided by the RD standard Radian recommends that units be calibrated at least once a year. One of the steps in the process of calibrating a RD-3x unit is to automatically upgrade to the latest firmware version free of charge. A note to those that utilize the highly accurate family of SR704 current transformers, the RD-3x unit and the current transformers should be sent in as a set to be calibrated. The latest firmware version 07.10.01 is utilized in the RD-3x family. For full details see [radianresearch.com](http://radianresearch.com)

### **Did you know...**

**Grid Security-** By unanimous vote, the energy and environment subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved legislation Wednesday that would give the U.S. FERC authority to order emergency actions by the nation's utilities to protect against security threats to the electricity grid. Perhaps most significantly the bill would give FERC authority to issue emergency orders for entities to take protective action if the president notifies FERC of a grid security "threat."

Emergency threats are defined as the "substantial likelihood of a cyber-attack, electromagnetic weapon attack, a geomagnetic storm, or a direct physical attack on the bulk power infrastructure that would have a significant adverse effect on the reliability of the bulk power system or defense critical electric infrastructure," according to a summary of the bill from subcommittee staff.

The subcommittee passed the GRID Act a day after FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff told the panel he considered the threat of attack to the U.S. grid to be "extremely serious."

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