

Welcome to the April 2011 e-newsletter providing you with product updates and the latest news from Ontario's electricity sector.

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What's On

The ION Regional Training course will be held April 18-21 at 6675 Rexwood Road, Mississauga. Training is scheduled as two 2-day courses and participants can opt whether to attend a single session or both. The course is designed for technicians, system engineers or system integrators and starts with a focus on how to use the ION Enterprise System with the second half concentrating on using Designer software to modify and customize ION meters for specific applications. For further information contact alex@langford-assoc.com

The Region of Peel, in partnership with the IESO, is hosting its 7th annual Energy Matters Summit, on May 2-3, 2011 at the International Centre. It is one of Ontario's leading public sector energy management conferences and this year's theme is Smart Energy Management, Smart Asset Management, and will explore the link between energy management and facility operations and development. Speaker's include the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. For more details see [energymatterssummit](#)

The Corona Inspection Training Institute is holding their professional inspection course on April 13-15. The course covers all topics related to corona emission in high voltage facilities. For further information see [citi-training.com](#)

Ontario News

AECL Delayed - As the world's eyes focussed on the troubles of Japan's Nuclear industry, AECL is facing a further setback to its recovery plan as a looming federal election promises to delay its long-awaited restructuring. Crippled by cost overruns and confronting an anti-nuclear backlash after Japan's reactor disaster, AECL has had its business development plans put on hold while Ottawa pursues the selloff of its reactor division. The Conservative government is in late-stage negotiations with SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. and the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) pension fund to sell them the commercial division of Canada's flagship nuclear company. The government had been hoping to close a deal by March 31 but that target slipped as Tokyo Electric's Fukushima plant suffered multiple reactor problems and significant radiation emissions after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. For full story see [theglobeandmail.com](#)

What about Us? - Nuclear power plants (NPPs) located in Canada have among the most robust designs in the world and have redundant safety systems to prevent damage in case of an earthquake. Both the actual structures that form containment and the systems important to safety are designed and built or refurbished to meet seismic standards. In Canada, reactor sites are geologically screened to ensure they are constructed in a location that is seismically stable. For details and a map of earthquake magnitudes in Canada see [nuclearsafety](#) For NRCan's radiation measurements as of March 28 see [nuclearsafety.gc.ca](#)

Setbacks Stay -The Ontario Divisional Court has upheld the current regulations for wind turbine setbacks. The application by Ontario resident Ian Hanna suggested, among other things, that the government did not adhere to their own Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) in developing a setback of 550 metres for the siting of wind turbines. The Court ruled that setback distances were established through an extensive public consultation process which considered the views of a wide range of stakeholders and that the Minister did consider the SEV. For full story see [newswire.ca](#)

AbitibiBowater - Through an agreement with the OPA, AbitibiBowater will increase its electricity generation capacity by 40 megawatts. The project is expected to be completed by January 2013. The expansion is also supported by Ontario's Forest Sector Prosperity Fund and will add capacity to AbitibiBowater's existing biomass-fuelled combined heat and power project. AbitibiBowater is also taking advantage of the Industrial Conservation Initiative which is available to over 200 of Ontario's largest energy consumers. This program encourages industrial companies to shift their electricity consumption to off-peak hours. For press release see ontario.ca

Recycling Nuclear - Bruce Power will delay plans to ship 16 steam generators to Sweden for recycling to allow further discussion with First Nations, Métis and others seeking additional information. Bruce Power intends to recycle the decommissioned steam generators instead of placing them into long-term storage. Approximately 90 per cent of the metal in the steam generators can be decontaminated, melted down and sold back into the scrap metal market. The rest will be returned to the Bruce Power site for long-term storage. Each steam generator contains 100 tonnes of steel but less than 4 grams of radioactive substances. For press release brucepower.com

On Time & Budget - OPG celebrated the installation of two new generators at the Sir Adam Beck 1 Generating Station. The new units make more efficient use of existing water, and will add 70 MW of hydro capacity. The new units are part of an integrated plan to increase the output at the Beck complex and boast impressive efficiency improvements over their predecessors. They also position the 90-year-old station to reap the full benefits of the Niagara tunnel development. When completed in 2013, the new tunnel is expected to direct enough water through the Beck complex to generate a further 1.6 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity. See opg.com

Going Retail - McMaster University has applied to the OEB for an electricity retailer licence. The granting of this licence would enable McMaster to retail electricity in Ontario. For application see oeb.gov.on.ca

Slow Decline - The IESO reported lower demand for electricity in Ontario of 2.1 per cent or 360 MW as a result of Earth Hour. This compares to a 4 per cent drop in 2010 and a 6 per cent drop in 2009. See ieso.ca

Product Spotlight!... - **Schneider gets Wise**

At the DistribuTech conference in San Diego, Schneider Electric unveiled its Wiser home energy management system. Wiser aims to bridge the gap between utilities and customers by providing tools to help both groups make the most of the smart grid. Wiser consists of four products: A smart thermostat, an in-home display, a load control device, and an internet gateway. Although most of the initial target audience for Wiser are single-family homes, the load control device — which is designed to give demand-response control for larger loads to both the utility and the customer — means Wiser can also be applied to small businesses as well as residences. The overall Wiser system is, of course, just one of many home energy management products on the market. But Schneider Electric is one of the few to really focus on end users as key to any demand-response program's success. The products in the Wiser line bundle overall energy-use readouts with other useful features like weather and time readouts, as a way to encourage customers to put the devices in visible locations — where they're most likely to actually impact energy use.

While Schneider Electric is just starting to demo the new Wiser products in a few markets, they're expecting the products to be consumer-ready this spring. And the company is in discussions with utilities to sell or provide Wiser products to their customers to help all parties make the most of the technologies. For full story see energybusinessdaily.com

Schneider Electric- **IEC 61850**

IEC 61850 is an Ethernet-based protocol designed for electrical substations. It is a standardized method of communications, developed to support integrated systems composed of multi-vendor self-describing IEDs (Intelligent Electronic Device) that are networked together to perform monitoring, metering, real-time protection and control. This protocol document provides setup and configuration information for using ION™ meters with IEC 61850. The ION meter must have Ethernet communications and be a model that supports IEC 61850 i.e. ION 7550/60. New meters can be purchased with IEC 61850 or IEC 61850 firmware can be loaded onto an existing meter. For document see powerlogic

Basler - **Virtual Trade Show**

Basler recently attended the Renewable Energy World Show in Tampa, Florida. To keep customers who couldn't attend the show up to date on product developments, Basler has created a virtual version of their booth at the

show. Product details include the BE1-11 Intertie and Generator Protection Systems, Digital Excitation Control Solutions, and the PCS-250 250 kW Grid-Tied PV Inverter. For virtual booth see basler.com

Radian Research - Measuring VARs

Utilities are starting to bill customers based on power factor (VARs) usage, with some surcharges starting when power factor drops below a certain level. Customers are rapidly increasing their VARs usage through the use of energy conservation devices such as compact fluorescent lights, light dimmer switches, switched mode power supplies in computers, etc. When harmonics are present, the VAR value measured using different meters can vary by 30 times or more. In some cases the meters may indicate power is being delivered while other meters indicate received power. Because the new Radian RS-933 makes it easy to create waveforms with harmonic content, utilities can easily use the RS-933 to characterize the VARs capability of new smart meters they are evaluating. For white paper see radianresearch

Did you know

Cap-and-Trade - The Proof - The reduction in pollution due to the use of the cap-and-trade system is visible from space. In latest research studies, it has been noticed that in the 20-state area in the United States that actively takes part in a cap-and-trade program to lower emissions of nitric oxide (NOx) from power plants, NOx emissions have declined drastically. According to biochemist William Schlesinger, writing at NRDC's OneEarth, the reduction is visible even from space, as can be seen in satellite images of the Northeastern United States. The hard numbers for the emissions drop has been even more extreme. A drop of 32% in NOx emissions has taken place since 1997, when NOx regulation began. energybusinessdaily its budget. See powermag.com

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