

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

In this issue...

[Ontario News](#)
[Product Spotlight](#)
[SchneiderElectric](#)
[ERLPhase](#)
[Did You Know...](#)

Bombs, Successes and Court Battles
Untapped Potential
New DM6200 and PM1200
New L-PRO 4000
Creative Recycling

What's On

The Corona Inspection Training Institute is holding its Corona Inspection school on February 23-25 in Arlington, Virginia. The course is designed for anyone who already owns the inspection equipment, has just bought, or is considering buying in the future. For details see [citi-training](#)

The 10th Annual Basler Distributed Generation School will take place March 29-April 1 in Fairview Heights, Illinois. A 10% Early Bird Discount is offered for registrations made before February 21, 2011. For details see [basler.com](#)

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

Ontario News

Ontario's Bomb-detecting Isotope - The United States is looking to OPG for a key compound used in bomb-detection devices that's in short supply around the globe. The American government is conducting a feasibility study to see if the province can provide the answer to the helium 3 shortage south of the border. Helium 3 — which is used in border scanners that can detect smuggled nuclear bombs — comes from tritium, which Ontario's power company extracts from heavy water used in its CANDU nuclear reactors. New Brunswick and Quebec also have CANDU reactors, but they don't have the technology to separate tritium from the water. For article see [thestar](#)

For a response by OPG to the Ron Stansfield's op-ed piece "Tritium exports to the US: Foreign Policy Misstep" published January 8, see [opg.com](#)

First Past the Post - The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has finished Phase 3 of the Pre-Project Design Review of AECL's Advanced CANDU Reactor (ACR-1000), making it the first advanced nuclear power reactor to have completed three phases of a vendor pre-project design review by the CNSC. According to the Executive Summary released on January 28, as a result of the third and final phase of the CNSC Vendor Pre-Project Design Review, the ACR-1000 meets Canada's nuclear regulator's expectations for new nuclear power plants in Canada. The objective of a Vendor Pre-Project Design Review is to verify, at a high level, the acceptability of a nuclear reactor design with respect to Canadian safety requirements and expectations. For press release see [aecl.ca](#)

Wind Problems - Ian Hanna of Prince Edward County is so concerned about the affects of wind turbines on health that in late January his lawyer was in a Toronto courtroom, arguing a case that could put further wind power development in Ontario on hold. "There appears to be significant scientific uncertainty about the question of an appropriate setback distance between industrial wind turbines and peoples' homes," says Hanna's lawyer, Eric Gillespie. That, he says runs against the "precautionary principle" that says: "Until that uncertainty is resolved, we should not be proceeding with further development." For Toronto Star article see [thestar.com](#) or for details of day in court see [chathamdaily](#)

More Green Clout - Several of Canada's largest energy and resource companies are quietly staking out positions in a sector that seems at odds with their usual extractive activities: the renewable power business. Oil sands, pipeline and coal-power firms are now among the biggest players in renewables, with portfolios of wind, solar, small hydropower and ethanol production that in some cases outpace the holdings of most "pure" green companies. Environmentalists and small companies in the sector are sanguine about the competitors they welcome the big firms as a significant source of clout and capital that can add momentum to the shift to renewable energy. For Globe and Mail article see [electricityforum](#)

Commercial Metering - With the provincial government announcing energy rate hikes and ambitious consumption-curling targets, Roger Marsh of Hydro Ottawa is trying to educate people about the myriad ways they and the province can help meet their bottom lines. One question from the audience at a meeting in Byward Market was whether individual suite meters for condos and apartment buildings could be made available to commercial tenants. Marsh said that while Hydro Ottawa's focus is residential, "it's certainly something we're considering." For details see [ottawacitizen](#)

Conformity in Purpose - Uncertainty about U.S. climate policy direction means that Canada may need to proceed with its own measures to mitigate climate change—including a carbon cap-and-trade system—a government-appointed advisory panel has recommended. In a report titled "Parallel Paths: Canada-U.S. Climate Policy Choices," the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) said that American climate policy colors and shapes Canada's own policies, because its integrated economies require harmonization. "We need to understand how we can meet our environmental responsibilities as a sovereign state and a global actor fully comprehending the unique economic ties we enjoy on this continent," stated Bob Page, NRTEE chair. "We are looking towards conformity in purpose, not uniformity in detail." For full story see [powermag](#)

Municipal FIT - Markham has opened the first municipally-owned project to provide power under the province's FIT program. A new 250-kilowatt solar project is installed at 8100 Warden Ave. and a 10-kilowatt solar project at the Markham Civic Centre is also in operation with live information available online through the SolarVu Energy Portal. These solar projects are part of Markham's broader plan to increase the energy efficiency of civic buildings in the city. See [ontario.ca](#)

In Review - Total electricity consumption for 2010 reached 142 TWh, up from 139 TWh in 2009. A marked increase in summertime temperatures pushed peak hourly demand to 25,075 MW, up almost 700 MW from 2009 but still shy of Ontario's all-time peak demand of 27,005 MW set in 2006. At the same time, hydroelectric output fell by 20 per cent to 30.7 TWh. For full twelve month review see [ieso.ca](#)

Product Spotlight!... - Untapped Potential

Many commercial and industrial facilities have been under pressure to reduce electricity consumption for several decades. Entire retrofits of lighting systems have been completed and variable speed drives have been installed. But once the dust settles on the most obvious and easiest energy efficiency measures, what happens next? During the process of implementing energy savings, many facilities installed some form of energy monitoring or at least metering to be able to quantify the savings that were being realized by the energy retrofits. These systems collect vast amounts of data, often unused except to verify a facility's utility bills or for a post-installation comparison of energy consumption. The greatest potential for new energy savings opportunities comes from the untapped power of this data. On its own it has the ability to inform operators of their usage data, the time of highest consumption, and when energy events occur and for how long. This data is useful but its real strength comes when put into context. That is when it is combined with production or facility data whether from a SCADA system, a Building Automation System, or a Manufacturing Execution System. By comparing a plant's real-time energy consumption along with data from the operational side of a facility, operators are able to get a cause and effect picture of what is happening. For more information on the potential of integrating energy data contact sales@langford-assoc.com

Schneider Electric- The New DM6200 and PM1200

Schneider has added the PowerLogic® PM1200 multifunction power meter and DM6200 digital panel meter to the Schneider Electric portfolio of power management products. The DM6200 meter is used for equipment monitoring and preventive maintenance scheduling, and provides basic electrical values such as volts, amps, frequency and power factor. In addition to reporting the same basic measurements as the DM6200, the PM1200 also measures power, energy demand and total harmonic distortion and is best utilized for energy, power and demand monitoring, load studies and circuit optimization, energy balancing and energy optimization. The series is designed to be universal and affordable so users can gain complete control of their energy consumption. For details see [powerlogic](#) meters provide commercial, industrial and residential facilities with a simplified, low-cost metering solution. For details see [powerlogic](#)

ERLPhase - New L-PRO 4000

The L-PRO 4000 Transmission Line Protection Relay is ready for ordering. The IEC 61850 station bus embedded L-PRO 4000 provides distance-based line protection, best-in-class DFR quality fault oscillography, standard ring bus capability, swing recording, event logging, SCADA control and metering. The L-PRO 4000 is a digital microprocessor-based line distance protection system which provides protection for medium to extra-high-voltage transmission lines. For details see erlphase.com

Did you know...

Creative Recycling - Oil-soaked plastic boom material used to soak up oil in the Gulf of Mexico is finding new life as auto parts in the Chevrolet Volt. General Motors has developed a method to convert an estimated 100 miles of the material off the Alabama and Louisiana coasts and keep it out of the U.S. landfills. The ongoing project is expected to create enough plastic under hood parts to supply the first year production of the extended-range electric vehicle. "Creative recycling is one extension of GM's overall strategy to reduce its environmental impact," said Mike Robinson, GM vice president of Environment, Energy and Safety policy.... "We reuse and recycle material by-products at our 76 landfill-free facilities every day. This is a good example of using this expertise and applying it to a greater magnitude." For full story see [autoblog](#)

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