

Welcome to the May 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 spring conference of the EDA Upper Canada District Metering Technologies Committee will be held on May 25-26 at the Holiday Inn, 30 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton. Registration is available through Paul Fowler c/o Whitby Hydro Energy Services, 905 424-3176. Suppliers contact jmcgill@hydroonebrampton.com or 905-452-5541

Mark the calendar for the 2011 EDA Niagara Grand & Western Districts Joint Metering Exhibition & Workshop held on November 16&17 at the Holiday Inn Burlington Hotel & Conference Centre. For more information see aelwood@brantford.ca

Ontario News

East-West Tie Line After receiving a letter from the Minister of Energy asking the OEB to undertake a designation process to select the most qualified and cost-effective transmission company to develop the East-West tie line, the OEB has requested a report from the OPA regarding the preliminary assessment of the need for an East-West tie line. The OPA initially provided information to the Minister for the Long-Term Energy Plan supporting the need for an East-West tie line in order to maintain long-term system reliability in Northwest Ontario. For details see oeb.gov.on.ca

Damage Control - As much as 55% of Unit 1's reactor core at the quake-stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is thought to be damaged; Unit 2's core is estimated to be 35% damaged, as is 30% of Unit 3's core, the Tokyo Electric Power Co. said on April 27. Seven weeks after the crisis began, the utility - which has also admitted damage to spent fuel rods at Unit 4 - continues all efforts to cool the affected reactors. On April 13, Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency raised the accident rating for three reactors at the six-unit Daiichi Nuclear plant in Fukushima Prefecture to Level 7 (on a scale of 1-7) - making it a 'major accident' and putting it on par with the 1986 Chernobyl accident in the Ukraine. For details see powermag.com For OPGs report on lessons learned from Japan see opg.com

Reliability -The OEB has issued its staff Report on Electricity Distribution System Reliability that documents the recent consultation process and sets out the staff's recommendations to the Board. It also lays out the next step towards the implementation of the standards that will focus on: resolving issues relating to the quality and consistency of reliability data gathered and reported by distributors; understanding the practical or other implementation issues associated with the introduction of normalization of data, causes of outages, customer specific measures and performance targets, and a "Worst Performing Circuit" measure; and identifying the means by which those issues can best be resolved. See oeb.gov.on.ca

Lower Churchill Politics - During the recent election campaign, Stephen Harper pledged a "loan guarantee or equivalent financial support" for the Lower Churchill hydro development. Quebec company SNC-Lavalin has already won the engineering, procurement and construction management contract for the project's first phase. The mega-project will transmit power generated in Labrador via two sub-sea transmission cables, first to Newfoundland, across the island, and then across the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Nova Scotia for distribution to North American markets For article see thestar.com

Working Together -The OEB has initiated a consultation aimed at promoting the development of electricity infrastructure through coordinated planning on a regional basis between licensed distributors and transmitters. The consultation will be conducted in stages, with a view to developing a policy framework for regional planning that will likely be implemented through appropriate amendments to the Transmission System Code and the Distribution System Code. It is anticipated that this consultation will focus on the development of regional planning requirements that will apply in circumstances where a localized geographic issue can be resolved through a number of different transmission and/or distribution solutions. For details see oeb.gov.on.ca

National Grid - In a study on the current state of Canada's electricity infrastructure, the Conference Board of Canada confirms that the nation's electricity system is in need of significant investment in order to renew, rebuild and replace some of this critical infrastructure and meet Canada's future electricity needs and objectives. While other countries around the world have recognized electricity as the key component for a cleaner, more sustainable environment and a more competitive economy, the report states that in Canada, there has been virtually no national attention given to the aging grid. Provincial and federal governments both need to set effective policies and advance regulatory efficiency to maintain a reliable system if Canada is to stay competitive into the future. For press release see [.electricity.ca](http://electricity.ca)

Time-Of-Use Electricity consumers switched to the summer Time-of-Use rates as of May 1. The switch to off-peak rates begins at 7 p.m., two hours earlier than the original summer off-peak time of 9 p.m. Prices have changed as follows: on-peak = 10.7 cents/kWh (up 0.8 cents); mid-peak = 8.9 cents/kWh (up 0.8 cents); and off-peak = 5.9 cents/kWh (up 0.8 cents). Tiered pricing has changed as well. See oeb.gov.on.ca

Product Spotlight! - Woodward MLSC-2

After a decade of application experiences, Woodward has released the second generation Master Synchronizer and Load Control (MLSC-2) to replace the original MSLC. Applications include power systems which operate in parallel with the utility with single or multiple utility feeds as well as new capabilities for multiple segment and intertie breaker control. For utility parallel systems, the MSLC-2 provides either phase matching or slip frequency automatic synchronizing of the local plant bus to the main power grid through one or several main breakers. The load sensor and load control sense true RMS power and provide bumpless loading and unloading against the power grid. Plant voltage is matched to the utility prior to paralleling. For isolated multiple generator systems, the MSLC-2 can be used to operate tie breakers between groups of generators using the DSLC-2 controls. For details see woodward.com

Schneider Electric- Monitoring Mining

At the PLUG 2010 Conference, Josh Lilley of Hatch presented the energy monitoring project that had been completed at the Nickel Rim South Project in Sudbury, Ontario. The project mandate was to establish the provisions to monitor all permanent infrastructure to enable collection of base line measurements for future energy management. This included allowing users to make economic decisions in a real time environment and monitor all mine commodities including electricity, water (process & potable), diesel fuel, and natural gas. ION Enterprise was chosen as it had proven success within the Sudbury Business Unit, it maintained standardization of energy management product deployments within Sudbury, and was capable of being integrated with a deregulated market. For full presentation see langford-assoc.com

Basler - Motor Life and Productivity

Thermal issues shorten motor life. However, being too conservative on thermal limits decreases motor productivity. This paper discusses updates in the existing 49 thermal model implementation, demonstrating that the 49 thermal model is better than traditional time overcurrent 51 elements since more motor work is available with less false tripping. Also discussed are resistive temperature detector biasing, resistive temperature detector voting and the role of transducers in the modern motor relay. For the paper presented at the Texas A&M Conference see basler.com

Radian Research - Bantam Lite

Radian Research has announced the first in a new generation of portable field meter test solutions - the RB-10 Bantam Lite. The Bantam line is designed for accurate, fast yet simple to use closed link testing of all single and polyphase energy meters. Equipped with Radian's RD-20 or RD-21 solid-state reference standard the Bantam Lite provides the necessary accuracy and traceability required to meet the increasing test demands of today's electricity metering. For details see radianresearch.com

Did you know

Merging Telecom and Utilities?- Someday in the future, we'll all look back at the triple play service as a relic of another age, like beepers or Blockbuster. Instead, the trio of phone, cable and internet will expand to quadruple and maybe even quintuple plays. It's already happening in Australia, where one utility, ActewAGL, is bundling up to seven services to save customers money. It's also starting to happen in the U.S

In many areas, telecoms and utilities already have robust relationships behind the scenes, and many cell carriers currently provide backhaul networks for grid communications. However, selling iPhones and HBO is certainly not the equivalent of maintaining the safety and reliability of the electricity grid, another reason why partnerships, rather than M&A, are far more likely on a large scale. For full story see [.greentechmedia.com](http://greentechmedia.com)

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