

**Happy Anniversary!** Langford & Associates celebrates its 25th year as of November 2011. Thanks to everyone who has made it a successful quarter century and we look forward to the next 25 as the electrical industry and metering in particular address the changes and challenges of new technologies and increasing demands for efficiency, control and accountability. See you there..

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**Politics Continued** - It's tempting to think that the Liberal win in October was a vote of confidence in the government's green energy strategy, warts and all. But one could just as easily argue that the outcome of the election would have been very different if PC party leader Tim Hudak hadn't taken such an extremely negative position against the Green Energy Act, the feed-in tariff program and associated initiatives. For Tyler Hamilton's article see [thestar](#) and for an analysis of the aftermath of Ontario's election and its impact on Ontario's energy future see [gowlings.com](#)

In a related story, the Mississauga power plant that was canceled by Dalton McGuinty during the election campaign is continuing to be built according to a photo the Ontario Tories released of the generator en route to the Mississauga location on October 31, a month to the day after McGuinty told voters in the area that he would stop it if re-elected. For full story see [torontosun](#)

**Garbage Gasification** - Plasco Energy Group has received approval from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to operate its garbage gasification demonstration plant in Ottawa full time. The MOE finished its final environmental screening report earlier this month at the Trail Road facility that ended its three-year trial run in January. The site has been ready to operate for a month, as the company awaited ministry approval. See [ottawacitizen](#)

**Leaks** - In response to an article in the Ottawa Citizen, AECL confirmed that the NRU reactor is not leaking. At issue was water from the Rod Bays seeping slowly into the ground adjacent to the facility walls. Measures to mitigate tritium releases to the environment include repairs to the exterior walls. Future activities include the replacement of water in the Rod Bays. Plans for this replacement are complete and will be implemented in the spring of 2012. AECL regularly monitors water quality both upstream and downstream of the Laboratories with tritium concentrations downstream well below regulatory limits; approximately 1/1000th of the drinking water standard. See [aecl.ca](#)

**Smart Recognition** - Utilimetrics, the world's premier utility technology association announced that Hydro One is the 2011 recipient of the Utilimetrics Excellence in Project Management Award ahead of an impressive list of utilities whose AMI/Smart Grid projects are under way or complete. Utilimetrics cited Hydro One's 1.2 million residential and small business customers now with smart meters with 1.05M customers having made the switch to Time-of-Use pricing over the last year—one of the few utilities to achieve its target despite Hydro One's service territory twice the size of Texas with roughly half the population. See [utilimetrics.org](#)

**Muon Detectors** - One of today's significant challenges is the effective monitoring of transport vehicles for nuclear materials. Port and border inspection agencies are continually faced with the task of detecting illicit content in transportation containers with only limited resources to do so. As part of a coordinated effort to confront this issue, AECL is working in partnership with several other agencies to develop a detector that uses cosmic rays (called muons) to image the content of shielded containers. Muons – which are charged particles created by the interaction of cosmic radiation with the upper layer of the atmosphere – can be used to image the interior of structures because of their unique ability to penetrate matter. See [aecl.ca](#)

**Common Goals** - Electric utility industry leaders from the world's major industry associations convened in Rome in early October to reaffirm a common mission—to provide affordable and reliability electricity and to build a low-carbon future coupled with sustainable economic growth. The Canadian Electricity Association joined associations that included EEI, EURELECTRIC, the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, the Energy Supply Association of Australia, as well as representatives from CIER (representing South and Central America and the Caribbean) and the State Grid of China (SGCC). See [eei.org](http://eei.org)

**Grid Security** -The NERC opened its first grid security conference, GridSecCon, in late October in New Orleans with more than 260 security professionals in attendance. See [nerc](http://nerc)

**Reigning Champions** - Bruce Power's Nuclear Response Team has captured first prize at the 2011 U.S. National SWAT Championship in Tulsa, Okla. for the fourth year in a row. The event consists of eight tactical events that test fitness, weapons skills and team organization. Bruce Power was the only Canadian team competing at the event which attracted 23 tactical units from the U.S. and abroad. See [brucepower](http://brucepower)

### Product Spotlight!... - The Earth Ranger Experience

Schneider Electric has released the Energy Management Information System (EMIS) and Earth Ranger's Kortright Centre located in Woodbridge was the first facility in North America to receive the product. The Centre is an fully integrated building that provides educational services to the public with a mission to "Bring back the Wild.". Part of their mandate is to practice what they preach and that includes operating and maintaining one of the most energy efficient buildings in Canada. The energy team used both an Andover BAS and ION Enterprise to manage the building but needed something that could more easily communicate what was happening in the building to both the public and the Board of Directors. "We want the public to be able to log in at home and see what it is we're doing," said Brett Sverkas, who gave a presentation on the system at the PLUG 2011 Conference. The EMIS solution worked for them on a number of levels: it has exceptional visuals for presentation, updates are provided instantly to the website, and it saves them five to seven hours each month by automatically producing their monthly status reports and charts required by the Board. They also use EnergyView Online operationally to monitor the system without having to BPN from a remote location since the service is hosted in the Cloud. "It eliminates many of the IT issues," said Sverkas. Departmental Managers, such as the IT manager, can access their particular area data and track their performance criteria to make informed decisions on their energy use. These are a sampling of the features used by the Centre but as with every facility the system can be tailored to the specific needs. For full capabilities see [powerlogic.ca](http://powerlogic.ca)

### Schneider Electric- Automating EPSS in Hospitals

The testing of emergency power supply systems (EPSS) in hospitals plays a critical role to ensure backup power is available when needed. This testing is usually done weekly or monthly and depending on the jurisdiction, different regulatory bodies dictate the parameters of the test. Most commonly, diesel engines are used as prime movers for emergency power supply generators. While diesel engines are known for their reliability and fuel efficiency, it is critical that the testing is carried out within certain limits to make sure that the reliability is increased rather than decreased as a result of the testing. Due to the shortcomings of manual testing, an increasing number of hospitals are switching to automated EPSS test systems. Automated EPSS testing increases reliability due to the accurate monitoring and recording of test parameters, it provides traceability in case of unanticipated problems with the EPS system or litigation, and it helps to reduce the staffing burden for such tests. For white paper on Automating EPSS see [schneider-electric](http://schneider-electric)

### Gridsense - TransformerIQ Renewed

In September Gridsense announced the newest version of TransformerIQ®. It is more rugged and compact and addresses the needs of large-scale pole top applications at the distribution level. The new version can be installed without shutting off power and is environmentally sealed and uses battery-less technology, making it essentially maintenance free for utilities. Pole-top transformers, which service three to four homes, number over thirty million in the US. In addition, renewable power and extreme load fluctuations are creating new challenges throughout the grid while new installations, such as recharging stations for electric vehicles, are growing rapidly. "The price point of the monitoring system, which represents a fraction of the cost of new transformers, provides utilities the opportunity to extend the useful lives of billions of dollars of aging equipment ." For full press release [gridsense](http://gridsense)[Radian Research](http://RadianResearch) - [Joining Forces](http://JoiningForces)

### Did you know...

**Powering Google** - Google is the first major Web company to reveal exactly how much energy it uses—information that will help researchers and policy makers understand how the massive explosion of Internet usage and cloud computing is contributing to global energy consumption. Google uses 260 million watts continuously across the globe, the company reported in September. By far, the majority of Google's energy use is associated with its data centers with 80 to 90 percent of those watts used solely by the company's data centers, based on estimates made of Google's power use in an August 2011

report. Most of this energy is used in powering the IT equipment in Google's data centers. Google custom builds many data centers, such as a new one in Finland that uses a seawater cooling system, to cut down on electricity costs. In its report, Google compares the energy usage of companies' in-house computer systems to the energy used by its cloud servers. It estimates that running Gmail instead of an in-house e-mail system can be almost 80 times more energy efficient. For full story see [technologyreview](#)

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