

Welcome to the September 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 2011 PowerLogic ION User's Conference will be held on October 21, 2011 at the Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd. This conference is open to all users and integrators of ION and PowerLogic meters and energy management software. See [Schneider](#) below for details or register at [langford-assoc.com](#)

Basler is hosting its 46th annual Power Control and Protection Conference on October 3-7, 2011 in Fairview Heights, IL. The Conference provides a good overview and an in-depth look at specific aspects of controlling and protecting electrical generating power systems. Discounts are available for registrations received before August 22. For details see [basler.com](#)

The Corona Inspection Training Institute is offering a seminar in Chicago September 12-14 that provides practical and theoretical training on using UV inspection for predictive maintenance. For details see [citi-training.com](#).

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

Connection Delays - Hydro One is asking the OEB for a six-month exemption from meeting deadlines for assessing and connecting small renewable-energy projects. Nearly all are for solar power, of up to 10 kilowatts. A wide range of players in the solar-power industry, including manufacturers, panel installers and project proponents, are contesting Hydro One's request. They contend further delays would harm their businesses, threaten jobs and cripple investments. See [theglobeandmail](#)

In order to help facilitate participation in the microFIT program by applicants who have been unable to connect their projects ("Constrained Applicants"), the Minister of Energy has directed the OPA to allow any Constrained Applicant with one project the option to relocate their project from the original location to another location in Ontario. For other options see [powerauthority](#)

Solar Flame Out? - Small business- and homeowners are concerned that the plans and efforts they made to take advantage of the McGuinty Government's Feed-In-Tariff programs may be for naught if Tim Hudak's Conservatives are elected this fall and they follow through on the threat to cancel the program.. "Hudak's threat has already shaken investor confidence," says Adam Scott, green energy manager at Environmental Defence, a non-profit environmental advocacy group, who predicts that 80 per cent of the solar industry will collapse should the Hudak scenario unfold. This prediction has rattled the industry, despite both parties' promises that they will honour existing contracts. For full stories see [theglobe](#) and [theglobe](#)

Under the Wire -Regulations proposed by the Ministry of Environment could force utilities, starting in July 2015, to shutter new coal-fired plants not outfitted with carbon capture and storage systems and plants reaching the end of "economic" lifespans to shut down—unless the plants' greenhouse gas emission levels could be reduced to those

of natural gas combined-cycle plants. This decision comes shortly after Calgary-based Maxim Power received final approval from the province's electricity regulator for a \$1.7-billion expansion of its plant near Grande Cache. See [powermag](#) and [theglobeandmail](#) For news release on proposed regulations from Canadian Electricity Association see [electricity.ca](#)

WTO Challenge -The European Union has launched a legal challenge against Canada at the WTO to protest against provincial backing for solar and wind energy projects. Following on the heels of a similar challenge by Japan, the dispute highlights a global battle for a slice of the growing renewables market with countries including Canada, the United States and China moving to reserve public works projects worth billions of dollars for local firms (see [Did you know...](#) below for additional stories) For full story see [theglobeandmail](#)

Orphaned Reactor - The reactor in Chalk River has been effectively orphaned as Ottawa sells off the CANDU reactor arm of its parent company, AECL. The federal government intends to end the production of isotopes after 2016, but the future of the reactor's research functions remains unclear. Two teams of companies from Canada and the U.S. have said they would like to bid on a contract to help run, remediate and refurbish it. See [theglobeandmail](#)

Copper Theft - Hydro One says the theft of copper is on the rise and a Toronto man was recently burned while allegedly attempting to steal some from a transformer station. Thefts have increased from an average of 10 per month six months ago, to 16 per month during the summer. Break-ins to three Sudbury-area distribution stations were reported to police within a single week. For details see [hydroone.com](#)

Charging Up- Premier McGuinty announced this month that Ontario will spend \$80 million to spur investment in electric car charging. The province is encouraging private- and public- sector participants to propose ways to build and test new facilities. The province would then provide seed money to selected projects. For details see [ottawacitizen](#)

Streamlining - The McGuinty government has introduced changes to the renewable energy process that includes: developers who are able to demonstrate a completed Domestic Content Plan and a manufacturing equipment agreement will now be able to request a waiver of the OPAs termination rights, improvements will be made to the Renewable Energy Approvals process, and the Ministry of Finance has proposed new rules to the property tax assessment of renewable energy projects. See [powerauthority](#)

Vulnerability -The NERC has warned suppliers to improve their defences against cyber attacks. The warning coincides with reports by IT security researchers of several vulnerabilities that could be used by hackers to sabotage power plants, oil refineries or manufacturing operations. Dillon Beresford of US computer security research firm NSS Labs told attendees of last month's Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas that he could break into PLCs used by many utility companies. See [computerweekly](#)

Product Spotlight!... - Plantstruxure

Schneider Electric has announced PlantStruxure™ architecture, a collaborative system that is designed for mining, oil & gas, water/wastewater and other industrial process companies to meet their automation needs and growing energy management requirements. PlantStruxure™ allows collaboration between plant and operation managers, as well as engineering and maintenance teams through its software suite combined with hardware and open Ethernet-based technologies. Its flexibility addresses each stage of a plant lifecycle from concept, design and installation through its useful life and decommissioning. To compete in the Canadian market, collaboration and decision-making based on actionable and relevant information is essential. PlantStruxure™ breaks down information silos with open, standards-based technologies to drive speed and agility.. See http://www.schneider-electric.ca/documents/press-release/2011/english/plantstruxure_en.pdf

Schneider Electric- WebEx Session

A WebEx session will be held for utilities reviewing MV90 and ION meters on September 22 at 11 a.m. For details contact sales@langford-assoc.com

The Toronto PLUG conference is to be held October 21. Registration is open to all PowerLogic and ION meter and software users, engineers and designers. Please register for this free conference at [schneider-electric.ca](#)

ERLPhase - B-PRO & T-PRO Firmware

ERLPhase has released a new version of firmware for the B-PRO 8700 v3.1 and the T-PRO 8700 v4.1. This update increases security and reliability of the differential functions to ensure dependable operation under extreme power system conditions such as high impedance internal faults on Slope 1 region of the slope characteristic, large external close-in faults with DC offset conditions on slope 2 region of the slope characteristic, low to high impedance internal faults, and external large close-in faults with DC offset. This update can be applied to B-PRO 8700 units built after February, 2001 and to T-PRO 8700 units built after May 2001. For details see [erlphase](#)

Ofil System - Multi-Front Battle

Corona has been attributed as the silent but deadliest enemy for composite insulation. It is a single physical phenomenon that simultaneously triggers different modes of degradation including UV degradation during corona formation; small amounts of ozone, a by-product of corona discharge, can initiate cracking in elastomeric materials; moisture in combination with contaminants and corona create acids; and recent research has proven that repeated corona bombardment drills holes in the polymeric substance. Calculations lead to the conclusion that at the tip of the discharge the temperature is so high that it evaporates even inorganic material such as mica. For information on training in corona inspection see [ofilsystems](#)

Did you know...

Solar Wars - China has announced its first nationwide feed-in tariff for solar projects in a step that underscores the determination of the world's biggest energy user to move towards renewable energy. Beijing has made renewable energy a keystone of its energy policy and aims to raise solar power capacity tenfold in the next five years. The long-awaited feed-in tariff guarantees solar developers a payment of 1 yuan per kilowatt-hour that their projects feed into the grid, or 1.15 yuan per kh in some cases depending on the timing and location of the project. See [theglobeandmail](#). In a related story The U.S. Department of Energy announced a \$50 million investment over two years for the SUNPATH program, an initiative that seeks to help the U.S. reclaim a competitive edge in solar technology manufacturing. The DOE claims that as early as 1995, the U.S. maintained a dominant global solar market share, making 43% of the world's PV panels. Market share had shrunk by 27% by 2000 and to just 7% by 2010. See [powermag.com](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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