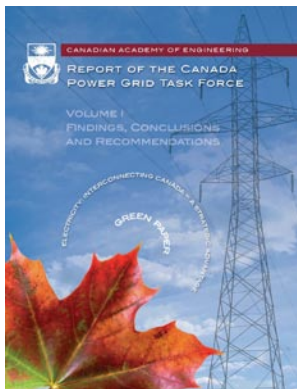


News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Academy of Engineering Releases its Power Grid Task Force Report – “Electricity: Interconnecting Canada – A Strategic Advantage” with major recommendations

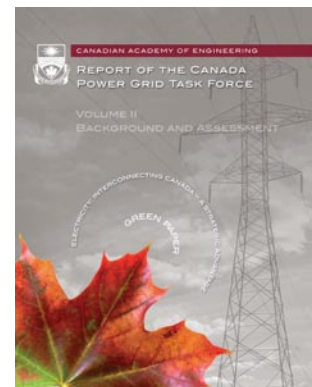
Ottawa – (April 19, 2010) – The findings and conclusions of the Report of the Canada Power Grid Task Force – “*Electricity: Interconnecting Canada – A Strategic Advantage*” provides the basis and focus for an informed debate on the opportunities afforded by “interconnecting Canada”. The work was done with the view to ensuring that the nation’s electricity needs are met in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. The report develops the case for expanded electricity connections in order to meet Canada’s electricity needs for the next 25 years. This report is the result of the Academy’s 2007 *Energy Pathways Task Force Phase 1 – Final Report* which recommended a major upgrade to Canada’s electrical infrastructure, including improved access for wind and solar energy sources and enhanced capacity for energy storage.



Canada’s electricity system was designed and built on a province by province basis, with limited emphasis on provincial interconnections. This report has addressed the question of whether Canada should invest in enhanced east-west electrical interconnections. We have been told given current business practices, that this would negatively affect ratepayers and that the economics for new interconnections favour north-south connections to the U.S.

The climate change imperative and the potential for new low green house gas (GHG) emitting electricity generation are important signals that the situation has changed. The International Energy Agency has estimated that Canada’s electricity sector will require US\$190 billion in new investment from now to 2030. This is therefore the time to consider strategic national electrical infrastructure investments.

Energy may be Canada’s last chance to achieve *a sustainable competitive advantage*, something we have not succeeded in building in other key sectors of the economy. We have a unique opportunity to prepare an electrical energy plan that is more than the sum of its parts.



In the report “**Electricity: Interconnecting Canada – A Strategic Advantage**” released today, the Canadian Academy of Engineering therefore makes two major recommendations in the belief that they will help chart the way forward.

It is recommended that the Federal Government:

1. **As an Immediate Infrastructure Project** fund, on a cost-shared basis with provinces and possibly the private sector, new electrical grid interconnections between two or more provinces based on cost-benefit analyses of the longer-term national strategic value of achieving some of the following goals: a) reduced GHG emissions through improved access by renewables such as large hydro and wind, b) enhanced energy storage capability, c) reduced energy costs by the receiving province(s), d) new markets for stranded or new power generation, and e) the strategic security advantages of developing a high capacity trans-Canada transmission backbone.
2. **As a Long Term Plan**, establish and fund a Cross-Sectoral Management Entity to prepare a technology and business framework for the electrical industry investments needed over the next 25 years to capture wealth generation opportunities and to address GHG issues. The entity should examine initially two scenarios (a) the interconnection and strengthening of the Canadian electricity grid, enabling the passage of large blocks of power both east-west and north-south to the U.S., (b) the above 'basic' scenario, with expanded interconnections to an anticipated U.S. east-west electrical grid to provide an intercontinental electrical network.

“Electricity is essential to modern life and Canada’s continued prosperity,” said Dr. Axel Meisen, C.M., FCAE, President of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. “This report focuses on the important issue of electricity transmission and the measures that must be taken now to provide Canadians with reliable, safe and sustainable electricity in the years to come.”

The *Canadian Academy of Engineering Report of the Canada Power Grid Task Force – “Electricity: Interconnecting Canada – A Strategic Advantage” Volume I – Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations* and *Volume II – Background and Assessment* are available on the Academy’s website at www.acad-eng-gen.ca.

The Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) is the national institution through which Canada’s most distinguished and experienced engineers provide strategic advice on matters of critical importance to the nation. The Academy is an independent, self-governing and non-profit organization established in 1987 to serve the nation in matters of engineering concern. Fellows of the Academy are committed to ensuring that Canada’s engineering expertise is applied to the benefit of all Canadians.

The Canadian Academy of Engineering works with other senior academies in Canada and abroad. It is a founding member of the *Council of Canadian Academies (CCA)*, along with the *Royal Society of Canada* and the *Canadian Academy of Health Sciences*. It is a member of the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS), which includes some 26 similar national bodies around the world.

The Academy also collaborates with the constituent members of the *Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum*, i.e., *Engineers Canada*, the *Engineering Institute of Canada*, the *Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada*, the *National Council of Deans of Engineering*, and the *Canadian Federation of Engineering Students*. Jointly, we are all committed to ensuring a safer, cleaner, healthier and more competitive Canada.

Fellows of the Academy are nominated and elected by their peers to honorary Fellowships, in view of their distinguished achievements and career-long service to the engineering profession, they are committed to ensuring that Canada’s engineering expertise is applied to the benefit of all Canadians, and can be identified by the FCAE after their names.

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