



# NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

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Princeton Forrestal Village, 116-390 Village Boulevard, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5731

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 16, 2003

MARRIOTT PHILADELPHIA DOWNTOWN  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

### BACKGROUND:

On November 19, 2003, the U.S.–Canada Power System Outage Task Force issued its Interim Report <http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do> explaining the factual causes of the August 14 blackout in the northeast United States and Ontario, Canada. A final report, to be issued early in 2004, will present the conclusions of the investigation and recommendations aimed at preventing large-scale outages in the future. The Task Force is holding three open forums, in which the public will have an opportunity to comment on the Interim Report and present recommendations for consideration of the Task Force. Additionally, written comments may be submitted to the Canadian and U.S. governments respectively at [poweroutage@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:poweroutage@nrcan.gc.ca) or [blackout.report@hq.doe.gov](mailto:blackout.report@hq.doe.gov).

### NOTICE OF INDUSTRY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 14 BLACKOUT:

The electric systems investigation team supporting the Task Force will conduct a technical conference on December 16 (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia.

The conference is focused on receiving technical inputs from electric industry participants on how to prevent and minimize the impacts of possible future cascading blackouts. The technical conference will include five panels of experts offering their views on recommendations to prevent large-scale blackouts. Those attending the technical conference will be able to ask questions and comment during an open discussion period after each panel session.

Individuals requesting to speak on a panel should contact Gerry Cauley at [gcauley@nerc.com](mailto:gcauley@nerc.com) no later than 5 p.m. EST Tuesday December 9 with the following information:

Name, organization, title, email, and telephone number  
Brief description of topic to be presented

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**DECEMBER 16 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS:**

The December 16 technical conference will be held at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. Sleeping rooms at the Philadelphia Marriott are limited to hotel availability. No special room block has been reserved. No conference registration fee will be charged. Therefore breakfast and lunch are not provided. Location:

Marriott Philadelphia Downtown  
1201 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: 215-625-2900/800-228-9290  
Fax: 215-625-6000

The hotel is 8 miles from the airport. Taxis are a flat rate of \$8.50 per person each way, and there is also a train which goes from the airport to directly across the street from the hotel for \$5.00 per person each way. For your convenience, driving directions to the Philadelphia Marriott are attached below. A one-way audio-video feed of the technical conference will be available on the internet via a webcast service to be announced. The meeting will be recorded by transcription.

Additional nearby hotels are listed below:

Hilton Garden Inn Hotel  
1100 Arch Street, Philadelphia  
215-923-0100

Loews Philadelphia Hotel  
1200 Market Street, Philadelphia  
215-627-1200

Residence Inn  
One East Penn Square, Philadelphia  
215-557-0005