

**Electric System Investigation Team of the
U.S. – Canada Power System Outage Task Force**

**Technical Conference to Seek Recommendations Concerning
the August 14, 2003 Blackout and Preventing Further Blackouts**

January 9, 2004 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

**Westin Harbour Castle Hotel
One Harbour Square, Toronto, Ont., M5J 1A6
416-869-1600**

Background

On November 19, 2003, the U.S. - Canada Power System Outage Task Force issued its [Interim Report](#) 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.

Technical Conferences

The Electric System Investigation Team conducted a technical conference on December 16 in Philadelphia to receive inputs from the electric industry on how to prevent and minimize the impacts of possible future cascading blackouts.

A second conference is being convened in Toronto on January 9, 2004 to solicit further input and address a number of issues in more depth. The conference will consist of four simultaneous “Breakout Sessions” in the morning to be followed by presentations to the assembly from each of the four groups in the afternoon. After each presentation, attendees will be able to ask questions and offer further comments.

There is no registration fee, however, please register your intent to attend the conference via e-mail to poweroutage@NRCan.gc.ca or by Fax to **613-995-0087** by January 2, 2004. This will assist the organizers in finalizing conference facilities, lunch and refreshments. Please indicate your affiliation and area of responsibility.

The meeting will be recorded and transcripts will be posted on the NRCan and DOE websites. Written technical comments are also invited and may be submitted in Canada to poweroutage@nrcan.gc.ca and in the U.S. to blackout.report@hq.doe.gov

Meeting Arrangements

Hotel rooms at the Westin Harbour Castle should be readily available and should be booked by participants. No special room block has been reserved. Additional nearby hotels are:

Radisson Plaza Admiral
249 Queen’s Quay West
Toronto, Ont.
(416) 203-3333

Novotel Toronto Centre
45 The Esplanade
Toronto Ont.
(416) 367-8900

Crown Plaza Toronto
225 Front Street. West
Toronto, Ont.
(416) 597-1400

Conference Overview and Agenda

The conference will:

- Provide a summary of the December 16th Philadelphia panel discussions.
- Provide participants opportunity to discuss and suggest potential recommendations on aspects related to the August 14th blackout. Recommendations will be developed using breakout sessions involving conference attendees. Each breakout session will have a Chair and a Special Reporter and will address four common questions:
 1. What is the current state or practice?
 2. What is the preferred end state?
 3. What are the necessary steps to achieve preferred end state?
 4. What is the recommended timing for each of the steps?
- Present the results of the breakout sessions for comment and discussion by Working Group members and the conference attendees

Detailed Agenda (Additional Facilitators and Speakers May Be Added)

8:00 – 8:30 Registration/**Confirmation**

8:30 – 8:45 **Introduction**

- Conference Format; Directions for Breakout Teams

8:45 – 9:45 **Review of Philadelphia panel discussions:**

- Reliability Coordination
- Emergency Response
- Operating Tools
- Planning, Design and Maintenance Issues
- Protection and Controls Issues

9:45 – 10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00- 10:30 **Self-select/Finalize Breakout Groups**

10:00 – **Breakout I - Reliability Coordination**

12:30

Facilitator: Kim Warren, IMO

Scope includes the structure, authorities, interaction with neighbours and emergency response capabilities of North American reliability coordinators.

10:00 – **Breakout Session II - Quality Assurance –Control Centers and Operators**

12:30

Facilitator: Tim Kucey, NEB

Scope includes defining the essential capabilities of control centres and their operators, means to ensure basic capabilities are sustained on an ongoing basis.

10:00–
12:30 **Breakout Session III: Quality Assurance – Assets, System Studies & Assessments (Planning, Design and Operations)**

Facilitator: Frank Macedo, Hydro One

Scope should include:

- studies and assessments to conduct long term planning and real time operation evaluations,
- determination, coordination and revision of line and facilities ratings,
- studies & measures to ensure adequate voltage profiles (static and dynamic reactive reserves, coordination of voltage schedules)
- practices to sustain/enhance Grid asset condition and performance.

10:00 –
12:30 **Breakout Session IV: Technology**

Facilitator: Gary Bullock, TVA/Tom Wiedman, ComEd

Scope should include:

- Protection and control systems-e.g. load shedding, zone 3 relays (use and settings)
- Event recording and analysis devices
- Special protections systems (e.g. under voltage, islanding)
- Emerging Technologies (e.g. Phase measurement technology)

12:30 – 1:15 **Buffet Lunch to be provided**

1:15 – 2:30 **Breakout Reports Session I and II**

2:30- 2:45 **Coffee Break**

2:45- 4:15 **Breakout Reports Session III and IV**

4:15 – 4:30 **Wrap Up**