



Madison Section NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Number 2

Serving IEEE Members of South Central Wisconsin

February 2004

Panel Discussion - Blackout of 2003: Recommendations for Maintaining Adequate Power System Reliability

Date/Time: Thursday, February 12, 2004, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Panelists: Fernando Alvarado, Ian Dobson, Ian Hiskens; Power Engineering Faculty, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dennis Ray, Executive Director, Power Systems Engineering Research Center (moderator)

Location: Rocky Rococo's Pizza, 7952 Tree Lane (Madison Beltline Hwy. at Mineral Pt. Rd.), 608.829.1444

Menu: Pizza buffet, salad and soft drinks (cost \$10.00, free for student members)

RSVP: by February 9th to Les Schroeder via email (l.schroeder@ieee.org) or call 608.260.1356



Non-member guests are always welcome!

On August 14, 2003, large portions of the Midwest and Northeast United States and Ontario, Canada, experienced an electric power blackout. The outage affected an area with an estimated 50 million people and 61,800 megawatts (MW) of electric load in the states of Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey and the Canadian province of Ontario.

The Interim Report from the Joint U.S.-Canadian Task Force grouped the contributing causes of the blackout as follows:

- Inadequate situational awareness at FirstEnergy Corporation (FE).
- FE failed to manage adequately tree growth in its transmission rights-of-way.
- Failure of the interconnected grid's reliability organizations to provide effective diagnostic support.

FE and others have criticized the Interim Report. Through six commissioned papers, FE asserted that "Deregulation of power generation deserves much of the blame for the cascading power failure."

The Joint Task Force is now preparing its recommendations in response to its findings. Our panel will identify likely recommendations, and will offer their perspectives on what needs to be done to mitigate the frequency and scope of blackouts.

Challenges of Breast Imaging

Date/Time: Monday, March 15, 2004, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM (Note Day of the Week!)

Panelists: Frederick Kelcz, Associate Professor of Radiology, University of Wisconsin Medical School

Location: Rocky Rococo's Pizza, 7952 Tree Lane (Madison Beltline Hwy. at Mineral Pt. Rd.), 608.829.1444

Menu: Pizza buffet, salad and soft drinks (cost \$10.00, free for student members)

RSVP: by March 11th to Les Schroeder via email (l.schroeder@ieee.org) or call 608.260.1356

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Abstract and speaker biography will appear in next months newsletter.

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The IEEE Leads EWeek 2004

By Chris McManes

The IEEE is serving as lead society for National Engineers Week (EWeek) this year, 22-28 February, and is helping to pave the way for expanding the celebration around the world.

"We live in an increasingly global world, so it just makes sense to expand EWeek concepts worldwide," said IEEE member and EWeek 2004 Chair Joseph V. Lillie. "We think the EWeek model we have established can serve as a blueprint for engineers around the world."

IEEE President Arthur W. Winston will help kick off the international outreach by delivering a speech to the Hong Kong Section, which will hold its first EWeek event in 2004. The New Faces of Engineering recognition program will this year include non-U.S. engineers, and an ad featuring those distinguished professionals will run in the International Herald Tribune. The ad is running courtesy of a grant from the IEEE Foundation. A similar piece will appear in The Economist magazine.

IEEE-USA is producing a New Faces of Engineering calendar with one of the 12 U.S. honorees featured each month. The group will also be recognized in a USA Today ad. All of the New Faces ads will run during EWeek.

National Engineers Week, founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951, celebrates the engineering profession and the engineers whose creative work improves living standards. Its programs and activities are designed to instill pride among all engineers, increase public awareness of the key role engineers play and spark an interest in the profession among youngsters. IEEE-USA is coordinating the IEEE's lead effort.

The IEEE's corporate partner is the Fluor Corp. of Aliso, Viejo, Calif., one of the world's largest publicly owned engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance services organizations. Fluor is introducing "Connecting the World to Engineering" in 2004, a series of teleconferences designed to connect a business leader with undergraduate engineering students to engage in a live presentation and discussion of a selected engineering topic. The project will also include online interactive forums between engineering students, engineer moderators and subject matter experts.

Fluor CEO Alan L. Boeckmann will lead the first teleconference. Joe Lillie, who's also the IEEE's Regional Activities Board treasurer, will moderate. The event is slated to reach college students in Africa, Canada, Europe, South America and the United States. Doug Gorham, IEEE's precollege education manager, has arranged the participation of South Africa's University of Pretoria.

Michael N. Geselowitz, director of the IEEE History Center, contributed a brief history of electricity and link to www.discoverengineering.org to an EWeek bookmark; and a hands-on activity on the back of the EWeek poster. He recommends a visit to the IEEE Virtual Museum (www.ieee-virtual-museum.org) for exhibits on technologies that use electricity and magnetism.

The IEEE Women in Engineering affinity group is promoting Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/real_benefit.shtml) on 26 February. The goal is to mobilize a target of 11,000 women engineers, who along with their male colleagues, will reach out to an estimated one million girls that day and throughout the year. IEEE-USA volunteer Joey Duvall is

chairing this year's event. She hopes it interests more girls in the profession, and supports a national effort to increase the ranks of engineers in the United States.

"The heart and soul of Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day are the young women we inspire," said Duvall, an RF systems engineer at Lockheed Martin in Orlando, Fla. "I've had a great deal of support from key role models throughout my journey, and I never doubted I could become an engineer. That's the message I hope to give to my younger, future colleagues."

Because of the IEEE's support, the Future City Competition, which IEEE-USA introduced to EWeek in 1993, is able to bring three additional teams to its national finals in Washington. Future City is up to 34 U.S. regions and reaches more than 30,000 middle-school students. Pilot programs have been started in Egypt, India, Japan and Sweden. For more information, visit www.future-city.org.

Also in the nation's capital, the IEEE's Lillie will promote EWeek through a nationwide radio media tour, and will help judge the final portion of the Future City national competition. IEEE-USA will present its Best Communications System award at the competition for the fourth consecutive year, and IEEE members Dominique Green and Lowell Smith will work as judges.

The IEEE Life Member Committee is funding a longitudinal study to see where Future City alumni have landed professionally, and to conduct a demographic analysis of current participants. The study is designed to serve as a fund-raising tool so potential sponsors can see evidence of Future City's success.

IEEE-USA and IEEE Spectrum magazine commissioned a survey of members and student members to find out what they like about engineering. Spectrum will feature the findings in its February issue.

For more information on how you can get involved in EWeek, visit www.eweek.org or www.ieeeusa.org/eweek. An EWeek engineer volunteer kit is available at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/kit.shtml>.

Chris McManes is IEEE-USA's Sr. Marketing Communications / Public Relations Coordinator.

Petition Against IEEE Embargo

Dear colleague,

You may or may not know that the IEEE Board of Directors has, for the last two years, drastically restricted its services to IEEE members from countries that are embargoed by the US government. The acceptance of government interference in the running of our Institute by the present IEEE leadership has angered many members, and there have been a flurry of individual protests. However, it appears that many if not most of the members are still unaware that the IEEE has been discriminating against some of our fellow members on the basis of their nationality or country of residence.

The issue has been discussed a few of weeks ago at the annual IEEE Conference on Decision and Control. A number of us have decided that it was time to organize an IEEE-wide reaction in order to express to the IEEE Board of Directors the depth of our concern and our strong opposition to the acceptance of government interference in the running of our Institute, and to the use of



Winter 2003/Spring 2004 Telecommunications Short Courses

■ Using and Installing Fiber Optic Systems for Communications

February 9–11, 2004 in Madison, WI

■ Electrical Grounding of Communications Systems

March 2–4, 2004 in Madison, WI

■ Locating Outside Plant Cable Faults

March 16–18, 2004 in Madison, WI

■ Provisioning ADSL: From DSLAM to Doorstep

March 29–31, 2004 in Madison, WI

■ DSL Networking for Telco Technicians and Engineers

March 31–April 2, 2004 in Madison, WI

■ DC Power System Design for Telecommunications

April 7–9, 2004 in Madison, WI

For further information...

Web: <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu> or E-mail: danbeck@engr.wisc.edu
College of Engineering Department of Engineering Professional Development

discrimination on the basis of nationality or country of residence in an international scientific organization.

As a former Vice-President for Membership Activities of the IEEE Control Systems Society, in charge of internationalization, I am particularly sensitive to this issue which threatens the future of the IEEE as an international institute. Many IEEE members present at the IEEE CDC have pressed me to take an initiative, and have helped me initiate it. Thus, we have decided to start a petition action against the decision of the IEEE Board of Directors to discriminate against IEEE members from countries that are embargoed by the US government. With the help of a few IEEE colleagues, we have written a text that we are now proposing for signature to as many IEEE members as we can reach.

May I thus ask you to go to the petition website:

http://www.csam.ucl.ac.be/IEEE_Petition.pl

and to sign the petition if you agree with it. On that website and the IEEE pages to which it links, you will find full information about the embargo.

This petition was started on December 19, 2003, at the initiative of a few members from the Control Systems Society. It has already collected more than 3,500 signatures. We now wish to disseminate it to all Societies and Regions. The success of the petition, and the comments we receive, shows that many IEEE members are deeply concerned about preserving the international nature of the IEEE.

Whether or not you sign the petition, I would very much appreciate if you could pass this email on to IEEE members from your IEEE society, other IEEE societies or your local IEEE chapter.

Yours sincerely,

Michel Gevers

IEEE Fellow, Former Vice-President, and Distinguished Member of the IEEE Control Systems Society



Reach over 700 IEEE members in South-Central Wisconsin with information on *your products and services* every month with an ad in this newsletter.

Our members have professional interests in computers, power engineering, signal processing, communications, industry applications and a number of other technical fields.

For more information, contact John Hicks at (608) 233-4875 or jhicks@wisc.edu.

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1/4 Page	145	135	129	127
1/2 Page	215	203	195	193
Full Page	330	315	306	303

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