



Canadian  
Electricity  
Association

Association  
canadienne  
de l'électricité



# Expert Insights on the Future of Electric Utility Management

*Remarks by*  
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Africa Utility Power Sector Exchange**  
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Thank you Lawrence for the invite to join this roundtable. When we talk about the future of utility management, I believe that the Canada-US story could offer some insightful and useful lessons to our African counterparts. Let me touch on a few of these:

**First, Canada and the US have worked hard to develop a culture of close collaboration**

Our two governments, and CEA's sister organization here in the US --- EEI --- all closely collaborate to protect and promote the viability and integrity of our shared grid, and to ensure that our citizens continue to benefit from a dependable supply of reliable electricity. This collaboration is a good news story. We have enjoyed a long and trusting relationship of well over a hundred years, where Canadian Electricity supply has contributed to America's "national energy security". Friendly, dependable, reliable, secure, low-cost, clean. We are joint custodians of an integrated electricity grid, powered by some 35 connections, with six more under development. Our vested interests for a secure and reliable system are one and the same.

**Secondly, we have a robust, two-way trade in electricity, which makes these flows and transactions mutually beneficial.**

Canada provides enough electricity to power almost 7 million American homes and Canadian uranium generates 6% of America's electricity --- enough to power one in every seventeen of your homes.

**Third, we have worked closely together to develop exemplary best practices and institutions in support of that integrated electricity system.**

NERC, the North American Electricity Reliability Corporation, is an exceptional success story for cooperation. For a dozen years now, it has operated as an effective international standards organization developing standards through an international process and at the same time respecting national and sub-national jurisdictions by providing regulatory backstop through the regulator of jurisdiction. As you consider cross-border coordination, critical to ensuring reliability and stability, I recommend you look to the experience of NERC.

**Fourth, and more recently, our industries and our respective government officials work hand-in-glove on the increasingly important area of cyber security.**





Cyber attacks unfortunately have become a growth industry, and it is an issue that is very high on the radar of our CEO's. Therefore, the establishment of formal structures, such as the Electricity Sub-Sector Coordinating Council, under the mantle of US Homeland Security (correct?), is a fine example of where we share information and intelligence, best practices and emerging innovative technologies.

**Five, an area which could find more cooperation is in the area of pooling and leveraging joint innovation and R&D projects.**

Possibilities abound for joint action --- such as alternative supply technologies, storage, grid monitoring and modelling, or next generation power transformers, to name but a few. A potential vehicle which can facilitate this is Mission Innovation, launched on the margins of the COP 21 in Paris.

**Finally, I would invite our African friends to visit Canada to learn from our project expertise.**

This year, seven of Canada's ten largest infrastructure projects are related to the electricity sector: we have two major nuclear refurbishments in Ontario; four major hydro dams across the country; and new transmission lines. Many more make the list of Canada's largest 100 projects. You are welcome to visit Canada to learn from our best practices in project development, construction, and management.

Lawrence, I hope these brief comments on the Canada-US grid management story are helpful in stimulating some thinking about how these best practices can be exported to, and applied in, the African continent. Thank you.

