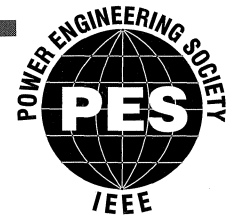


PES News

on activities, policy, and administration



Governing Board Meeting Highlights

J.D. McDonald, PES secretary

The IEEE Power Engineering Society (PES) Governing Board met on 1 February 2001 during the IEEE PES Winter Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The program for this meeting had a new format to make it easier to recognize meeting activities and determine personal meeting activities schedules.

New Technical Committees

The PES Technical Council has established two new committees to broaden the scope of work of the PES and to encourage people in these areas to join the PES. As the power industry expands its work areas, PES will address these new areas within the Technical Council in this way. The names of the new committees are Emerging Technologies Coordinating Committee and Policy Development Coordinating Committee. The Emerging Technologies Coordinating Committee scope includes cross-technical committee coordination of all matters in which the dominant factor is the research, development, and application of emerging technologies for the power industry. The Policy Development Coordinating Committee scope includes the development of policies in all matters in which the dominant factor is the commercial aspects of the electric power industry. PES is considering other actions to address new work areas within the power industry.

Transactions Paper Review Process

Improvements in the Transactions paper review process are being implemented to ensure that reviews are completed within 90 days from receipt of the paper. The editors-in-chief (EIC) of the three Transactions are expanding their editorial boards to eliminate the bottlenecks caused by a few areas receiving a very large number of papers. In addition, the reviewer database is being expanded so that the editors have a larger pool of reviewers to draw from. The names of the

editorial boards' members will be published in their corresponding Transactions. The structure to handle the Transactions paper review process has been "flattened," with the EICs working directly with the editors, who will work directly with the reviewers. The new on-line paper review system will provide much-improved tracking of paper reviews as well as the handling and transfer of papers. Authors who have submitted Transactions papers will be notified that their paper was received, and the authors can log onto the PES Web site and check the status of their paper's review.

2000 Annual Reports

All committees within the IEEE PES completed an Annual Report for 2000. A template was developed for this brief report, including items such as significant accomplishments in 2000, benefits to industry from the 2000 work, benefits to volunteer participants from the 2000 work, significant plans for 2001, and problems and concerns. The individual reports are being collated into a meaningful PES Annual Report that can be used to publicize the value PES provides to various stakeholders including members and employers.

Distinguished Lecturer Program

The current Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP) contains more than 50 lecturers on the topics of power generation, power system engineering, power system relaying, rotating machinery, substations, surge protection, switchgear, FACTS controllers, FACTS transmission planning issues, deregulation, electric vehicles, standards/codes, and superconductivity. Many IEEE PES Chapters world-wide took advantage of the DLP in 2000. Some Chapters held fundraising 1-day seminars using a DLP speaker. The travel costs for the DLP speaker are covered by the IEEE PES, making this an attractive way to bring an industry expert to a Chapter meeting to discuss a "hot" industry topic. More Chapters are encouraged to take advantage of this program.

Training Opportunities

New training opportunities were offered at the 2001 Winter Meeting in Columbus on the fundamentals of power systems and on the business side of the power system industry. The IEEE PES is considering a class on power systems for nontechnical managers of power engineers, public service commission staffs, legislators, and power traders. PES will continue to offer new training opportunities at future meetings.

Industry Focus Group

PES held a focus group meeting with executives of major companies in Columbus during the recent Winter Meeting. The purpose of the focus group was to learn how the Society can do a better job for them, and to make them better aware of the Society. A number of possible strategies were raised at the focus group meeting. These strategies have been assigned to various Governing Board members for implementation. PES plans to hold focus group meetings with local industry leaders in the geographical areas of future meetings.

Awards and Fellow Nominations

Recognizing the achievements of its members is an important part of the mission of the IEEE. The IEEE grade of Fellow is conferred upon a person of "outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in IEEE designated fields, and who has made important individual contributions to one or more of these fields." The total number of Fellows selected each year does not exceed 0.1% of the total IEEE membership. The number of IEEE Fellow nominations for PES members has declined in recent years. As a professional community, PES needs to be more proactive in nominating colleagues for this significant award.

Meetings Brochure

An IEEE PES meetings brochure was prepared and mailed out in Fall 2000 to publicize all 2001 and 2002 meetings.

(continued on page 28)

Visiting Sydney

Sydney has over 300 sunny days per year, but there is no predictable rainfall pattern. The friendliness and helpfulness of Sydney-siders was amply demonstrated during Sydney's Olympics and para-Olympics.

The Sydney setting is on three large waterways: Broken Bay 20 km to the north, Botany Bay 15 km to the south, and Sydney Harbor through its center.

Numerous tours are available to interesting spots by coach and ferry, and some of these will be listed by the PICA Conference.

The jewel of Sydney is the harbor, and its delights can be savored with any of a number of ferry rides. Every day there is a 1.5 hour harbor cruise, lunchtime and dinner cruises, as well as ferries for city commuters. Just as spectacular are views of the harbor from vantage points within comfortable walking distance of the central business district (CBD), such as the Rocks, the Opera House, Botanical Gardens, and Mrs. Macquarie's Chair. In fact, if you enjoy walking, Sydney offers many delights with its multitude of green areas, as even within the CBD there is Hyde Park, the Domain, and the Botanical Garden. A particular delight is a stroll along the harbor foreshore from Circular Quay (the main ferry terminal) to the Opera House and then the Botanical Garden. At night, the harbor turns into a fairyland of lights, and, should you attend a performance at one of the theaters in the Opera House, a gentle stroll after the show will embellish your evening. The CBD offers a bonanza of stores, with bargains galore as the Australian dollar is only half the U.S. dollar.

The following is based on an article in the Sydney newspaper: A poll by the influential *Conde Nast Traveller*, conducted before the Olympics, put Sydney at the top of the best foreign city list. Sydney has achieved this top rating for the past 6 years. The poll is based on a survey of 27,000 subscribers and examined the city's ambience, friendliness, culture, entertainment, and restaurants. The magazine also rated Tasmania as the world's top "temperate" island, while Queensland's Fraser Island was third in the tropical island category. (Fraser Island is about 300 km away from the Great Barrier Reef.)

Suggestions on Post-Conference Tours

Tropical North

In Australia, winter starts on 1 June, and from mid-May the holiday season to tropical North Australia commences. The 1,500 km Great Barrier Reef, which straddles the North Queensland coast to its northern extremity, offers numerous places from which it can be visited. Cruises (from half-day to a week) visiting its many tropical islands are available from Cairns, Airlie Harbor, and Mackay. In the tropical winter, it is always warm enough for swimming, and one avoids the excessive heat and tropical storms of summer. On land, there is a multitude of animals and birds, unique to the tropics, as well as rain forests, sugar cane, tropical fruit and plants, and parks to visit. (In winter 1998, my wife and I spent 3 months in a campervan touring North Queensland, and we now have a treasure trove of memories of the unique and interesting things we saw and experienced.)

The tropical north of Australia also includes the Northern Territory (Jabiluka National Park, Arnhem Land, and Ayer's Rock) and Western Australia (Derby, Broome, Port Hedland, and the Kimberleys). There are regular flights to all these locations.

Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme in the Australian Alps

This hydro-electric scheme has been listed as one of the seven modern engineering wonders of the world. It is 400 km south (west) of Sydney and can be visited either by a 3-day coach tour or by hiring a car to drive through New South Wales and later south to Victoria and Melbourne. Following an Act in Federal Parliament, the Snowy Scheme commenced in 1949. It was slated to produce 2,600 MW at a cost of \$880 million over a 25-year construction period. When completed in 1973, it had a capacity of 3,660 MW and cost \$810 million. That comes to 1949 dollars of \$330 million because of the high inflation in the 1950s. It is entirely paid for by electricity sales, but the water diverted to the dry Australian inland produces irrigation crops presently valued at \$8 billion per year.

PES News

(continued from page 24)

The brochure was sent to all PES members, as well as a wider distribution to promote PES meetings and encourage non-PES members to attend. This brochure will be published in September each year to promote the IEEE PES meetings for the following 2 years.

Industry-Education Council on Manpower Development

An Industry-Education Council on Manpower Development was established in 2000 to strengthen the collaboration between the electricity industry and universi-

ties through identifying new mechanisms for collaboration for producing a new breed of electrical engineers to meet the challenges of the redefined industry. It is expected that such a task force will help universities keep pace with the new electricity industry and help generate student interest in power programs. This Council met for the first time at the 2000 IEEE PES Summer Meeting in Seattle.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The IEEE PES Governing Board will meet in conjunction with the 2001 IEEE PES

Summer Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada on 19 July 2001. The PES Executive Committee (ExCom) will meet on 5 April 2001 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in conjunction with the Region 8 Chapter chairs meeting and just prior to the IEEE PES Transformers Committee meeting, and on 1 November 2001 in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the 2001 IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition.