

*Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of  
New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers*

**Northeast International Committee on Energy  
Activities and Work Plan**

*June 2007*

## **Introduction and Background**

The Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) was established by the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in 1978 to monitor and act upon energy concerns in the New England–Eastern Canadian region.

Since its establishment, the NICE has conducted numerous roundtables, conferences and meetings, published timely reports on energy issues, and recommended regional policy initiatives to the NEG/ECP. In recent years, NICE has focused on natural gas developments in the region, energy security and infrastructure, electric grid and trade issues, and co-management (with the NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment) of the Climate Change Action Plan.

## **Summary of New and Ongoing Initiatives**

### *New Initiatives*

At the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the NEG/ECP in Newport, Rhode Island in May 2006, Resolution 30-2, “*Resolution Concerning Energy*,” assigned the NICE the following new tasks:

- assess the region’s portfolio of renewable resources and potential;
- host the second in its series of ‘Energy Dialogues,’ focusing on renewables and energy efficiency, in Prince Edward Island; and
- develop a ministerial forum and recommendations for action, in conjunction with the NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment, to address energy trade, energy efficiency, renewables and transportation policy.

Part of the process of developing the agenda and recommendations for the Ministerial Forum on Energy and the Environment, which was held in Québec City February 11-12, 2007, was compiling a preliminary inventory of regional renewable resource potential. The current draft of this inventory was reviewed at the May 11, 2007 NICE meeting in Montreal. As part of the implementation of the outcomes of the Ministerial Forum, this inventory will be expanded and finalized.

The Renewables and Energy Efficiency Dialogue held in Charlottetown, PEI in October 2006 attracted a select group of policy-makers, business people and stakeholders to discuss the most pressing issues facing the promotion of renewable power in our region and the opportunities to expand energy efficiency initiatives. The Dialogue produced a number of action recommendations that were incorporated in the discussion at the Ministerial Forum in Québec City in February 2007.

The principal focus of the NICE between June 2006 and May 2007 was the development of the agenda, draft recommendations, and follow-up implementation steps for the Ministerial Forum on Energy & the Environment, which was held February 11-12, 2007 in Québec City. This Forum brought together the chief energy and environmental policy-makers, as well as transportation

officials, to address the critical issues in our region's energy future and develop action recommendations to promote secure, economic and cleaner energy in our region. The Forum, hosted by Premier Charest of Québec and co-chaired by Premier Charest and Governor Douglas, produced 10 recommendations for review and adoption at the 31<sup>st</sup> NEG/ECP Conference in June 2007.

After the February Ministerial Forum, the NICE and Committee on the Environment continued to refine the recommendations based on the discussions at the meeting and developed further explanation on the action items as well as preliminary implementation plans.

### ***Ongoing Initiatives***

In addition to the planning and follow-up work to the Ministerial Forum, the NICE continued its ongoing task of joint oversight (with the NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment) of the climate change program. The NICE also continued to exchange information on energy developments in the jurisdictions.

### ***Meetings and Other Events***

The NICE met three times between June 2006 and May 2007 (September 15, 2006 in Burlington; November 3, 2006, December 1, 2006, and May 11, 2007 in Montreal) and conducted approximately six conference calls over that period.

### **Work Plan for 2007-2008**

In addition to continuing its traditional roles of information sharing and oversight of the climate program, the NICE will undertake major new responsibilities resulting from the Ministerial Forum. In general, the NICE will bear principal responsibility for the initial implementation of the energy trade and renewable action items as described in the Forum report.

## **NEG/ECP Northeast International Committee on Energy**

The Secretariats of the NEG/ECP would like to recognize and thank all those that contributed to the work of the NICE over the past year.

David O'Brien (co-chair)	VT Dept. of Public Service
Andrew Dzykewicz	RI Office of the Governor
Ray Wilson	CT Office of Policy & Management
John Kerry	ME Office of the Governor
David O'Connor	MA Division of Energy Resources
Anne Berwick	MA Executive Office of Energy & Environment
Clifton Below	NH Public Utilities Commission
Daniel Bienvenue (Co-chair)	Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec
Jean Finn	NB Dept. of Energy
David Bazeley	NL Dept. of Natural Resources
George Foote	NS Dept. of Energy
Mike Proud	PEI Dept. of Environment, Energy, and Forestry