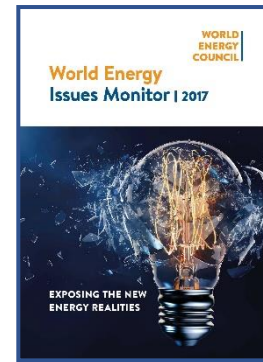


What Keeps Global Energy Leaders “Up at Night”?

April 6, 2017

I expect that many readers will be interested in learning about how energy leaders across the globe, many Canadians included, rate a variety of current issues in terms of their potential impact and their relative uncertainty.

Each year, the World Energy Council conducts a global survey to collect the views of energy leaders in 90+ countries on 41 energy issues; 1,300 responded to the 2016 survey. The 2017 World Energy Issues Monitor¹ was released today.



Top Issues Reported by the Canadian Respondents

The issues seen by the Canadian respondents as having the “highest impact – highest uncertainty” were commodity prices, climate framework, and US policy. No question that each of these issues is in the “up at night” category. Innovative transport was the issue with the highest ranked uncertainty, likely reflecting prospects for the widespread use of electric vehicles, natural gas freight, and autonomous vehicles.

Not surprisingly, renewable energies, energy efficiency, and economic growth were seen as “action areas”, characterized as having a high level of impact and low uncertainty.

Global Picture, Other Countries Too

How do Canadian’s responses compare to other countries and other regions across the globe? Not all that differently, as it turns out.

Globally, taking all 1,300 responses together, commodity prices and climate framework topped the “up at night list” together with electric storage and regional integration. “Action areas” were similar too: renewable energies, energy efficiency, economic growth, and also, electricity prices.

For those interested in having a look at how other countries rank today’s issues, results are provided for 41 other countries and regions spread across the World Energy Council’s six global groupings.

How is This Useful?

Here are a few reasons for giving this report a read. Global energy watchers find this annual survey useful as a peer monitoring tool, answering the question of how their counterparts see the same set of energy issues. The results reveal the drivers that influence industry and government action and policy-making. The tracking of a particular issue from one annual survey to the next reveals how attitudes evolve over time. For example, renewable energies and carbon capture and storage have both been seen as having reduced risk over the last several years. The annual results can set the stage for energy dialogue, say by revealing support for an unexpected view on a particular issue.

Welcome Feedback

I hope that you will have a look at the 2017 World Energy Issues Monitor. And I would be interested in any feedback you may have.

¹ <https://www.worldenergy.org/publications/2017/world-energy-issues-monitor-2017/>