



## From the President's Desk

### Highlights from USEA Annual Members' Meeting May 4, Washington, DC

Greetings, members and friends of the Energy Council of Canada.

Here are a few highlights from the United States Energy Association's *Annual Membership Meeting*, held at the National Press Building in Washington. I had been invited to provide an update on World Energy Council activities in North America in place of Bob Hanf, the World Energy Council's North America Region Vice Chair. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Barry Worthington and his team and re-acquainting with our Washington connections.

Four of the presentations during the afternoon caught my eye.

**Insights on the possible areas of energy policy activity** by the U.S. administration were provided by Congressman Joe Barton, Vice Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce. He was honoured at the opening of the event by the presentation of the USEA's *2017 United States Energy Award*, which is equivalent to our Canadian Energy Person of the Year award.

In response to a question from the floor about the directions of energy policy in the next year, he identified several areas of interest that are moving ahead or being looked at:

- Reform of the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency;
- Review of electricity markets and grid security;
- Role of natural gas, including transportation applications, reform of LNG permitting, subsidies for alternative sources of natural gas;
- Tax reform, which will have energy implications, and,
- An energy bill, which he said was a priority but not a top priority.

In closing, Congressman Barton commented that legislative initiatives for which both parties have ownership always makes for better legislation and stated his dedication to working in a bipartisan way.

Jerry Causey, Executive Director, SpaceCom, described **several interesting applications arising from newly-advanced techniques for monitoring energy systems from space**. The turning point has been SpaceX's success in recovering booster rockets which has lowered launch costs dramatically. This breakthrough has made it possible to deploy sophisticated, high resolution "eye in the sky" satellites designed specifically for industry applications. Several applications of immediate interest to the energy sector were cited as examples, with many more specialized applications to come:

- Monitoring of HVDC transmission systems;
- Oil field management, including meter reading;
- Detection of leaks and spills;
- Monitoring of fuel tank levels; and,
- Ensuring grid security.

**Commercial carbon capture and storage projects are becoming more common** after a prolonged period of R&D and demonstration projects, as described by Ron Munson, Global Lead for Capture, Global CCS Institute. He started with the observation that modelling of emission reduction pathways to 2050 see CCS as making a 12% contribution to total projected CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. A parallel benefit is that the overall cost per tonne will be reduced

as a result of CCS making its contribution. Several projects are in place now, and several more are in the offing; projects in the industrial sector are the most cost effective. The number of CCS projects has increased dramatically: 22 are in operation or under construction capturing 4 Mt/year, and there are two start-ups planned for 2017 and another four are imminent.

The **Canadian Embassy in Washington will host the 2017 Energy Efficiency Forum** on October 12 organized by Mark Wagner, Vice President, Government Relations, Johnson Controls Inc. This year's forum will focus on the theme *Connecting Communities to an Efficient Future*. Sessions will cover a wide range of "communities": neighborhoods, cities, districts, regions, and countries, and aspects such as operational challenges, economics, and expertise and resources.

My presentation on ***Update on World Energy Council's North American Activities*** is available from the Ottawa Office.

Enjoy the first signs of Spring!

With best regards,

Graham Campbell  
President  
Energy Council of Canada