



NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY WORKING GROUP

The North American Energy Working Group (NAEWG) was organized at the request of the three leaders of the United States, Mexico and Canada and is led by the three Energy Ministers. The group has been a great success in fostering cooperation among the three nations of North America and is working closely together on integrating markets and resolving issues. With strong participation by all three nations, we currently have experts groups in the following areas: energy efficiency, electricity, natural gas, energy data, and science and technology. In addition, we have established an ad hoc forum to discuss critical infrastructure protection issues.

The NAEWG has produced many concrete deliverables. On Monday, June 10, 2002, we released our first deliverable for the Working Group, "[North America: The Energy Picture](#)." The report presented a range of energy information for the three countries, including an economic overview, energy data, supply and demand trends, energy projections and descriptions of infrastructure, laws and regulations. It is available on the Department of Energy's web site, utilizing the link above.

On December 17, 2002, we released "[North American Energy Efficiency Standards And Labeling](#)", the second report of the NAEWG. This document highlights that as a result of Mexico's recent adoption of new standards for energy efficiency, the three countries will have harmonized minimum efficiency requirements and test procedures for refrigerators, freezers, electric motors and window air-conditioners before the end of the first quarter of 2003, strengthening the market for high-efficiency products in North America.

On December 23, 2002 we released our third deliverable for the Working Group, "[North America - Regulation of International Electricity Trade](#)." The report, an overview of regulations governing the construction and operation of power lines and the authorization of electricity exports and imports in the three countries, will serve as an important reference document and guide for participants in international electricity trade.

All three countries agree that these reports represent critical steps in fulfilling the goals of the North American Energy Working Group -- to foster communication and cooperation among the three countries on energy-related matters of common interest, and to enhance North American energy trade and interconnections, consistent with the goal of sustainable development, while respecting the domestic policies, divisions of jurisdictional authority and existing trade obligations of each country.

In addition to releasing the three reports, the Working Group is examining a broad range of issues including energy science and technology, natural gas trade and interconnections, critical infrastructure protection and electricity regulatory issues. We plan to complete a North American natural gas market vision by the end of 2003.

The North American Energy Working Group plans to hold its next meeting in June in Ottawa, Canada. The key topics for that meeting include review of a report on overall progress by the NAEWG and planning for a tri-lateral ministerial to celebrate the progress of this very successful initiative. A Heads of State meeting is also being planned.

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