



Media Release

Just in Time for the Blackout Challenge ... Horizon Utilities Helps Businesses and Agricultural Operations Fund Energy Conservation Initiatives *Air Liquide Canada Receives Award and Cheque for \$120,000*

(HAMILTON, ONTARIO) August 13, 2008 - With the fifth anniversary of the 2003 blackout approaching, Horizon Utilities Corporation invited representatives from local businesses to learn more about what they can do to take control of their energy usage and reduce operating costs while helping to reduce strain on the provincial power grid as part of the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program (ERIP). More than 60 companies attended ERIP information seminars at Liuna Station today.

ERIP is an electricity 'tune-up' program that rewards businesses for upgrading facilities and equipment to use less energy. It's a win-win situation for companies and agricultural operations that wish to undertake projects such as retrofitting lighting fixtures and exit signs; replacing heating, ventilation or air conditioning (HVAC) components; replacing livestock waterers; or upgrading to high-efficiency motors. Retrofitting with energy efficient equipment helps businesses decrease load at peak demand times, lower operating costs, reduce CO₂ emissions, and become eligible for incentive rebates.

Air Liquide Canada, specializing in industrial and medical gases and related services, is one company that is already enjoying significant energy savings thanks to ERIP projects they initiated in 2007. Air Liquide Canada Vice President of Large Industries, Floris Mackor, was on hand at today's seminar to receive a Platinum Award from Horizon Utilities and a rebate cheque for \$120,000 for completing a key ERIP project that has reduced peak demand by 3000 kW. "Air Liquide is proud to be at the forefront of energy conservation," says Mackor "It's good for the environment and good for business. We would be thrilled if our example encourages more businesses to become more energy efficient."

Other Horizon Utilities clients and vendors recognized for their participation in ERIP projects include at the event today included: Taylor Chrysler Dodge and Hank's Electric. Horizon Utilities has a target of 100 new applications for 2008 for local businesses to take advantage of the ERIP program and with an average of 30 kW of savings per application, this may result in a reduction of three MW in demand savings.

"Horizon Utilities is pleased to see so many companies within our service territory coming out to hear about the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program," says Max Cananzi, President and CEO of Horizon Utilities. "Meeting community-wide and province-wide conservation targets requires a team effort. We're looking to the business community to be lead contributors through programs like ERIP. Together, we can improve our environment and help safeguard our energy supply."

Ontario seeks a 50 GWh reduction in electricity consumption and demand savings of 100 MW by the end of 2010. The Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program is one of a number of Conservation and Demand Management programs launched by the Ontario Power Authority and administered by local utilities to help meet reduction targets. Businesses have until December 31, 2010 to submit applications. Information about the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program can be obtained by contacting Horizon Utilities at: **1-866-458-1236** or visiting www.horizonutilities.com.

Today's ERIP event is one of a number of commercial activities scheduled to mark the anniversary of the 2003 blackout and focus attention on the benefits of energy conservation. Horizon Utilities, the City of Hamilton and the City of St. Catharines are all participating in tomorrow's Voluntary Blackout Day, a friendly challenge between Ontario municipalities designed to encourage Ontarians to reduce energy consumption on the anniversary date of the blackout. Businesses participating in ERIP sessions were challenged to join the Voluntary Blackout initiative by using less electricity between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Horizon Utilities Corporation is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, providing electricity and related utility services to 233,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Horizon Utilities' employees are committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity, providing unparalleled customer value, and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

For more information, visit www.horizonutilities.com or contact:

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