

SCANFAX

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Volume 51, Issue 4



IEEE

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A publication of the
Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers
— Chicago Section —

Electric Deregulation Update



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SCANFAX

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Chairman's Message



Howard W. Penrose
IEEE Chicago Section,
Chairman

On Tuesday, February 23rd, 1999, Jack Kilby received the Washington Award as the father of the modern integrated circuit. This award is presented by the Western Society of Engineers and represents the combined recognition of six engineering professional societies for engineers that have preeminently advanced the welfare of mankind. Mr. Kilby received his BSEE from the University of Illinois in 1947 and received his MSEE from the University of Wisconsin in 1950. In 1958 he joined Texas Instruments where he invented the monolithic circuit, now in all electronic systems. He has also been awarded more than 50 patents including the first patent for a hand-held calculator and the first patent on a semiconductor thermal printer (the above borrowed from the banquet program).

His presentation on receiving the award was a quick lecture on the history of electronics from simple circuits to the advancement of modern computer chips and micro-circuitry. He foresees new technologies emerging that would again change electronics from integrat-

ed circuits to something new, what, he couldn't say.

On Friday, February 26, 1999, at the Palmer House Hilton, the Engineers Week Luncheon was held. It was Emceed by Felicia Middlebrooks, the morning anchor for WBBM Newsradio 780 in the morning, who did an excellent job at keeping the program rolling. There were a number of awards including for the "Future Cities" Competition; the 1999 Structural Engineering Association of Illinois High School Student Bridge Building Contest; Discover "E"; Engineers Week Poster/Essay Competition; and Mathcounts. The winners are too numerous to mention here; suffice to say that all were grade to high school students. The speaker was Hugh McMillan, general superintendent of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and a graduate of Valparaiso University with a BSEE and Post Graduate work performed at IIT in Electrical Engineering. Mr. McMillan presented a short, comprehensive discussion entitled: "Engineering in Chicago: A Retrospective and Prospective of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago." The talk was excellent, as was the meal.

In all cases, Engineers Week requires volunteers. Next year's program will be underway soon. If you wish to volunteer, please contact one of your IEEE Section Officers for information.

This month, on Saturday, April 24, 1999, our own IEEE Chicago Section Annual Award Banquet will be held at the Fountain Blue Banquets in Desplaines. There will be awards presented for IEEE Fellow, IEEE College / University Chapter Student Awards, and IEEE Region 4 awards. In addition to dinner, there will be entertainment and dancing. Having attended a number of these in the past, I have thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment and presentations, along with the opportunity to meet and talk with other IEEE members.

The IEEE Chicago Section Awards Banquet Committee volunteers have done an excellent job, once again, in setting up what will be a very successful event. For tickets to the event, contact Joe Feitler, 708 383-8773 or through the IEEE business office at 800 898-4333.

Hope to see you all at the IEEE Chicago Section Annual Award Banquet.

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Electric Deregulation Update

By: Christine M. Sloat, P.E.

In the February 1998 issue of Scanfax, we provided an overview of Illinois sweeping deregulation legislation, the Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Act of 1997. Since that time, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has been very busy developing strategies and rules for timely implementation of the Act.

As an overview, the legislation was enacted on December 16, 1997. The law provides Illinois customers with retail choice of electricity suppliers beginning as early as 1999 for some industrial and large commercial customers and phases in retail choice for all customers by May 1, 2002. The new law sets prices for an eight-year interim period. Residential customers will receive a 15 percent rate reduction in August of 1998, and an additional 5 percent in 2002 when they will also be free to switch to alternative suppliers. Business customers don't receive an initial decrease, but some customers can switch suppliers as early as 1999. All customers who elect to switch suppliers must pay a monthly "competitive transition charge" to their old monopoly supplier, eliminating most of the potential savings from switching.

According to the terms of the legislation, retail access will begin on October 1, 1999 for: (1) nonresidential customers with loads of 4 MWs or more; (2) certain commercial retail customers under common ownership, doing business at 10 or more locations, with an aggregated load of 9.5 MW or

greater; and (3) 33 percent of nonresidential customers chosen by lottery. On October 1, 2000, direct access will be extended to certain governmental customers with an aggregated load of 9.5 MWs or greater. On December 31, 2000, all remaining nonresidential retail customers will receive direct access. Finally, on May 1, 2002, all residential customers will receive direct access.

As the ICC moves to implement the workings of the legislation, plenty of public hearings, discussion groups, input from Illinois large utility companies and media attention have shaped outcomes. Here is an overview of the ICC end products that have occurred since our last article.

In August 1998, the phase-in of rate cuts took effect. The state's largest utilities, Illinova and Commonwealth Edison, cut rates 15 percent; another 5 percent reduction is due May 2. Smaller utilities will phase-in 5 percent reductions by May 2.

In February 1998, the ICC opened a rulemaking investigation concerning standards of conduct to govern the utility relationship with its affiliates and competitive suppliers. Unable to meet the June 15 deadline set by the legislation, on June 12 the commission issued emergency regulations to govern affiliate transactions and affiliate code of conduct. The ICC issued Standards of Conduct and Functional Separation rules on September 1, 1998, implementing Section 16-119A(a) and 16-119A(b) of the Public Utilities Act. The proposal calls for separation of generation and distribution services in the competitive market and includes pro-

visions that address access to delivery service facilities by generation employees.

In March 1998, legislation was introduced to add environmental provisions to the current electric restructuring law. The bill would increase utility funding for energy efficiency programs, provide tax credits for energy efficient appliances, and allow net metering. In early December 1998, the ICC approved its final environmental disclosure rule. All utility customers will receive information about the source of their electricity and the environmental impact those sources have, on their utility bill. The environmental disclosure inserts will begin appearing in consumers' monthly utility bills in the first quarter of 1999. Environmental disclosure will enable consumers to comparison-shop under deregulation if they want to choose electric suppliers based on environmental performance. It will also provide a public education outlet for informing consumers about the mix of power sources and related pollution.

The Non-Discrimination in Affiliate Transactions for Electric Utilities rule was first adopted June 12, 1998, in compliance with Section 16-121. Among the major amendments to the rules was a change to the definition of affiliated interests in competition with Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers (ARES) to include only those that provide service to customers within the service territory of the utility with which it is affiliated. The rules specify the sharing of information, research and development, and other potential-

Continued on page 4.

Continued from page 3

ly competitive concerns between utilities and affiliates such as energy service companies (ESCOs). On July 24 the commission instituted a rulemaking proceeding (98-0544) to establish certification rules applicable to alternative retail electric suppliers that seek to serve only nonresidential retail customers with maximum electrical demands of one megawatt or less. The ICC issued draft rules on September 21, 1998, to initiate comment and discussion regarding rules for ARES. The rules provide procedures for "applicants seeking to serve nonresidential retail customers with maximum electrical demands of 1 MW or more, and residential and small commercial retail customers with demands of less than 1 MWi. The rules also provide proce-

dures for certifying suppliers on the basis of financial criteria, such as credit-worthiness, bonding criteria, letters of credit, and credit ratings. Final rules are expected in March/April 1999.

As the saying goes, the devil is in the details, and Illinois deregulation law requires a good deal of detail in the coming months to ensure that progress is made. If you are interested in monitoring these fast-paced happenings, follow information at ICC's Electric Restructuring website, www.state.il.us/icc.

ENERGY NEWS OF INTEREST

In late breaking news regarding energy from a national perspective, Representative Matt Salmon (R-AZ), the new chairman of the House Renewable Energy Caucus, has announced his intention to fight any

attempts to cut funding for DOE's renewable energy R&D programs during this Congress. Salmon stated, "I'm fiscally conservative, but I'm not stupid. The federal government has major responsibility when it comes to R&D... to maintain our technological edge." Salmon, who will lead the 140-member caucus, indicated that he is comfortable with DOE's FY-2000 request for \$446 million for renewable energy. He also indicated that he "will look for an opportunity to re-institute a tax credit for solar power." The caucus is now made up of 77 Democrats and 62 Republicans. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) chairs the recently established counterpart, the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficiency Caucus. That Caucus has 21 members comprised of 11 Democrats and 10 Republicans. ■

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IEEE Region 4 Award

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Saturday, April 24, 1999

Cocktails: 6 p.m., Hors d'oeuvres & complimentary cocktails

Dinner: 7 p.m., appetizer, salad, wine, main entree,
coffee and dessert

Please contact us by April 12th to let us know if you prefer
a fish or vegetarian meal.

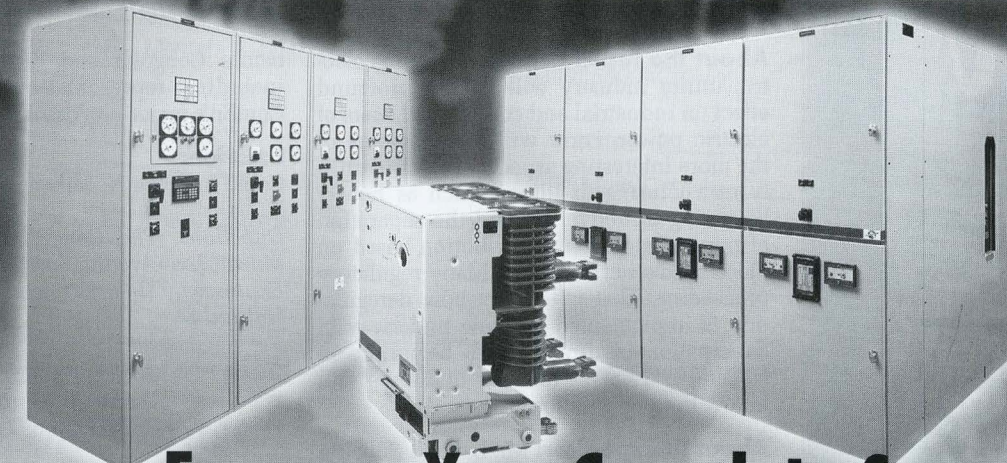
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IEEE CHICAGO,
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COMPUTER SOCIETY

XML: Extensible
Markup Language

Wednesday,
April 21, 1999

Guy Starnier, Lucent Technologies

About the Speaker: Guy Starnier is a member of technical staff at Lucent Technologies. His work experience covers many different areas including tool development, compiler support, intelligent networking, and Internet technologies. He is currently webmaster for the Lucent Intelligent Network Unit.

About the topic: XML, the Extensible Markup Language, is a relatively new Internet standard. Like its big brother, SGML, XML is used to define new HTML-like markup languages.

XML-based languages describe the logical structure of a document allowing it to be treated as viewable content or as data.

Languages recently defined in XML include SMIL for synchronizing multimedia presentations, SVG for describing scalable, vector graphics, RDF for cataloging web pages, and cXML for business-to-business communication.

This talk will provide an introduction to XML. It will also briefly cover related standards and proposals such as XSL, the Extensible Stylesheet Language, and XLink, an

EVENING MEETING

XML hyperlink proposal.

The current state of XML browsers, editors, and other tools will also be described.

Location:

Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1837 Center Point Circle, Naperville, IL 60563

Directions: The Wyndham Garden Hotel is located just off Diehl Rd. between Washington Blvd. and Naperville Rd.

From I-88, take the Naperville Rd. exit. Turn right off the ramp onto Naperville Rd. Make a right at the first stop light onto Diehl Rd. Turn right onto Center Point Circle.

Time: Cash Bar and Networking: 6:00 pm.
Dinner: 6:30 pm.
Presentation: 7:30 pm.

Reservations:

Please call the IEEE Business Office at 1-800-898-IEEE (4333). They will provide the dinner entree selection and cost. As always, the presentation is free and non-IEEE members are welcome. For more information, contact Adrienne Novick at 630-713-4362

IAS/IES DINNER MEETING

Larry L. Schedin P.E., President Schedin & Associates

About the topic: Deregulation of the electric utility industry will have a profound effect on industrial and commercial users of electric power. Larry will discuss some of the more interesting aspects of electric utility restructuring in Illinois such as hourly balancing of deliveries, and the separation of transmission from distribution based on FERC's seven criteria test. Many regulatory proceedings that will affect how deregulation is implemented are now underway in anticipation of direct access beginning in November 1999. A time for questions will follow the presentation.

About the speaker: Mr. Larry L. Schedin is President of Schedin & Associates, Inc., which specializes in energy planning, pricing, contract negotiations and other energy matters for clients throughout the United States. Larry received his B.S.E.E. from the University of Minnesota in 1961, and completed his Masters of Engineering Management from MIT while a Sloan Fellow in 1975-76. He worked for Northern States Power Company from 1960 to 1979, starting as a technical aide and rising to Director of Strategic Planning. In 1979 he founded Schedin & Associates which has a substantial client base in Illinois. Larry is an IEEE member, past member of the Edison Electrical Institute Rate Research committee, and has served as an expert witness

before Congress and regulatory agencies, including representation of industry in ComEd's major rate cases since 1985.

Location:

Como Inn, 564 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL.

Directions: The Como Inn is located on Milwaukee Avenue just off the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94) near Grand Ave. and Halsted St.

Time: Social: 5:30pm.
Dinner: 6:00pm.
Presentation: 7:00pm.

For reservations:

Cost: \$20 includes the presentation and your choice of a chicken or pasta four course dinner. Please call the IEEE Business Office at (800) 898-IEEE or (630) 724-0200 with your entree preference on or before April 19.

NOTE: For P.E. licenses that require continuing education for renewal attendance at IEEE Technical Meetings is acceptable as one Professional Development Hour (PDH) per meeting.

The upcoming 1999 IEEE - IAS meeting dates are: May 12, Sept. 22, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17.



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Show your interest in section activities by voting.

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- All members of the IEEE Chicago Section who are FULL members for 1999-2000 are eligible to vote.
- Student members and Associate members are not eligible to vote.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Vote for a candidate by checking the box immediately to the left of the candidate's name.
- Write-in candidates are accepted for any office. Write-in candidates must be full members as

defined above.

- To enter a write-in candidate, place the office title, candidate name, and member number in the area provided. Additional write-in candidates may be submitted on a separate piece of paper (please sign).
- You may vote for only one candidate for each office.

BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Enter your name, membership number, and mailing address in

the space provided.

- After voting, sign the ballot on the line at the bottom.
- Ballots **must be mailed** to the IEEE Business Office, Attn: Section Secretary, 8196 Cass Ave., Darien, IL. Please mark "Ballot" on the envelope.

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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
April 6, 1999	IEEE Chicago Section EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 21, 1999	IEEE, Fox Valley Subsection, Computer Society Chapter XML EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE
April 21, 1999	IAS/IES Dinner Meeting ELECTRIC UTILITY DEREGULATION IN NORTHEAST ILLINOIS
April 24, 1999	IEEE, Chicago Section ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

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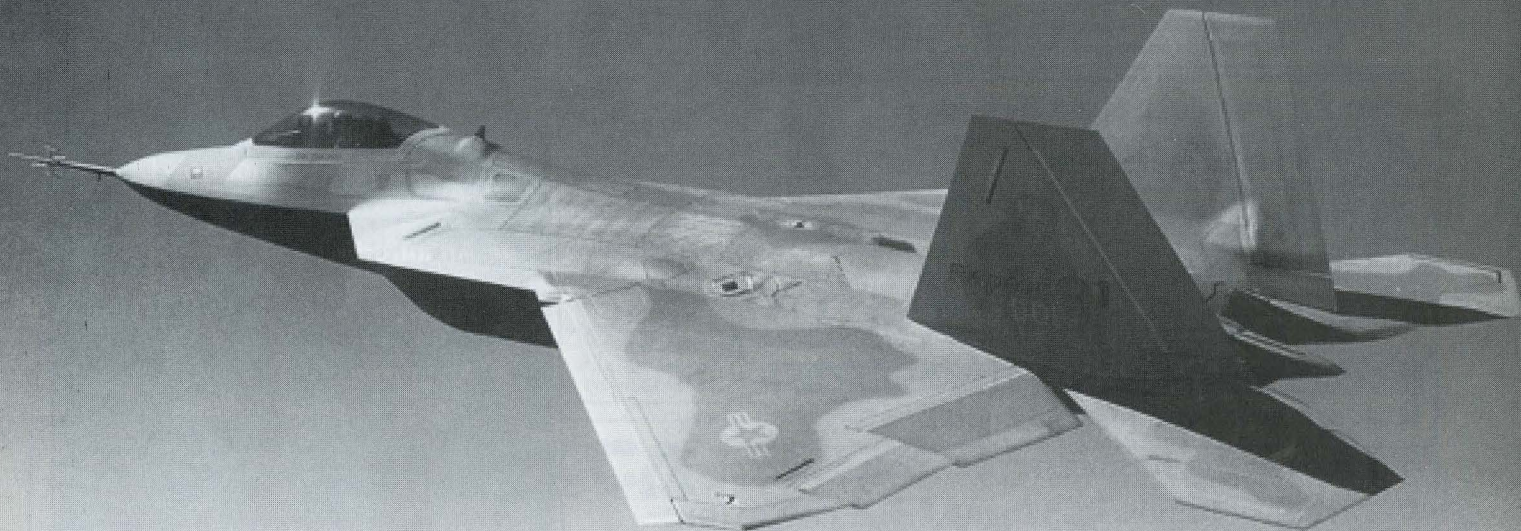
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TRACE Laboratories

**D.L.S. expands military capabilities to
include Mil-Std 461:462D at 200 V/m
up to 10 amps CS116**



D.L.S. Electronic Systems' newest addition is a large shield room 21' by 16' x 10' dedicated to Mil-Std 461/462. The room has an 8' x 7' entry allowing for easy access of large military equipment.

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Exceptional ability to solve problems

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