



**NORTHEAST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY (NICE)
2001 - 2002 Report**

**Conference of New England Governors
and Eastern Canadian Premiers**

August 2002

NORTHEAST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY (NICE)

2001 - 2002 Report to the

27th CONFERENCE OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS

Background

The Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) was established by the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in 1978 to monitor and act upon common energy issues in the New England-Eastern Canadian region.

Since its establishment, NICE has hosted more than a dozen roundtables and conferences on energy and published numerous energy reports. In recent years, NICE has been paying particular attention to significant developments in the areas of energy restructuring, natural gas developments, climate change, and resource and infrastructure development.

2001-2002 Report

At the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers held in Westbrook, Connecticut in August, 2001, two resolutions related to key energy issues were adopted. Resolution 26-2 was adopted mandating NICE to

- continue to continue to discuss and report back on key jurisdictional energy issues in the region
- co-operate in the organization of an energy conference in Saint John New Brunswick; and
- present a summary of the key issues and options for strategies discussed at the Saint John forum in a report to the 2002 annual meeting of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

Resolution 26-4 on Energy and the Environment accepted a new *Climate Change Action Plan* and directed NICE to work with the Committee on the Environment to

- address regional energy and environmental issues such as integrated approaches to energy reliability, fuel diversity, regional emission credit trading, energy conservation, and improved energy facility and transmission siting;
- form a Task Force of energy, environmental and other appropriate officials from state and provincial agencies to develop specific strategies and oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan; and to
- report on their progress to the next meeting of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

The NICE met twice since the 2001 resolutions were adopted. At the December 12th meeting in Montreal, Quebec, NICE

- exchanged information on jurisdictional energy issues;
- reviewed ISO New England's new Regional Transmission Expansion Project;
- discussed the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) new study on the trans-boundary impact of electric restructuring;
- provided input and direction for the May 2002 energy conference hosted by New Brunswick; and
- reviewed and NEG/ECP *Climate Change Action Plan* work plans and Products, and set priorities for the next year.

The NICE met a second time on June 27 and 28, 2002 in Montreal Quebec. The purpose of this meeting was to

- conduct a final review of the NEG/ECP *Climate Change Action Plan* work plans and products in conjunction with the Committee on the Environment;
- follow-up from the May 13 - 15 e21 Energy Forum held in New Brunswick; and
- develop a work-plan for NICE for the coming year.

2002-2003 Work Plan

The NICE recommends to the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers that the Conference directs is Northeast International Committee on Energy to:

- continue to exchange information on energy supply, demand and trade in the region;
- investigate new and renewable energy technologies and market opportunities;
- continue to work with the NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment to implement the NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan;
- work with the Atlantic Energy Ministers Forum and the New England Governors' Conference, Inc.'s Power Planning Committee to exchange information on common issues and interests;
- establish a working group to address the issues related to the synchronization of energy regulations in our region, as proposed at the e21 Energy Forum, held May 13-15 in Saint John, New Brunswick; and
- prepare a report, for submission at the next Conference of Governors and Premiers, on key jurisdictional energy issues and programs.