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Wednesday April 8th, 2015

UPSIDE ENGINEERING LTD. APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

Calgary, AB (April 7, 2015) – Chris Read, one of the owners and the current Vice President of Business Development and Marketing for Upside Engineering, is assuming the role of President of Upside Engineering effective immediately. Rod Evans will remain CEO of Upside Engineering and will be responsible for overall corporate strategy and governance.

Chris is a passionate leader and business executive with practical experience and formal education in the areas of: business development, marketing, sales, strategy and commercial operations for a diverse range of organizations. Chris holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Calgary and has attained a Professional Management Professional (PMP) designation from the Project Management Institute (PMI). He has worked in business development at Upside Engineering since 2006 and this is a natural step in his career at Upside Engineering.

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right person to lead the company forward," said Rod Evans, Chief Executive Officer. "He brings an energetic approach to the challenges ahead. Chris will be a president with the strong business acumen, deep commitment and excellent interpersonal skills that are required to lead in today's environment. He is a strategic thinker, excels at

customer relations and has a focus on excellence that will continue to keep Upside Engineering at the forefront as we operate in a challenging and exciting industry."

Calgary-based Upside Engineering is one of the leading engineering, procurement, and construction support companies in Western Canada, offering the full spectrum

of engineering and design services. Founded in 1989, the privately held firm has over 275 personnel and has designed a significant number of pipeline infrastructure and storage facilities in northern Alberta, the Edmonton and Hardisty oil storage hubs, and field gas and oil production facilities.

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- 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM SHOW HOURS**
- * 12:00 PM Awards Luncheon
- * 1:00 PM 2015 Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Recognition Awards
- * 7:00 PM BBQ Pit Roast Beef Dinner
- * 8:30 PM Opening Ceremonies & SE Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year Awards
- * 11:00 PM Grounds Closed

THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, 2015

- 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM SHOW HOURS**
- * 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM PSAC Barnstorming Breakfast
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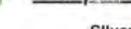
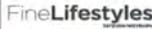
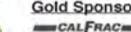
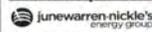


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IS A NEW GAS PIPELINE REALLY THE ANSWER TO HIGH ELECTRICITY COSTS?

National Grid customers read on the front page of the Gazette March 25 that electric rates will drop 26 percent as of May 1, pending DPU approval.

This is good news, given the long, cold and expensive winter. Spokeswoman Danielle Williamson explained: "It's not a shortage of natural gas that makes the price higher. It's pipeline capacity constrictions. There's enough natural gas, but in New England we don't have enough pipelines to get it into the area."

However, while electric rates rose

sharply in November and are about to drop substantially, she argues for a problematic "fix" to what appear to be seasonal problems.

It's a cruel irony that the Cape Wind project, expected to provide three-fourths of the electricity needs of the Cape and Islands, just lost required financing due to a lawsuit by Bill Koch and several other wealthy individuals. This project had been underway for 14 years and would have been the nation's first offshore wind farm. National Grid had signed an agreement to purchase 50 percent of the power produced, up to 1,500 gigawatt hours per year of clean nontoxic wind power.

Instead of this clean energy, however, we now are faced with the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP). It will carry fracked shale gas from gas fields in Pennsylvania, across New York, through Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin counties, and southern New Hampshire to the



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terminal hub in Dracut, near Boston.

This proposed pipeline surely would meet Williamson's requirements. While Gov. Charlie Baker has said he doesn't favor the Kinder Morgan plans, he has stated that he wants additional natural gas brought to the state.

Tennessee Gas is now seeking approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to lay a 36-inch diameter pipeline. It would carry up to 2.2 billion gallons of gas per day. This is an enormous quantity of gas, far more than needed here in Massachusetts. Indeed, once the gas reaches Dracut, it will connect with the Maritimes and Northeast pipelines crossing Maine.

An application recently was submitted to reverse the direction of flow through Maine to the Canadian Maritime provinces to two ports which just applied to switch from importing to exporting gas.

Apparently, as much as three-fourths of the gas in this project is headed for sale overseas, at a huge profit to this already wealthy company and its stockholders, a fact not widely known.

All the risks, however, and much of the costs, would be borne by residents along its path.

The pipeline will require a 50-foot right-of-way from Pennsylvania to Dracut, plus an additional 50 to 75 feet during construction. Tennessee Gas selects its route through farmland, forests, wetlands, state-protected conservation land and residential communities. It is very disrupting to residents and homeowners, with some properties taken by eminent domain and others losing much value. The pipeline will be a permanent blight on the landscape.

There is very little "natural" about this fracked shale natural gas. Hundreds of chemicals are forced into the pumping process, including carcinogens such as benzene and



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Fracked gas is packed into the pipeline under high pressure, making it more likely to leak on route. The chemicals can off-gas at compressor stations constructed to increase pressure and keep the gas moving; these compressors are extremely noisy and brightly lit day and night. Natural gas is methane, which like carbon dioxide is a powerful greenhouse gas, warming up the planet when leaked, and becoming carbon dioxide when burned.

Obviously, it is a myth that natural gas is a clean source of heat or power.

Existing gas pipelines are notorious

for leakage and rupture, even fires and explosions. Running across rural areas, there are so-called automatic shut-off valves up to 10 miles apart.

These can fail in severe weather (as in this long brutal winter), releasing toxic fumes, leaking and polluting soil and water and catching fire or exploding. Fire departments in rural areas are voluntary. Firefighters may not have the training or equipment, skills or knowledge to handle such incredibly dangerous situations.

Who knows how long the natural gas supply will last: Fifty years? Twenty? What will we do when it is gone?

What we need in Massachusetts, and nationwide, is to reduce

the need for all fossil fuels.

Solar panels and facilities are sprouting up everywhere, and we need more. We need to work together to save Cape Wind and to develop more projects like it.

Natural gas leaks account for substantial energy loss, yet gas companies are far more interested in building new (at greater profit) than fixing what exists.

We need to build smaller homes and to properly insulate every building people use. These steps would substantially reduce fossil fuel consumption and future energy needs, create an enormous workforce of skilled labor and

greatly benefit the economy.

FOSSIL FUELS DRIVE RAPID GLACIER LOSS ACROSS WESTERN CANADA, STUDY FINDS

Western Canadian glaciers, an ancient water bank that maintains stream flow for hydroelectric dams and salmon-bearing rivers, could shrink by 70 per cent by 2100.

The catastrophic loss of ice for Western Canada has major implications for the availability of drinkable water, the survival of fresh water fisheries, and the productivity of hydroelectric generation, finds a new study published in



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Nature Geoscience this week. Western Canadian glaciers, which occupy 26,700 square kilometres, have been retreating for several decades. The surface area covered by ice in the interior mountains declined 11 per cent between 1985 and 2005, and nearly 20 per cent in the eastern slopes of the Rockies.

"We are getting a big signal from the glaciers about what the climate is doing," said lead author Garry Clarke, professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia.

Using comprehensive modeling, which includes ice flow physics, the study found that rising temperatures caused by fossil fuel emissions will wipe out most glaciers in the interior of British Columbia and the Rocky Mountains of Alberta under most scenarios.

The Columbia Icefield, which waters both Banff and Jasper national parks, will disappear altogether by 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions are allowed to triple beyond current levels under what Clarke called "the bad guy" scenario.

"We won't see ice in the Rocky Mountain Parks. That would be a sad cultural loss and aesthetic loss for Canada," said Clarke.

If humans can restrain their fossil fuel spending and keep carbon dioxide emissions below 450 parts per million ("the good guy scenario," as Clarke puts it), and thereby prevent temperatures from rising more than two degrees, many glaciers will have a better chance of keeping their ice -- albeit in a diminished state.

"There is a reward to be reaped with low carbon constraints," said Clarke. But in order to slow the disappearance of glaciers and sustain others for future generations, society must radically reduce carbon emissions and maintain those reductions for the next 25 years, he said.

Without glaciers, many fresh water fisheries will go extinct. "Glaciers melt in late summer and keep mountain streams flowing and cold. That's one of the services we will lose," explained Clarke.

Retreating glaciers could also have a significant impact on the Columbia River, which "yields the largest hydroelectric production of any river in North America," he said.

Most of the rapid glacial decline will occur between 2020 and 2040, when the majority of glacial melt will run off into streams and rivers into the ocean.

In the study's modeling, only glaciers in northwestern B.C. along the Yukon and Alaska border manage to survive as a significant mass of ice by 2100 due to what Clarke calls "their height advantage."

In contrast, glaciers in the B.C. Interior and Rockies "will experience total or near-total losses of ice area and volume."

"The time to act is now if we want to defend glaciers" and their critical contribution to water systems in the Canadian West, added the 73-year-old Clarke who has studied glaciers since the 1960s. "The big uncertainty is how humans will behave."

Federal and provincial governments need to take a cold, hard look

at bitumen pipeline proposals, liquefied natural gas projects and shale gas mining, because all of these export-orientated projects are geared to "putting more CO2 into the atmosphere. We have to stop that," he said.

A 2014 ranking of 58 nations on how they have responded to the threat of climate change found that Canada "still shows no intention of moving forward with climate policy and therefore remains the worst performer of all industrialized countries."

German watch and Climate Action Network Europe, which conducted the ranking, found only

three countries ranked lower: Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan.

Canada is one of the world's 10 largest emitters of carbon dioxide, a club that includes China, the United States, Russia and Japan.

The global oil sector, which dominates motorized transportation, accounts for more than one-third of all reported greenhouse gas emissions.

FRACKING CRITICISM SPREADS, EVEN IN ALBERTA AND TEXAS

Canadian, U.S. studies raise

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concerns that chemicals used in process make people sick "It was beautiful up until fracking started," said Nielle Hawkwood.

Nielle and Howard Hawkwood say their ranch outside Cochrane, Alta., northwest of Calgary, hasn't been the same since 2009, when fracking began.

Water started tasting strange and cows began to die off in large numbers. Instead of an average of two to three cows per year, they were losing closer to 20. By the spring of 2011, Nielle Hawkwood noticed her hair falling out in clumps every spring.

They had their soil tested and found a three-fold increase in the amount of chlorine, nitrogen and phosphorus. The testing also showed a large increase in the concentration of strontium and uranium.

The Hawkwoods blame fracking.

Short for hydraulic fracturing, fracking is the process that pushes a mixture of chemicals and water into shale rock deep beneath Earth's surface, triggering fractures or cracks in shale in order to extract oil or gas. This chemical mixture is returned after the rock has been fractured.

In a March 2015 study in the Journal of Environmental Science and Health, researchers took six-hour average measurements of air pollution instead of the traditional 24-hour averages. They found pollution levels tend to spike at certain times of the day and under certain weather conditions, which previous studies had ignored.

The study found that the closer

people live to drilling sites and other gas production facilities, the more likely they are to exhibit symptoms of toxic exposure.

The study was based on observed conditions in Washington County, Pa., population 28,000, using emissions reports from nearby fracking sites and weather conditions over 14 months. The researchers also compared illness reports to the weather conditions and time of day.

They found that residents living in the area would have 300 toxic-level exposures, more than enough to account for the reported illnesses.

The most common health effects reported for residents living near fracking sites include shortness of breath, coughing, chronic fatigue and skin burning.

Another report last year by the Council of Canadian Academies on the environmental impacts of shale gas development states that the human health impacts have not been well studied. Fracking may "adversely affect water and air quality and community well-being," it says.

The Alberta Energy Regulator, which is responsible for enforcing industry policies, rejects claims that fracking affects human or animal health. The AER says hydraulic fracturing, in use in Alberta since the 1950s, is one of several well-established methods of recovering oil and gas.

But even in Texas, where Big Oil reigns supreme, there are concerns.

Last year, the Lubbock Board of Health released a report focusing on the human health impacts of

air and water pollution as a result of fracking. It found that volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, associated with fracking could be linked to increased rates of leukemia and possible fetal abnormalities.

VOCs, chemicals found naturally in oil and gas, are also used to fracture wells. They include benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene.

The report found at six sites, 15 of 17 measurements of benzene alone were exceeding the allowable limit of one part per million for 15 minutes of exposure. The wells

were giving off 200 times that.

Through examining more than 100,000 births between 1996 and 2009 in rural Colorado, the report concluded that babies born within a high concentration of wells saw a 30 per cent increase in congenital heart disease.

But even with such mounting scientific evidence, whistleblowers are made to pay, with time as well as money.

Howard and Nielle Hawkwood say their ranch outside Cochrane, Alta., northwest of Calgary, hasn't been the same since 2009 when



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fracking began. (Hans Asfeldt)

Jessica Ernst spent 30 years working in the oil and gas industry as an environmental specialist. In 2004, she documented what she calls non-compliance by Encana Corp., one of her former clients, with Alberta environmental regulations. She believes Encana knowingly injected chemicals into the drinking water in Rosebud, Alta., about 100 km northeast of Calgary.

Alberta regulators then sent a cease-and-desist letter to Ernst, accused her of making criminal threats against the regulator. She filed a lawsuit for what she alleges was a violation of her freedom-of-expression rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Now, Ernst is asking the Supreme Court of Canada to rule that the Alberta Court of Appeal was wrong last year when it found that the province's energy regulator is allowed to violate a citizen's fundamental freedoms. The Alberta government is opposing her.

Ernst says she has paid a heavy price to fight industry, using her retirement savings to pay legal bills that have soared past \$300,000.

In Cochrane, Alta., the Hawkwoods continue to fight against fracking. They have written letters to all levels of government, joined community and provincial groups to educate people on fracking and met industry representatives.

But they say their efforts may be too late. Nobody, they say, knows what long-term damage fracking might do.

BANK OF CANADA SURVEY SHOWS OIL DIMMING CORPORATE CONFIDENCE

Hiring intentions drop to lowest since 2009 in central bank's quarterly scan of big companies

The Bank of Canada says cheaper oil prices are hurting sales forecasts and starting to hit confidence in industries far beyond the energy sector.

In its quarterly Business Outlook Survey, the central bank surveyed 100 representative companies across various Canadian industries and found that broadly speaking, cheaper oil has reduced sales expectations and cut into confidence in doing things like investing in new equipment and machinery, and possibly hiring new staff.

"More businesses than in previous surveys anticipate an outright decline in sales volumes," the report said.

The survey interviewed business owners between the middle of February and the middle of March. The ongoing slump in oil prices had been underway for several months at that point, but it's worth noting that Monday's report is the first such survey since the central bank surprised markets with a rate cut at the end of January.

The survey "showed that firms are quite pessimistic about expanding their capacity over the next year," TD economist Leslie Preston said. "The oil price collapse is taking a toll on Canada's economy."

The Bank of Canada's quarterly

survey suggests that gloom in the oil patch is starting to spread into different parts of the overall economy, potentially affecting hiring and purchases of new equipment. (Todd Korol/Reuters)

Although it remains in a range the bank calls "positive," the outlook for hiring has dropped to its lowest level since 2009, when the world economy was in recession just about everywhere following the credit crisis.

Forty of the companies surveyed said they expect to hire more people in the next 12 months than they

did in the previous 12. Another 40 said they expect to hire the same amount, with the remaining 20 saying they expect to hire less.

If there's a source of strength, it's that the bank's report suggests companies with strong ties to the U.S. economy are more upbeat. The U.S. is benefiting more from cheap oil than most economies, because it is the most diverse economy on earth and cheaper energy is good news for virtually every other sector.

"Firms' outlook for the U.S. economy is generally strong, with the majority



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expecting this strength to support their future sales," the report says. Cheaper oil has also hurt the loonie, which exporters to the U.S. cited as another reason for cautious optimism about sales from here on out.

Several firms reported foreign demand had increased thanks to the weakened Canadian dollar, but "while many firms outside the energy sector characterize the effects of lower oil prices and the weaker Canadian dollar as favourable for their business outlook, they expect some of the benefits to unfold only gradually in the future," the report says.

SHELL-BG MEGAMERGER COULD IMPACT FATE OF MAJOR B.C. LNG PROJECTS

Two major liquefied natural gas export projects on British Columbia's coast face a more uncertain future with Royal Dutch Shell's proposed \$70-billion (U.S.) acquisition of BG Group.

A key issue if the deal, announced Wednesday, goes ahead is whether the merged company will proceed with its own B.C. LNG project as well as that of BG or cancel one or perhaps both.

In the current context of the looming global glut of LNG and slumping prices for oil and gas, many observers say it's unlikely most of the 19 LNG projects on the West Coast will get built.

Moody's Investors Service Inc. said on Tuesday that the "vast majority" of North American LNG projects face cancellation.

The energy sector is also under pressure to rein in spending in an environment of low oil and gas prices and overcapacity, and companies have been delaying or abandoning explorations and development projects.

Shell has estimated the cost of its proposed LNG export terminal in Kitimat at up to \$40-billion (Canadian). It owns 50 per cent of LNG Canada through its

subsidiary Shell Canada Energy. BG said late last year it was slowing work on its Prince Rupert LNG project, with an investment decision not in the cards until 2017 at the earliest.

Other major LNG players on the West Coast include Chevron Corp.-led Kitimat LNG and Petronas-led Pacific Northwest LNG.

Shell said on Wednesday the BG deal would give it enhanced prospects for new projects, particularly in Australia and Brazil.

It also said it wants to boost asset sales to \$30-billion (U.S.) from about \$6-billion between 2016 and 2018.

Shell is also active in Canada's oil sands and is the major owner and operator of the Carolina gas complex in southern Alberta as well as other gas fields, wells and processing plants.

Last month, the head of BG's Canadian operations, Madeline Whitaker, left to take on another position elsewhere in the British company's operations and was not replaced.

That move added to the uncertainty over B.C.'s fledgling LNG industry.

CHEVRON INTRODUCES NEW OIL FOR CANADIAN SEVERE-DUTY APPLICATIONS

Chevron has brought its new Delo 400 SD 15W-30 heavy-duty engine oil to Canada.

The oil is geared towards severe-duty applications and addresses major shifts in on- and off-highway applications, the company says.

"Whether north or south of the border, the increase in severe-duty operations is due to the same factors: changing driving habits on-highway, including shorter haul lengths, the growth in intermodal delivery, and more stop-and-go operations, while off-highway frequently cycles engines from load to no load," said Rommel Atienza, brand manager Americas marketing with Chevron Products Company.

"In just a few months, our US customers leading the deployment of Delo 400 SD SAE 15W-30 have reported benefits in downtime and engine performance. Given the range of operating conditions that heavy duty must deal with in Canada, we expect to bring the same benefits to fleets here as well."

Some of the trends necessitating the new oil include idling bans, increased traffic congestion and the towing of heavy loads on steep grades and cycling between fully loaded and unloaded. All these conditions can result in higher operating temperatures.

Benefits of the new oil include: greater protection in severe-duty applications; reduced downtime from exceptional oxidation stability and deposit control; and improved fuel economy over SAE 15W-40 oils (by up to 0.7% in Class 8 long-haul trucks).

LOOMING UTILITY THREATS: TERROR, CYBERCRIME, OIL SPILLS

Terrorism, cybercrime, and oil spills are among the top risks for water utilities this year.

Central Arkansas Water recently presented a study on its vulnerabilities to a board of the agency's commissioners, citing these areas as a few of its chief concerns.

Under state law, the report must remain private. It aims to uncover whether the utility is ready to face major weather events and terrorist attacks. The utility delivered its last risk report in 2004. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, prompted utilities to evaluate their risks, according to the news report.

Potential threats from the oil and gas industry are another reason why such reports are important. Utility CEO Graham Rich said that it was necessary to update the report after the 2013 Exxon pipeline disaster.

"Mobil's Pegasus pipeline burst and spilled an estimated 210,000 gallons of Canadian heavy crude oil. Experts believe it happened in part because the leaden crude from the Alberta tar sands erodes pipelines faster than the oil the U.S. is used to shipping: Bitumen is so thick, it has to be transported at higher pressures and temperatures, and it must be diluted with gas before it can flow, which can lead to violent pressure swings inside the pipeline," reported.

The spill leaked into the primary water source for around 400,000 Arkansas residents. "We said we have to look into updating this assessment because now we know there are new threats," Rich said, per the report.

Cyber security threats are another reason the report had to be updated.

"The types of threats change. As we become more sophisticated from a technology standpoint, there's a great chance of someone being able to disrupt service through what used to be a nontraditional way. Secondly, society changes; there are societal threats that are different, concerns that are different today than they were 20 or 30 years ago," Rich said.

The assessment took two years to complete. "The main thing they do is look at various risks posed to operations of a utility in fulfilling its mission - in this case, drinking water. It identifies recommendations to reduce or minimize those risks," said John Tynan, a public affairs director at the utility, per the report.

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AB	57	471	528	11%
SK	6	124	130	5%
BC	27	54	81	33%
MB	-	15	15	0%
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QC	-	1	1	0%
Canada	90	665	755	12%

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