

## Dear Hydro Industry Associate,

At this time in our industry, we are challenged to operate and maintain our hydroelectric assets in the most safe, environmentally responsible, and cost effective manner possible. Challenges include making prudent investments in aging infrastructure to maintain and enhance plant performance, and striving to develop, train and retain the best employees.

The Hydroelectric Productivity Committee (HPC) in the EUCG provides insight into the most recent developments in the Hydro industry. You can gain access to that information and become part of the network of professionals making the difference in the industry.

One of the committee's prime efforts is the annual collection of cost and performance data which serves to identify top performers and best practices. That in turn becomes a starting point for discussions of practices and common issues from which an educated understanding of realities emerges.

Cost and performance data is available for download to committee members who provide data through a private web site. This allows members to perform custom analyses to suit their own specific needs. Other issues, such as major equipment problems, staffing and safety issues are discussed as well. Twice a year, the HPC provides a forum for the exchange of information by organizing workshops.

In addition, a plant management symposium takes place every few years. These are usually held at a member hydro facility and are focused more on plant operations.

The committee invites your organization to participate as member in the EUCG. The current database has grown to encompass over 300 plants and over 70,000 megawatts of capacity. Many HPC members have continued their involvement for several years and find EUCG membership to be an extremely cost effective way to gain insight into the most recent developments in the Hydro industry.

Sincerely,

**Hydroelectric Productivity Committee**

## Vision & Mission

**EUCG, Inc.** A global association of utility professionals and member companies which is recognized as the electric energy industry source for performance information.

To assist member companies in achieving excellence by providing relevant, accurate and timely benchmark information on cost, performance and best practices.

## Hydroelectric Performance



## Working Together to Create the Future



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**EUCG, Inc.**  
Hydroelectric Productivity  
Committee



Visit [www.eucg.org](http://www.eucg.org)  
for membership  
rules, fees, and  
workshop  
information



## EUCG, INC.

### Historical Perspective Since 1973

International utility members make up EUCG, Inc. While the original EUCG mandate was strongly focused on the North American construction costs, it has been since expanded to include all business costs as well as performance and practices. Work on the Committees involves participation in the cost and performance databases, networking and benchmarking activities leading towards comparative assessments and identification of the most effective business practices in the industry.

The workshops are held twice per year, usually in March/April and September/October time frame. Each of the 5 committees (Hydroelectric, Nuclear, Fossil, Transmission and Distribution and Information Technology) runs its proceedings in a separate track. Participants usually attend proceedings of one or, sometimes two committees. However, utilities often send multiple representatives who then can cover more of the parallel tracks.

## Hydroelectric Productivity Committee (HPC)

In 2012, the Committee was comprised of 16 utility members from North America (13), Europe (2) and Africa (1). This represents more than 300 Hydro plants with a combined capacity of over 70,000 MW.

The HPC endeavors to provide comparative operating and maintenance performance information on hydroelectric facilities as well as member forums to discuss and optimize plant performance. The Committee operates on a “give-to-get” principle which requires all members to contribute data in order to receive compiled information. All information is strictly confidential and remains in the hands of owners/operators of Hydroelectric power plants.

HPC Objectives include:

- Maintaining and improving Hydroelectric Operating and Maintenance database which allows comparative analysis and performance information.
- Maintaining high standards of data quality
- Providing effective products that respond to needs of its members.

## Benefits of Membership

**Benchmarking**... is the main activity of the Committee. It is accomplished through:

- Annual cost and performance reports
- Web based access to database for standard and custom report
- Staffing and safety survey reports
- Ad hoc surveys run in response to member needs
- Discussions, presentations and networking opportunities at the spring and fall workshops.

## Database Advantage

HPC Database is managed by a third-party contractor who works for the Committee. A lot of effort is given to maintaining high data quality. Peer data audits are conducted regularly each year. It results not only in better data quality but also builds better understanding of cost structures and methodologies of cost reporting used by different utilities.

- Data quality is achieved through:
- Automatic data validity checks
- Peer data audit meetings
- Educated users (data audit meetings are the best learning experience)
- Continuous improvement of reporting standards
- Web access with quick turnaround time
- Centrally controlled web site and data security
- User-friendly interface that evolves with users’ needs
- Very, very low cost of service

## Best Practices

The two semi annual workshops held in spring and fall provide the opportunities to discuss issues and practices with peers. The sessions often link to numerical data, key performance indicators and allow for open and honest discussions of pros and cons of embarking on specific tactics. It is like an MBA class with the main difference being that participants average 15+ years of experience and generally ask more penetrating questions.

## Issues and Challenges

One of the key competitive advantages of being a member of the committee is the committee’s flexibility to address different topics and the speed with which one can obtain information directly from the source. Another, perhaps not immediately apparent, key competitive advantage is the fact that by being involved in production and audit of the information, committee members get much better feel for what the performance numbers really mean and what the trends and sensitivities to other parameters (e.g. scale of operations) are.

You can look at EUCG as an open channel to others who day-after-day face the same issues and challenges as you do. Take advantage of it and become part of that group.