



CANADIAN NIAGARA POWER INC.

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Company

## Media Release

# Installation of Smart Meters set to begin in Port Colborne

### ***For immediate release***

**[December 8, 2009] (Port Colborne, Ontario)** – Homes in Port Colborne are about to get “smarter” as Canadian Niagara Power Inc. (CNPI) prepares to launch a city-wide installation of new electricity meters designed to help residents manage their energy costs. The project to exchange existing residential meters with a “Smart Meter” in Port Colborne will begin in mid-December and is expected to be completed in March 2010. The Ministry of Energy has mandated that all residential and small businesses in Ontario will have a Smart Meter by 2010.

Existing meters measure the total amount of electricity used in a billing period and the cost of power is the same per kilowatt hour throughout the day. A Smart Meter will measure how much electricity is used on an hourly basis along with the time of day it was used.

Residents who have an outside meter will not need to be at home when the switch to the Smart Meter is done. If the meter is inside, a representative of CNPI will call to book an appointment. For the safety of the installation crew, there will be a short power interruption during the meter exchange. An information package on Smart Meters will be provided at each location; further information on the Smart Meter installation is also available at [www.cnpower.com](http://www.cnpower.com). Representatives of CNPI will carry CNPI-issued identification and will not be asking for your hydro bill. No contracts are required and the customer does not need to sign any documents.

The Smart Meter, along with the planned introduction of “time-of-use” electricity rates, will allow those customers not under an energy retail contract to better manage their energy costs. Under the “time-of-use” rate plan, the price of electricity will vary over each set period during a weekday, as well as during weekends and holidays, and from season to season. Non-retailer enrolled customers can take advantage of the lower rate periods to reduce their electricity bill. Conversely, customers will pay a higher rate for power used during peak periods. Until the “time of use” rate structure is implemented in Port Colborne in the spring of 2011, there will be no change to how electricity rates work and how Port Colborne residents are currently billed for electricity.

“Once Smart Meters and “time-of-use” rates are fully implemented in the spring of 2011, this will enable our customers to monitor their electricity usage on an hourly basis, which should provide more incentive to conserve energy during periods of peak demand,” said Bill Daley President & CEO, Canadian Niagara Power Inc.

CNPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of FortisOntario Inc. FortisOntario Inc. is headquartered in Fort Erie and has operations in electricity distribution and transmission and serves approximately 65,000 customers primarily located in Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Cornwall, Gananoque and the Algoma district of Ontario and meets a peak demand of 296 MW. FortisOntario is 100% owned by Fortis Inc. of St. John’s, Newfoundland. For more information on FortisOntario, please visit the corporate website at [www.fortisontario.com](http://www.fortisontario.com).

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