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Fourth Quarter Update on Conservation in Ontario powerWISE® REPORT CARD

TORONTO, March 14, 2006 – Six of Ontario's largest local electricity distribution companies, cooperatively delivering energy conservation programs under the powerWISE® name, are pleased to provide an update on activities during the fourth quarter of 2005. Through a combined investment of approximately \$10.5 million in the three-month period, the group continues to promote energy conservation in their respective service areas.

powerWISE is delivering over \$70 million in comprehensive electricity conservation programs over a three-year period. To date, the group has spent almost \$20 million on programs geared to helping customers conserve electricity.

Moving forward, the powerWISE members will continue to work with other organizations to deliver programs and incentives to customers. These groups include municipalities, local electricity distribution utilities, the Electricity Distributors Association (EDA), the Conservation Bureau of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), and the Ontario Government.

Michael Angemeer, president and CEO of Veridian Corporation is convinced that this collaboration and leadership across the province is necessary to begin changing the way Ontarians think and behave. "Together, we are going to do everything that can be done to achieve the province's conservation goals, and to ensure a healthy energy future in Ontario. That includes a critical look at our own electricity consumption practices."

Since December 2004, several programs have been introduced to customers. In the quarter ending December 31st, 2005, many of the programs launched previously continued and a number of new initiatives were introduced. These include:

- Code Green: the members agreed to sponsor a television series featuring homeowners competing against each other to determine who can achieve the greatest reduction in energy consumption and emissions. The series will begin airing on CBC and CBC Newsworld in late May;
- All members provided either incentives and/or exchanges for LED holiday lights in their respective areas;
- Hydro Ottawa launched their second "Fridge Bounty" program with an objective of removing an additional 1,000 old refrigerators from the electricity grid. In 2005, over 500 old refrigerators were reclaimed;
- Toronto Hydro announced an incentive of \$1.6 million to Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) that will reduce electricity demand in Toronto Community Housing properties by 10 megawatts (MW). The incentive will help replace 23,000 old refrigerators, stoves and washing machines with new Energy Star qualified appliances and retrofit 19 TCHC buildings with energy efficient lighting products, including building lighting, compact fluorescent light bulbs and light dimmers;
- Horizon Utilities issued a request for proposal to conduct energy audits at all four of its work centres;
- PowerStream sponsored a number of events at the Kortright Centre, including the Green Home Energy Show and an Energy Efficiency Lighting Strategies Seminar;
- Project Porchlight was introduced to Ottawa customers. Volunteers walked through Ottawa South neighbourhoods offering one free CFL bulb. Over 15,000 bulbs were hand delivered;
- Enersource partnered with Foodpath Community Foodbank to deliver LED holiday lights to over 400 residents;
- The powerWISE Business Incentive Program was introduced to help commercial and industrial customers. This program will give commercial and industrial customers with a

demand of over 50 kilowatts the opportunity to take advantage of financial incentives to reduce their peak load and reduce their overall energy bills;

- PowerStream introduced a program with local libraries where customers can borrow 'watt readers'. Watt readers allow people to plug in appliances and other household electrical items to see how much power they use;
- Fourteen community centres and ten individual residential units in Ottawa, owned by a non-profit housing organization, have been chosen to participate in the powerWISE Electric Avenue Program. This initiative will showcase energy efficient retrofit technologies as well load shifting initiatives; and
- Horizon Utilities hired a conservation specialist (Peter Ormond) to assist with program implementation

A number of educational and previously introduced initiatives are also continuing in many communities. These efforts include:

- Public appeals for energy conservation through advertising and media relations;
- peakSAVER, the first peak-shaving program whereby residential and commercial customers volunteer their air conditioning units for load control (on extremely hot days when electricity demand needs to be reduced.) In just 5 weeks, more than 2,000 Toronto Hydro customers had signed up for the program;
- The Safety Power program, a one megawatt (MW) pilot project for peak-shaving during critical demand days on system supply developed and implemented by PowerStream, Toromont Industries and the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA);
- Horizon Utilities' Social Housing Retrofit Pilot with Hamilton Housing Corporation;
- Conservation campaigns in libraries, malls, fairs, and other community events/venues;
- Customer engagement programs, such as contests, web and email communications;
- Billing inserts;
- Local advertising and fleet messaging;
- Presentations to city boards, industry groups, commissions and agencies;
- TAPS – a program in cooperation with ENBRIDGE to help customers identify ways to save money and conserve energy;
- Presentations and demonstrations focused on conservation and demand management at trade and industry shows;
- Smart Meter pilots: in total the powerWISE group has installed more than 11,000 smart meters.

powerWISE members Enersource Hydro Mississauga, Horizon Utilities Corporation, Hydro Ottawa Limited, PowerStream Inc., Toronto Hydro-Electric Limited and Veridian Connections will continue to deliver more new and innovative programs, and are fully committed to the goal of reducing demand and creating a culture of conservation in Ontario.

Visit www.powerwise.ca to learn how to conserve energy and save money.

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