

E7
1992 James Bay
Inaugural Summit

THE ENVIRONMENT, GLOBAL WARMING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY CHAIRPERSONS JOINT STATEMENT

Signed by the E7 Chairpersons on April 9, 1992



Note: The Joint Statement of the inaugural E7 Summit in 1992 was signed by seven of the Chairpersons only, as Southern California Edison joined the E7 in 1993.

THE SEVEN MAJOR ELECTRICITY COMPANIES (THE E7) HAVE RESOLVED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF GLOBAL WARMING. THEY BRING THEIR EXPERTISE TO THIS DEBATE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE DIAGNOSES, POOL THEIR ANALYSES, PROPOSE SOLUTIONS, AND IMPLEMENT THOSE SOLUTIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE.

CITIZENS OF THEIR OWN COUNTRIES

The major electrical companies signing this statement are active, responsible citizens of the countries in which they operate. To fulfil their respective mandates and public obligations, make available the electric energy that is needed to improve living standards, and expand the economic activities of their fellow citizens, these utilities have developed safe and efficient technical processes and made great efforts towards environmental protection. They make major decisions with due consideration of conflicting objectives and constraints. They consider the management of environmental protection among the highest of corporate priorities and a key determinant to continued development. In their own countries, with their own generating methods, these utilities supply energy at rates of efficiency they have increased considerably over the years, and which they steadily improve. In many instances, they go beyond the environment standards of their jurisdictions.

They pay particular attention to the development of renewable energy sources, the promotion of research and the choice of equipment that minimizes environmental impacts.

They will continue to advise their customers on how to use electrical energy efficiently and with moderation, while making clear electricity's many benefits for the environment, particularly at the point of use.

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

In view of the international debates and scientific advances of recent years, the E7 utilities are convinced that, despite remaining differences in scientific opinions, preventive measures are necessary at world levels to avoid deterioration of the climate and of the environment. Such measures require a common strategy.

All the world's countries legitimately desire to improve their living standards by developing electricity infrastructure. This desire will be fulfilled compatibly with the global environment if developed countries cooperate with each other and with developing countries on programmes of demand management, environmental protection and efficient supply.

The E7 companies believe that achieving optimal utilization of environmental resources requires greater technological transfer to developing countries. Future action plans should be applied to the areas where they can be most effective. A wider range of action plans is available than simple fiscal regulation; technological transfer is just an example of one such action plan.

As citizens of the world, in harmony with their respective national governments and related domestic and international organizations, the E7 companies strongly wish that the experience, competence, and know-how of their companies should serve more efficient generation and use of the world's electric energy.

CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

In view of these questions and issues, the heads of the major utilities signing this statement met on April 8 and 9, 1992 at James Bay, Québec, and adopted the following joint commitments.

They agree that, in order to be effective, all measures intended to mitigate the influence of electricity generation on the global environment must be suited to the economic, ecological, and technical possibilities of each region. In this context, an integrated energy management approach must be developed, on both demand and supply sides, aiming at efficient use of all renewable, hydro, nuclear, and fossil generation. Only this kind of approach can secure a sufficient and environmentally acceptable energy supply on a world scale, to respond to the energy needs of a growing world population.

Many criteria must be considered when developing an appropriate energy plan for any jurisdiction. Overall environmental impacts are key, but other criteria include a country's natural, financial, and technological resource base. By the criterion of global environmental warming alone, the technologies of demand management, nuclear, hydroelectric, and other renewable energies are important components for energy plans, where appropriate. Just as important, modern improvements in plant efficiency measures for fossil-fuel generation have made and will continue to make, significant impacts in reducing global warming.

The E7 companies are setting up a joint network of expertise which will improve cooperation between the E7 utilities and act as an ecological, technical, and industrial advisory group for supranational institutions and governments, especially in the developing countries. The E7 utilities would encourage international funding agencies to focus their investments on projects with minimized environmental impacts. They are convinced that, accompanied by parallel action by governments and supranational institutions to expand financial resources directed towards third world countries, this initiative should have a positive impact on the sustainable development of the world.

They will make this joint network available to developing countries to help them make their energy diagnoses and to propose projects to the international financing organizations. They will continue to develop their ideas in periodic meetings in order to seek ways of harmonizing sustainable development and environmental protection, including cooperation with their colleagues in developing countries.

SIGNED BY THE E7 CHAIRS:

Pierre Delaporte, Électricité de France, France
Franco Viezzoli, ENEL Spa, Italy
Richard Drouin, Hydro-Québec, Canada
Kiyoji Morii, Kansai Electric Power Company, Japan
Marc Eliesen, Ontario Hydro, Canada
Werner Hlubek, RWE AG, Germany
Gaishi Hiraiwa, Tokyo Electric Power Company, Japan