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For immediate release

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OEB hosts Canada's premier energy conference in Ottawa May 14-17

Toronto - The Ontario Energy Board is hosting the 2006 annual conference of the Canadian Association of Members of Public Utility Tribunals (CAMPUT) at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa from May 14 to 17. More than 400 guests will participate in the event.

Close to 50 guest speakers will debate the energy issues of the day in relation to the Conference theme "*Effective Energy Regulation in an Evolving Policy Environment.*" Speakers include the heads of national energy regulators in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Executives from Canada's leading energy companies, representatives of consumer groups and environmental organizations will also address the Conference.

The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Ontario Minister of Energy and John Dickson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy to Canada are among the key presenters speaking on Monday, May 14.

Other speakers on the first day of the Conference will include *Pierre Alvarez, President, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers; Richard B. Fadden, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada; and Murray Smith, Minister-Counsellor, Alberta Representative in the U.S.* who will take part in a discussion on the vision for the evolution of effective energy policy in a developing regulatory environment. The afternoon will be devoted to discussions on the vision for effective regulation across North America.

On Tuesday, May 16, the proceedings will focus on energy policy and regulation. The status of electricity restructuring, electric reliability standards and the need for new energy infrastructure will be main topics considered. Prominent political journalist and commentator Mike Duffy, the host of *Mike Duffy Live* and widely recognized as an "Ottawa insider," will share his views as he opens discussions in the afternoon.

On Wednesday morning, May 17, the Conference will wrap up with panel discussions on the link between environmental issues and regulations as well as discussions on ways to improve regulatory efficiency. Conversations will feature an exchange of views between regulators from various Canadian provinces and key sector stakeholders.

The major themes of the Conference will be:

- *Visions of Excellence in Energy Policy and Regulation;*
- *Energy Policy and Regulation in Action Today*
- *Energy Regulation - Real Issues Looking for Real Solutions*

Where: The Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa.

When: Conference begins 8:30 a.m., Monday, May 15 to noon, Wednesday, May 17.

The detailed Conference program is available at:

<http://www.camput.org/documents/2006-02-17CAMPUTFullProgram.pdf>.

The Conference is open to the media. Reporters are asked to register in advance by contacting *Events Services* at (905) 436-0375, by e-mail at conference@camput.org or at the Conference site (Confederation Ballroom).

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province's electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. It envisions a healthy and efficient energy sector with informed consumers, and works towards this vision through regulatory processes that are effective, fair and transparent.

For more information on the Board, please visit our Web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca or contact the Consumer Relations Centre at 416-314-2455 or toll-free at 1-877-632-2727.

- 30 -

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