

# Overview of PES Major Conferences and Site Selection

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## Major PES Conferences

- General Meeting
  - Occurs annually in late July in North America
  - Recent attendance near 2200
  - Sunday to Thursday pattern
  - No exhibits
- Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition
  - Occurs every other even year in April
  - Recent attendance near 13,000
  - Monday-to-Thursday pattern
  - Significant exhibits

## Major PES Conferences (cont'd)

- **Power Systems Conference and Exposition**
  - Occurs every other odd year in March/April
  - Recent attendance near 1300
  - Sunday to Wednesday pattern
  - 80 to 100 Exhibitors in 10x10 or 10x20 booths
- **Joint Technical Committee Meeting**
  - Occurs every year in mid-January
  - Recent attendance near 600
  - Monday to Friday pattern
  - No exhibitors
  - Handled totally by PES and Technical Committees, with no local support needed

## Recent Locations for Major PES Conferences

- **General Meeting**
  - 2003 – Toronto, ON, Canada
  - 2004 – Denver, CO, USA
  - 2005 – San Francisco, CA, USA
  - 2006 – Montreal QC, Canada
  - 2007 – Tampa, FL, USA
  - 2008 – Pittsburgh, PA, USA
  - 2009 – Calgary, AB, Canada
  - 2010 – Minneapolis, MN, USA
  - 2011 – Detroit, MI, USA
- **Power Systems Conference and Exposition**
  - 2004 – New York, NY, USA
  - 2006 – Atlanta, GA, USA
  - 2009 – Seattle, WA, USA

## Recent Locations for Major PES Conferences

- Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition
  - 1999 – New Orleans, LA, USA
  - 2001 – Atlanta, GA, USA
  - 2003 – Dallas, TX, USA
  - 2005/06 – Dallas, TX, USA
    - Originally planned for New Orleans
  - 2008 – Chicago, IL, USA
  - 2010 – New Orleans, LA, USA
- Joint Technical Committee Meeting
  - 2006 – Las Vegas, NV, USA
  - 2007 – Orlando, FL, USA
  - 2008 – San Antonio, TX, USA
  - 2009 – Atlanta, GA, USA
  - 2010 – Orlando, FL, USA
  - 2011 – Atlanta, GA, USA

## Other Major PES Conferences<sup>1</sup>

- ESMO (Held in North America)
- T&D Latin America (Held in Region 9)
- T&D Asia (Held in Region 10)
- PowerTech (Held in Region 8 – Europe)
- PowerCon (Held in Region 10)
- Power Africa (Held in Region 8)
- APEEC (Held in Region 10 – China)
- Sustainable Alternative Energy (Held in Region 8 – Europe, with IAS)
- Others

<sup>1</sup> Region indicated is the site location. All events have significant international attendance

## PES Technically Co-sponsored Conferences

- PES will technically co-sponsor conferences under the proper conditions
  - Good fit technically
  - No financial sponsorship
  - Publications are desired for IEEE XPLORE
- Generally, PES has technically co-sponsors approximately 15-20 conferences per year

## Challenges in Siting PES Conferences

- General Meeting
  - Need large number of peak-day parallel meeting rooms (qnty 60) ranging for 20-to-250 people, plus storage/office/etc.
  - Sunday to Thursday pattern atypical for hotel and convention center business. Makes it hard for them to sell the weekend after our event.
  - PES will no longer place a GM in a city where shuttle buses would be needed between meeting venues. We desire our space to be compact. PES tends to choose in-city locations, not “airport” or “suburb” locations based on historic attendee feedback.
  - PES likes to have a room rate under \$200 / night for the GM.
  - PES historically does not contract large sleeping room blocks or food & beverage in proportion to the amount of meeting space we need.
  - Our General Meeting has no exhibits. Conventions centers rarely contract lots of meeting space that we need unless there are significant exhibits, unless the meeting is close-in (18 months).
  - Presently no east/west or north/south pattern employed in site selection for placing GMs.
  - We are firm on our required dates (one of the last 2 weeks of July).
  - Need a location with a strong PES Chapter and willing Host Utility.

## Challenges in Siting PES Conferences

- **Power Systems Conference and Exposition**
  - PSCE is presently at a size and pattern where there are no significant challenges in siting this meeting at this time.
- **Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition**
  - Large amount of hotel sleeping rooms required.
  - Large amount of exhibit space is required.
  - Only a few cities can handle T&D, looking at a rotation pattern in the future between a handful of cities.
- **Joint Technical Committee Meeting**
  - Need large number of peak-day parallel meeting rooms (qnty 30) ranging for 10-to-150 people.
  - PES works to have a room rate no more than \$165 / night. Lower is better.
  - PES historically does not contract large sleeping room blocks or food & beverage in proportion to the amount of meeting space we need.

## Challenges in Siting PES Conferences

- In my experience, when it comes to site selection:
  - Placing a 75-person meeting (e.g. subcommittee) is totally different than:
  - Placing a 250-person meeting (e.g. Technical Committee) is totally different than:
  - Placing a 600-person meeting with a large meeting room requirement (e.g. JTCM) is totally different than:
  - Placing a 1300-person meeting with exhibits (e.g. PSCE) is totally different than:
  - Placing our 2200-person meeting with no exhibits and a large meeting room requirement (e.g. General Meeting) is totally different than:
  - Placing a 13000-person meeting centered around exhibits (e.g., T&D)
- Many items for meeting planning do scale (budgets, management, publications, etc.), but not site location.

## Summary on PES Conference Site Selection

- In reality, the PES conference site locations:
  - “Pick themselves” based on our restrictive siting requirements combined with the availability of our dates (recent examples for the GM include Pittsburgh and Minneapolis and recent examples for JTCM include San Antonio, Atlanta, and Orlando)
- or
- Are chosen because PES Chapter leadership in a city that can meet our restrictive siting requirements on our dates makes a strong case for PES to place a conference in their city (recent examples include Calgary and Detroit)

## A Few Other Conference or Meeting Department Practices

# PES Meetings Department Structure

- Headed by VP-Meeting, PES Governing Board
- Steering Committees (SC)
  - General Meeting SC
    - Being re-shaped in 2009
  - Power Systems Conference and Exposition SC
    - Since 2002
  - T&D Steering Committee SC
    - Formed in 2008
  - Joint Technical Committee Meeting SC
    - Being formed now between Meetings Dept and Tech Council
  - PES Co-sponsored Events
    - Formation and structure being discussed now
  - PES Technically Co-sponsored Events
    - Managed by PES volunteer for go/no-go decisions and being managed by PES Executive Office staff on compliance side (MOUs, Publications)

# Major PES Meetings - Who Does What

- Local Organizing Committee
  - General Chair
  - Budget Planning and Execution / Treasurer
  - Social Program / Companions-Partners Room
  - Technical Tours
  - Welcome Reception
  - Tutorials Onsite Logistics / Education Track
  - Volunteer Coordination
  - Student Activities Coordination with PEEC
  - Website
  - Host Utility Liaison
  - Financial Support (Local)
  - Other as needed

# Major PES Meetings - Who Does What

- PES and Contractors

- Site Selection, Hotel and Convention Center Contracts
- Conference Manager/Planner
  - Manages also AV, IT, F&B, Decorator, other
- Registration
- Housing (where applicable)
- Technical Program (TCPCs from the volunteer side)
- Publications
- Exhibit Management (where applicable)
- Global Promotion and Marketing
- Financial Support (Global)
- Major Tutorials (PEEC Life-Long Learning Committee)
- Major Student Activities (Housing, Poster Contest, Luncheon)
- Other as needed

Questions?

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