



TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE



August 25, 2007

Dear Committee Members and Guests:

You and your companion are invited to attend the Spring 2007 Meeting of the IEEE/PES Transformers Committee during October 14-18 and enjoy the land of 10,000 lakes and fabulous fall colors in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Your hosts, Xcel Energy and Sue and Paul McNelly, look forward to your visit.

Our meeting will take place at the Minneapolis Hilton, located in downtown Minneapolis and within easy walking distance from many fine restaurants, entertainment, theaters, shopping, and the Mississippi Riverwalk. The reduced group rate is US\$149 for single and double occupancy rooms. Guest rooms are reserved under the group name "IEEE Transformers" and can be reserved at 1-800-HILTONS or 612-376-1000. A link to the Hilton on-line reservation system is included in the Committee's website ("Next Meeting" page). The room-block cut-off date is Wednesday, September 19. After that date, remaining rooms will be released to the public. There are also a limited number of executive levels rooms available at a rate of US\$169.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul area is served by the Charles Lindberg International Airport (**airport code MSP**), which is only 30 minutes away from downtown Minneapolis and is a major hub for Northwest Airlines. There are several transportation options from the airport to the hotel. A SuperShuttle ride will cost US\$17 one-way, or the taxi fare one-way is ~US\$26-\$30. SuperShuttle tickets are available at the airport (advance reservation is not necessary). A third option is the Light Rail. Light rail goes directly from the airport to downtown Minneapolis (5th Street and Nicollet Mall), only 6 city blocks from the Hilton Hotel for a one-way ticket cost of US\$2. Hop on a city bus at the 5th Street and Nicollet Mall train stop and get to within one block of the hotel on 11th Street for just US\$0.50 more! For those who rent a car, the hotel offers self-parking in the adjacent garage at US\$12/day. Valet parking is also available.

The weather in mid October can vary greatly from day to day. We may experience unseasonably warm summer-like days or crisp cool fall days. A light jacket is a must and let's hope a warm coat will not be needed! Temperatures range from an average high of 58°F (15°C), to an average low of 39°F (4°C), but don't let that scare you away as we have had record highs of 90°F in October in recent years, so keep those fingers crossed! For days when temperatures may dip a little low for our Southern friends, there is always our great skyway system for getting around Minneapolis. A Skyway Map is available on the web site (bottom of "Next Meeting" page).

In addition to our meetings, we have also planned some great tours and outings to help you and your companions get the most out of your visit to the Twin Cities.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

We again have a full agenda planned for this meeting. Use the on-line registration system to register for all tours and events. The on-line registration system can be accessed at www.transformerscommittee.org.

Register by **September 19** to receive the early-registration discount. The on-line registration system will be completely disabled on **Wednesday, October 10** to print name badges and finalize counts. Please note that the cost for walk-up registration at the hotel is substantially higher than registering on-line in advance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, October 13 – We have reserved a block of tickets for the play “The Home Place” at the renowned Guthrie Theater. Transportation is on your own, but is a short 5-minute cab ride from the Hilton. We only have a small number of tickets so make your on-line meeting reservation by September 19.

The *Sunday Evening Reception* will be held in third-floor ballrooms of the Hilton. The reception will begin at 6:00 pm and is an excellent opportunity to visit with old friends and make some new friends. Entertainment will be provided by *The Back Alley Boys*, so bring your dancing shoes!.

Tuesday, October 16 - The speaker for the Tuesday Luncheon will be Wanda Reder, IEEE Power Engineering Society President-Elect and Vice President of Power Systems Services for S&C Electric Company. She will be discussing the Society goals, long-range plan, and introducing the Power Engineering Society Board. She will also be looking for feedback from the Committee especially in the areas of membership, employer support, meetings, and approaches for more efficient standards creation.

On *Tuesday evening*, we have again reserved a block of tickets for the play “The Home Place” at the renowned Guthrie Theater. Transportation is on your own, but is within a short 5-minute cab ride from the Hilton.

Wednesday, October 17 - Our Wednesday Evening Dinner Social will give you and your companion the opportunity to go way back in time and experience life in ancient Pompeii at a special Minnesota Science Museum exhibit, “A Day in Pompeii.” Enjoy a sit-down dinner overlooking the mighty Mississippi after you have had time to experience the exhibits.

COMPANION TOURS

Monday, October 15 - On Monday, your spouse/companion will get an opportunity to enjoy the Historic City of St. Paul. Start the morning with a fascinating and funny look at the gangland depression and prohibition era St. Paul, followed by lunch at the historic Forepaugh's Victorian mansion, then a tour of historic St. Paul's Summit Avenue and the Alexander Ramsey house.

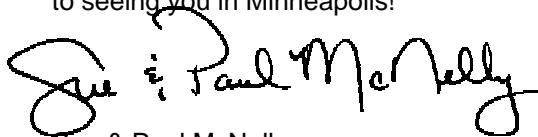
Tuesday, October 16 - On Tuesday you will see some of the sites Minneapolis has to offer. Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, follow Minnehaha Creek to the legendary Minnehaha Falls, visit the Mississippi River at St. Anthony Falls, the birthplace of Minneapolis, and the Stone Arch Bridge. **Afterwards enjoy** a delicious lunch at the Pracna on Main Restaurant and a tour the Mill City Museum.

TECHNICAL TOURS

Sunday, October 14 – Jordan Transformer Repair Facility Tour (by invitation only). Contact John Leemhuis at 952-492-2720 or johnl@jordantransformer.com for more information."

My husband, Paul, and I welcome you to Minneapolis and hope your visit will be enjoyable and memorable. If you require further information or assistance, please phone me at 612-330-6904, or email me at sjmcnelly@ieee.org.

If you listen closely during your visit, you may even hear the elusive call of the loon. We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!



Sue & Paul McNelly
Hosts, Fall 2007 Meeting