

Florida water shortage could open doors for Canada

Water and wastewater management in Florida offers significant potential for Canadian environmental firms. There is a critical shortage of potable water in Florida, with water use expected to increase by 30% by 2020. Some areas of the state may experience permanent drought as early as 2010. Additionally, there are fewer safe areas where treated wastewater can be stored, and alternative storage techniques are needed.

Florida's population of over 17 million relies heavily on groundwater for consumptive and industrial water supplies. With a predicted population of 20.7 million by 2025, the demands for potable water are increasing as Florida's water supply is progressively exhausted. To keep up, Florida's drinking water infrastructure will need an estimated \$5.2 billion in investments for repair and new developments over the next 20 years. The table illustrates Florida's budgetary priorities for water project funding.

Wastewater treatment and storage in Florida also needs an estimated \$8.4 billion in infrastructure investment over the next 15 years. Many counties in Florida use treated groundwater aquifer storage and recovery systems (ASR). In these systems, groundwater is sourced from underground aquifers by drilling deep wells. In periods of excess water supply, water can be pumped into the aquifer to be held for use during periods of drought and excess demand.

Many counties in the state also use underground wells to store treated wastewater. Following use and treatment, the wastewater is pumped into underground wells that can no longer be used to draw groundwater. The storage wells are increasingly in short supply, and new systems must be developed to handle Florida's wastewater.

The most significant project taking place in Florida is the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP). With an expected project life of 50 years, the plan is to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida at an estimated cost of \$16.1 billion. Opportunities may be available for a wide range of Canadian environmental products and services.

Canadian environmental firms may be able to supply wastewater treatment technologies to the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department. Due to concerns over the possibility of treated wastewater leaking into new wells, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Water Management District have suggested that the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department include in its plans the construction of a \$560-million waste-

water treatment plant. The treatment plant would pump drinkable quality wastewater into the unused wells, thus minimizing the risk from any leakage to the county's drinking water supply. Canadian innovation for water treatment techniques and equipment may be needed.

Potential wastewater supply contracts may also come from a \$25.2 million plan by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to construct wastewater infrastructure in the Florida Keys. Additionally, the 2004-2005 Florida State Budget has allocated \$14 million to Florida's five water management districts for surface water and stormwater improvement projects. The need for new techniques for water improvement may offer lucrative opportunities to Canadian environmental firms.

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Water Project Funding in Florida from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005

Program	1999-2004	2004-2005	Total
Everglades restoration	\$567.4 million	\$140.1 million	\$707.5 million
Grants to local governments & water management districts	\$456.0 million	\$53.2 million	\$509.2 million
Loans for clean water program	\$870.4 million	\$133.1 million	\$1003.5 million
Loans for drinking water program	\$280.2 million	\$63.0 million	\$343.2 million

Source: Florida E-Budget (2004)

Uranium mine development gets go ahead

In late December, Japan's Idemitsu Kosan and Tokyo Electric Power Corporation (Tepco), together with Canada's Cameco and France's Cogema, have given the green light to an investment of \$447 million to develop the Cigar Lake uranium mine in Northern Saskatchewan.

This will be the first time either Japanese firm will participate in an overseas uranium mine development project. Idemitsu expects to receive about 540 tons of uranium from the mine each year, which it plans to sell to domestic power companies. Tepco, which consumes about 3,000 tons of uranium annually for nuclear power generation, aims to secure a steady supply of nuclear fuel. Through the project, Tepco expects to procure 12% of this figure, or 350 tons, each year.

There are 52 nuclear reactors in Japan (12% of the world's 438 reactors), providing about 34% of the country's energy. They required 7,660 tons of uranium in 2004. With uranium reserves proven at 136,000 tons, Cigar Lake is viewed as one of the world's richest uranium mines. Once operational, the mine will produce 9,000 tons of uranium per year.

Three additional reactors are currently under construction in Japan and 12 more are planned over the next 11 years.

The decision to proceed follows a long-awaited approval by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to issue a construction license for the project.

Construction of mining facilities began in January, and the mine is expected to produce uranium over 15 years, starting in 2007. Plans to develop this mine had been stalled for two decades due primarily to environmental considerations.

Saskatoon-based Cameco has a 50.03% stake in the project, while Cogema has 37.1%, Idemitsu Kosan Co. 7.87%, and Tepco a 5.0% share.

In 2003, Japan imported \$40 million worth of yellow cake uranium from Canada, about 58% of total Japanese yellow cake imports. Some \$220 million of the enriched uranium that Japan imported originated from Canada, for a total of about \$260 million.

For more information, go to www.cameco.com. ❖

Make the link at Taiwan food show

TAIPEI, TAIWAN — June 16-19, 2005 — The Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is currently recruiting exhibitors for the Canadian pavilion at the **Taipei International Food Show**, one of Asia's biggest food industry shows.

With rising income levels and an affinity for Canada, Taiwan is becoming an increasingly important customer for Canadian food and beverage products. Perhaps surprisingly, Taiwan is Canada's number one customer for Canadian icewine.

Taiwan may be much smaller than China—it has a population of 23 million—but disposable income there is higher and consumers are developing a taste for western-style goods. Taiwan's GDP grew by 5.8% in 2004 and is forecast to expand by 4.3% in 2005.

Reaching out

There is increasing foreign investment in Taiwan's retail food sector. In fact, since hypermarkets, supermarkets and other modern outlets account for just 25% of consumer sales, opportunities for Canadian companies in this sector are plentiful.

Taiwan's agricultural imports have steadily increased since joining the WTO in 2002. For instance, Taiwan consumed

a record amount of Canadian pork products in 2004, becoming Canada's fifth-largest customer worldwide. Prior to a temporary ban, Taiwan was also Canada's fifth-largest

export market for beef. Canadian fish and seafood have also been popular in this market, and Taiwan recently removed its quota on poultry imports.

Other best-selling Canadian products include beverages, canola oil, snack foods, fruits and vegetables, confectionery, dairy products and a range of processed items. Health food products and organic products are also growing in popularity.



Get started

Accessing the Taiwan market is usually done through a local agent or distributor. However, the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei can help Canadian companies by introducing them to buyers or including new products in Canadian food promotions like the Canadian pavilion at the Taipei International Food Show.

For more information, contact Karen Huang, Senior Commercial Officer, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, e-mail: karen.huang@international.gc.ca, Web site: www.canada.org.tw/english/missions.php. ❖