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INTERNATIONAL POWER INSTITUTE

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QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

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International Power Institute
Quarterly Technical Report
for the period July - September, 1999

I. Venture into Central America

In line with our commitment to seek out electrification opportunities in developing countries worldwide, IPI began its exploration for these opportunities in Central America. In conjunction with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), we supported the trip of our consultant Mr. Robert Blenker, who along with Mr. Gene Gibson of the TVA visited five Central American countries in search of opportunities to install an Integrated Infrastructure Platform (IIP) to provide electric power, water and telecommunications to remote villages. The trip took place between June 21 and July 1, 1999. The team visited the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua. The trip was especially appropriate because of the major damage to Central American infrastructure caused by hurricane "Mitch". The trip was additionally appropriate because USAID had made available Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQC's) for providing rural agricultural infrastructure in Central America and we wanted the opportunity to respond to the program.

Conclusions from the trip were that Integrated Infrastructure Platforms are well-accepted concepts by government, private sector, and utilities. The best current opportunities are in Honduras and Nicaragua. Consequently, IPI is embarking on a subsequent trip to solidify our relationships with both private sector partners and government advocates with hopes of negotiating contracts with private sector representatives and memorandum of understanding (MOU's) with government officials. The trip will take place from October 18 through October 27, 1999 and Dr. Porter will represent the International Power Institute on this trip. A detailed trip report of the initial trip is attached.

II. Proposal to USAID

A second conclusion drawn from the Central American trip was that, although USAID had available IQC's for rural infrastructure development in Central America, the funding had to come from the country missions, who have committed most of their funds. Further, it was felt that there would be a long lag time for funding projects. Nevertheless, in order to get into the funding pipeline, IPI, as a subcontractor joined the team of TVIG, TVA and Chemonics and assisted in preparing a proposal for USAID. Chemonics held the Indefinite Quality Contract and thus, served as the instrument for submitting the proposal. The purpose of the proposal was to establish a framework to assess the potential of communities to benefit from the installation of IIP's and to encourage the private sector to invest in such projects. A copy of the proposal is enclosed. In the proposal, Morehouse's International Power Institute is developing and promoting the concept of using IIP's to enhance community income. If the proposal is accepted our staff and faculty will survey communities in Central America to determine their electrification needs, recommend appropriate generation systems for the communities of interest, develop the process flow diagrams for the electrification systems, and assess environmental impacts.

III. African Energy Conference

Because of the success we had last March in co-sponsoring, with the Pennwell Corporation, the Electrifying Africa '99 Conference and because of requests to repeat the effort in FY 2000, a small committee was established to determine the feasibility of holding a similar conference in West Africa during the first two weeks in September 2000. IPI believes that such a meeting would provide a strong follow-up to the African Energy Ministers Conference to be held in Tucson, Arizona, December 13 - 15, 1999.

In order to attract support for this conference, IPI hopes that the US Department of Energy, might serve as a co-sponsor, and the Secretary of Energy provide the keynote address. "Energizing Africa 2000" would be an appropriate title for such a conference.

IPI has made the suggestion to hold such a conference to D.O.E.'s Office of International Affairs with the conference in 2000 serving as a sequel to the Tucson, Arizona conference. Dr. Yaw Akoto, a committee member and one of the eight commissioners of the electric company of Ghana, suggested that Accra be the site of the meeting. IPI is proceeding to gain support for this meeting.

IV. Opportunities in Africa

Along with the Tennessee Valley Infrastructure Group (TVIG) IPI made contact with Sylvain Kakou, Head of Project Research in the Department of Economic and Financial Studies for the Government of Cote D'Ivoire. Through Mr. Kakou, the Minister of Energy sent a letter to the Trade and Development Administration (TDA) of the US Government suggesting support, through a TDA grant, to send a team, including members of TVIG and IPI, to Cote D'Ivoire to assess village communities that might be suitable sites for income enhancement through IIP's. TDA is currently reviewing the request. If the request is approved, the assessment team will include Mr. René Males, Vice President of our Advisory Board, and a student in our International Studies Department.