



# COGnissance



## Summer Is Here!

As we enter the 3rd quarter of 2017, Cognera finds itself busy expanding its footprint and diversifying its portfolio within the industry. Always looking for new opportunities, Cognera added some exciting projects into implementation in Q2.

With decisions still in motion as it relates to energy generation, capacity and RRO caps, the industry looks to still be in store for some interesting and unique changes.

In this issue, we will be discussing Cognera's acquisition of a new business unit and the suite of products it brings with it. We also update some of the things we are doing on the virus protection front to combat against the ever changing online threats. As well we highlight Cognera's upcoming involvement in the community.

Regulatory updates will once again provide important industry information about what is impacting billing and settlement in the Alberta market as well as provide the latest update on Government regulations and climate change initiatives.

As always, we encourage your feedback! So please feel free to email us at ([cognissance@cognera.com](mailto:cognissance@cognera.com)) with any comments, suggestions or topics you would like to hear more about.

- Randy Brookes, Senior Executive Vice President.

## In This Issue

- Regulatory Updates
- Excelergy Joins Cognera!
- Ransomware Protection Update
- Community Involvement
- Did you Know– Richard Cooper Retires!

*“As Cognera continues to expand its footprint in the market, we are open to new opportunities as well as expanding existing partnerships”*

- Randy Brookes, SEVP of Cognera



# Regulatory Updates

Q2 2017 picked up where Q1 left off on the regulatory front. Alberta Energy continues to move forward with Energy Efficiency Alberta, the AESO and other agencies on efficiency programs. Capacity generation discussions continue and details related to the RRO are emerging.

Please find below some highlights regarding key Alberta initiatives. As always, should you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call or email:

- **Rule 021/028** – As a follow up to the Q1 AUC meeting, the working groups that were created continue to discuss and gather recommendations. The groups were broken up into the following areas:
  - the Micro-Generation working group
  - the Update Customer Information transaction (UCI) working group
  - the Abandoned Oil and Gas Sites working group.
- **MSA RRO** – The Government of Alberta has requested that the Market Surveillance Administrator conduct an analysis and provide a report with options for enhancing the design of the RRO. Initial draft for consultation was published in June 2017 and can be found at the following location:
  - \* <http://albertamsa.ca/index.php?page=stakeholder-consultation-rro-review>
- **Bill 16** – As anticipated, an Act to Cap Regulated Electricity Rates was introduced to the Alberta Legislature last month. The enactment began June 1, 2017 and will run until May 31, 2021 at a rate of 6.8 cents per kWh. A draft of the bill with all its details can be found on the legislature website at:
  - \* [https://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=bills\\_status&selectbill=016&legl=29&session=3](https://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=bills_status&selectbill=016&legl=29&session=3)

For your convenience, please find below links for additional detail on continued market evolution:

<https://www.alberta.ca/electricity.aspx>

<https://www.aeso.ca/market/capacity-market-transition/>

<https://www.aeso.ca/market/renewable-electricity-program/>

<https://www.encyclopediaalberta.ca/>



# Cognera Welcomes its Newest Acquisition

In the last edition of Cognisance, we referenced how with change comes opportunity. Since the last newsletter, a great opportunity has presented itself to Cognera to broaden our footprint. In early June, Cognera completed the acquisition of Excelergy, and with it comes a powerful suite of licensed energy software products that serve many North American, European, and Asian markets, as well as a group of talented individuals who come with a great deal of experience in the Deregulated Energy space.

Based in Massachusetts, the suite of products includes:

- **RevenueManager** – a billing engine for both deregulated and regulated utilities
- **BusinessRunner** – a transaction software
- **HedgeDirect** – a prospecting and transaction management platform

This addition now grows the Cognera team to over 65 people, and Excelergy joins the Cognera suite of products, allowing us to offer you more choices in more markets of ready-built solutions with hosted offerings, Managed Services, or licensed software products. With an eye towards a more complete service offering that can fill a need for multiple types of customers in multiple markets, this move is another step in that direction.

We are excited about the days to come as we leverage and share our expertise with each other, and look forward to talking to you to explore how our products might fit your growth strategy.

## Did you know?

*After 12 years with Cognera, Director of Corporate Compliance, Richard Cooper calls it a career!*

As one of the first major hires here at Cognera, Richard became one of the key early contributors to the growth and success of the company.

Coming on originally in a consultant role in January of 2005, Dick as he is more commonly known, was convinced into full time employment later that year.

Richard's hard work, dedication and keen attention to detail will be greatly missed here at Cognera...

**Good Luck!**





## Ransomware and Other Threats

We continue to see increased coverage in the media of emerging threats to IT services with 2017 being on pace to see record numbers of breaches and malware attacks. Top of mind for many organizations is the increased threat of ransomware and the risks associated with this. In 2016, it was estimated that over \$1 billion dollars was paid out to attackers. WannaCry was the most recent variant of this, having had a global impact on hospitals, banks and telecommunications companies.

We take security of systems and data very seriously here at Cognera. There is no single method or system to ensure customer data is protected so we utilize a broad set of IT best practices and monitoring systems that allow us to be pro-active in the management of threats to our environment. For the WannaCry scenario, we had a plan in place within hours to understand where it may affect us and the process worked out to patch systems that presented this vulnerability.

Customers can rest easy knowing that we are actively monitoring and scanning our networks for vulnerabilities and are alerted of new threats early so we are able to quickly identify and prioritize patching of systems. If you would like to find out more or have us talk with your IT departments on what we are doing today to keep our systems protected, please do not hesitate to ask.

## Contact Us

We want to hear from you! Send us an email or give us a call for more information about our services and products.

**Note:** *If you do not wish to receive the Cognera newsletter please respond to this email address to be removed from the distribution list.*

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## In The Community

Following a quiet second quarter on the community front, Cognera enters a portion of its year that involves a number of important annual volunteer events.

Cognera will kick off July by sponsoring the 4th annual PBR Bull Bustin event in support of the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre.

Always an enjoyable event to kick off the Stampede here in the city, Cognera invites any of its clients and industry partners to come down and be part of this years success.

Early July will also see Cognera once again team up with Hearts & Hammers for Spring/Summer clean up. Always willing to lend a hand in the community, Cognera has enjoyed a great relationship with Hearts & Hammers over the past few years.