Direct Electric Utility Competition: The Natural Monopoly Myth

by Walter J Primeaux

As other industries, previously deemed natural monopolies, such as telecommunications, adjusted to the new reality of post-natural monopoly theory, the electric power industry and government regulators remained reluctant to concede that anything fundamental had changed. Movement toward a deregulated electric power system did not occur until the last decade of the twentieth century, and then it was undertaken haltingly and piecemeal. While the U.S. electric power industry and government regulators dithered, their counterparts in other countries, notably the U.K., were, by the late 1980s, embrac...