

Climate Times

ENE's Monthly Report from Eastern Canada

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NS Study to Explore Expanded Grid for RE

The Government of Nova Scotia is funding a \$300,000 study to assess options for strengthening the provincial transmission grid and interprovincial interconnections to allow for expanded clean energy resources.

The study, which is scheduled to be released in 2009, will also consider appropriate system operator options, including a single system operator in the region.

This announcement follows the Province's recently released energy

strategy in which it committed to increase Nova Scotia's Renewable Portfolio Standard for electricity to 25% by 2020. The government also committed to a Green Grid initiative that will expand the provincial transmission system and explore opportunities to work with other provinces to incorporate more intermittent resources.

A 2008 wind integration study found that transmission infrastructure would be a limiting factor in meeting post-2013 renewable

power targets in N.S. (wind capacity greater than 580 MW).

For more information:

Media Release:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20090212003>

Energy Strategy:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy/resources/spps/energy-strategy/Energy-Strategy-2009.pdf>

Wind Integration Study:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy/resources/EM/Wind/NS-Wind-Integration-Study-FINAL.pdf>

Obama, Harper Establish Clean Energy Dialogue

During President Obama's recent trip to Canada, Prime Minister Harper and the President established a senior-level U.S.-Canada Clean Energy Dialogue.

The intention is to cooperate to:

- Expand clean energy research and development;

- Develop and deploy Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies/projects;
- Build a cleaner, more efficient and reliable electricity grid by using smart grid technologies and incorporating more clean, renewable generation.

The Dialogue is expected to be launched shortly.

For more information, see:

<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=2432>

Annex to Clean Energy Dialogue media release:

<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=2433>

Lower Churchill Project Advancements

On February 17th Nalcor Energy, the provincial corporation charged with developing the Lower Churchill project, filed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the project's Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

The EA process for the 2,800 MW hydro-electric development is expected to be completed in 2010.

As part of the development process, Nalcor Energy has also issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) to six firms specializing in hydroelectric, transmission

and civil construction to determine interest in bidding for the project's engineering design work.

For more information on the recent Lower Churchill project advancements, see: <http://www.nalcorenergy.com/currentnews.asp>

Province Delays Hydro-Québec's Strategic Plan

The Government of Québec has requested Hydro-Québec take into consideration the new U.S. administration's mandate to promote clean energy and has given the utility an additional six months to update its strategic development plan.

The Province indicated it wants to be well

positioned to take advantage of the potential demand for renewable power this mandate may create - potentially shortening the timeline for bringing the Eastmain 1-A project (768 MW) on-line and developing the Romaine Complex (1,500 MW).

Prior to the recent provincial election,

Premier Charest has been promoting a "Great North Plan" to development 8,000 MW of new renewables by 2035.

Hydro-Québec is also working with NSTAR and Northeast Utilities to develop a transmission line from Québec to New Hampshire.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2009/02/03/mtl-hydro-obama-0203.html>

Ministers of Environment Discuss Cap & Trade

Provincial Ministers of the Environment met with their federal counterpart, the Hon. Jim Prentice, in the Yukon this month for a Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) meeting.

Among other issues, the Ministers discussed cap-and-trade and the potential for a North

American approach to regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In general, the provinces acknowledge the need to regulate GHGs and support discussions to develop a U.S.-Canada system, a proposal the Canadian federal government has begun pursuing since the U.S. election.

At the meeting, the federal Minister committed to consulting with the provinces in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and in future U.S.-Canada discussion regarding climate change.

A communique from the meeting is available at: <http://www.ccme.ca/about/communique/index.html?item=341>

NS Release GHG Regulations Discussion Paper

The Government of Nova Scotia has released a discussion paper on approaches to regulating GHG and air pollutant

emissions from the electricity sector. The government has said it establish a GHG cap for Nova Scotia Power Inc.

Public comments are due by March 31st.

<http://www.climatechange.gov.ns.ca/>

Climate Times

This monthly e-newsletter focuses on energy and climate-related news regarding legislation, regulations, Request for Proposals, government programs, private sector initiatives, and other relevant announcements from Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. It will also cover significant federal announcements and will occasionally reference actions from the U.S.-state side that impact provincial issues.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our regular news feed and to pass along information that ENE may include in future issues, contact Leslie Malone, Policy Associate – Canada, at lmalone@env-ne.org or 902-628-1493.



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ENE Releases NE Energy Trends Report

ENE has released a new report, *New England Energy Trends and Policy Solutions*, which contains the most up-to-date information on emissions and energy use in New England.

The report draws on ENE's database of emissions and energy data, which draws from publicly available federal and state sources.

By making this,

information easily accessible to the public ENE intends to identify energy and economic trends that will enable informed and accurate discussion of policy solutions that advance a clean, sustainable and economically productive energy system in the region.

Some highlights:

- ENE estimates that in 2007, New England states spent approximately \$35.7

billion on fossil fuels.

- From 2000-2007, fossil fuel spending has risen by 108%.
- States should implement policies that re-balance investment in energy resources by promoting investment in energy efficiency (see p 9 for all ENE policy priorities).

The report is available at: www.env-ne.org

Figure 1.5: New England Fossil Fuel Costs

