

Capacity additions in 1977 were 154 MW at Baie d'Espoir and 54 MW at Hardwoods substation near St. John's. Other additions committed were 150 MW at the Holyrood thermal plant for 1979 and a 75-MW hydro development at Hind's Lake for an in-service date of 1980. There was no new major transmission construction in 1977.

There was no new generation expansion in Newfoundland during 1978 and the only major transmission expansion was the completion of the 138-kV, 14 km line connecting the Hind's Lake hydro development (under construction) and the island network. A 230-kV transmission circuit between Holyrood and Hardwoods substation and a 138-kV line from Deer Lake to Rocky Harbour were deferred to 1981 from the original in-service date of 1979, primarily due to load forecast reductions and capital budget constraints.

Prince Edward Island

13.10.2

Electric power generation on-island is entirely dependent on oil. Increasing prices of this fuel have led to higher electricity costs. The submarine cable interconnection with New Brunswick in 1977 started to relieve the province's dependence on local small-scale oil-based generation by providing access to power supply from larger, more efficient fossil-fuelled plants and from nuclear generation on the mainland.

In 1978, 60% of the electricity was generated on-island while 40% was purchased from New Brunswick and transmitted by the 138-kV submarine cable installed in 1977. It is anticipated that future needs will be met in the short term by continuing firm power purchases from New Brunswick. It was expected that in late 1980 or early 1981, power would be available from the lease of a 5% entitlement from the Point Lepreau nuclear power station in New Brunswick. The nuclear entitlement is perceived as a firm power source with stable energy costs and considered to be a hedge against anticipated rising prices of petroleum fuel.

Maritime Electric acquired right-of-way for a transmission link between Bedeque (the island terminal of the submarine cable) and West Royalty, the main substation for the Charlottetown area, to accommodate a 138-kV transmission line expected to be in operation in May 1980.

Load growth in 1978 was considerably higher than in 1977 (nearly 6% compared to 1.6%) reflecting an unusually large increase in new customers and increased light industrial and agricultural consumption. The forecast annual load growth has been revised to 4% from 1980 onward (based on an annual load factor of 57%).

Nova Scotia

13.10.3

To reduce dependency on expensive imported oil, the Nova Scotia Power Corp. has intensified the focus on alternative sources of energy, coal and hydro. Studies were undertaken on the conversion of existing oil-fired stations to coal, and the introduction of coal/oil slurry techniques to maximize the use of coal in boilers designed for oil-firing. The Wreck Cove hydro peaking plant came on line in February 1978. Construction continued on the Lingan coal-fired plant with the first 150-MW unit scheduled to be put in service in 1979.

Work progressed on the installation of a 345-kV interprovincial tie with New Brunswick, together with a new 230-kV reinforcement network within the province to link major generating centres. The centre for the interprovincial grid and interconnection, a new substation at Onslow, would be the first in the province to operate at 345 kV and would permit a significant increase in power transfer capability. The federal government was providing 50% of the funding for the Onslow substation.

Unlike 1977, when electricity demand decreased by about 1%, demand growth in 1978 amounted to about 4% — still somewhat below forecasts. Future annual growth was estimated at 4.4%.

In August 1978 the Nova Scotia Public Utilities Board authorized the Nova Scotia Power Corp. to increase rates by 16% to 18%. However, the impact to the residential customer was reduced by a provincial subsidy, and during a three-year program, rate increases were to be indexed to the annual rise in the cost of living. This will mean greater government subsidies if the Public Utilities Board grants future rate increases