A decision was made in 1981 to proceed with plans for a $3.2 billion 618-MW hydro development at the Muskrat Falls site near Churchill Falls in Labrador, pending settlement of a contractual dispute affecting the Upper Churchill Falls. The governments of Newfoundland and Canada will be the shareholders in this project which includes a direct transmission link to the Island of Newfoundland.

In mid-1982, Alberta announced a two-year delay in its decision to participate in the western grid plans in order to evaluate its Slave River or alternatively, its Peace River project. The western grid would transmit electricity from Manitoba's 1 200 MW Limestone hydro plant to both Saskatchewan and Alberta.

11.9.5 Regional activities

Atlantic provinces. Provincial electrical energy demand in 1982 decreased by 3.7% in Newfoundland, by 1.3% in Prince Edward Island, by 2.8% in Nova Scotia and by 5.1% in New Brunswick.

Discussions over a second 680-MW nuclear unit at Point Lepreau, NB focus on the existence of export markets for that electricity. In 1982 Nova Scotia began commissioning small-scale hydro units.

Quebec. Provincial electrical energy demand fell by 2.5% in 1982. The last five 333-MW units were completed at La Grande Site 2 in 1981. The 266-MW nuclear unit at Gentilly II was tested for final approval in 1982.

Ontario electrical energy demand fell by 2.0% relative to 1981. In 1981, Ontario Hydro added a 150 MW-coal-fired unit to its Thunder Bay installation and six gas turbine units with a total generating capacity of 28 MW at Pickering B. Ontario utilities are commissioning several small-scale hydro units.

Prairies. Provincial energy demand increased in Manitoba because of colder weather during the 1982 winter months than in 1981 and in Alberta partly because of the increased use of electricity in pumping stations for pipelines. Electrical energy demand increased by 3.4% in Manitoba, by 0.2% in Saskatchewan and by 8.0% in Alberta. The Manitoba HVDC Research Centre (heavy voltage direct current) was established in 1982.

British Columbia. Electrical energy demand increased by 1.4% in 1982. The Peace Canyon hydro project was officially opened in 1981. In full production, this project will generate 3.5 terrawatt hours (million megawatt hours) annually — 7.6% of BC's domestic sales in 1982. The 2 000-MW Hat Creek project was indefinitely postponed in 1982. BC Hydro and BC Rail will co-operate in setting the infrastructure for North America's first electrified railroad as part of the northeast coal development.

The territories. For both Yukon and Northwest Territories, the 3% decrease in electricity demand was attributed to the effects of the recession on the international market for metals which in turn affected mining activity in the North.

Source

11.6 - 11.9 Energy Policy Co-ordination Branch, Energy Policy Analysis Sector, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (Co-ordinator, Paula Tissot); Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada (Co-ordinator, Don Wilson).

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