

ELECTRIC POWER

The U.S. and Canada have been trading electrical power since the first Niagara treaty was signed in 1909. A second, in 1950, provided for a four-fold increase in production.

Niagara still delivers, but its volume is now overshadowed by a massive flow of energy from huge new hydro plants in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. The installations at James Bay in Quebec are the largest and most productive in the world and are still expanding. Hydro-Quebec now supplies New England and New York with much of their electrical power and has signed new, long-term contracts with both recently. The other producing provinces also have American customers and the flow is often two-way. For example, the New York Power Authority, Hydro-Quebec and Ontario Hydro all share power produced by generators on the St. Lawrence River, and Hydro-Quebec and the New York Power Authority exchange electrical energy to meet peak demands.

A four-member operating committee does "all things necessary to ensure delivery and payments."



International Joint Commission

The Skagit River

Power and Controversy In the West

The swift, beautiful Skagit River rises in the mountains of southwestern British Columbia, cuts through the Cascades and empties into Puget Sound north of Seattle. Plans to flood a section of its valley to provide electric power for Seattle touched off a 14-year dispute between the government of British Columbia and the city. It was finally resolved in 1984 through the good offices of the International Joint Commission.

In the late 1920s, Seattle's municipally-owned power company, City Light, with agreement from British Columbia, built three dams and flooded some 500 acres of land in the province.

In 1942, it received permission from the IJC and British Columbia to raise the Ross Dam on the upper Skagit and flood an additional 4,720 acres in Canada.

After 25 years of negotiation the company and the province agreed on a schedule of annual payments by the company to run for 99 years.

However, environmental groups on both sides of the border launched a campaign against the flooding of the valley, and in 1972 a newly elected B.C. government repudiated the agreement and stopped accepting compensation payments.

The U.S. Federal Power Commission ruled in 1977 that construction of the dam addition could proceed and the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed. British Columbia appealed to the IJC, which dismissed the appeal but ordered Seattle to postpone construction and consider alternative power sources.

In 1984 Canada and the U.S. signed a treaty, which was supplemented by agreements between British Columbia and Seattle, and British Columbia and the Canadian government.

British Columbia agreed to supply Seattle with an average of 37.3 megawatts of electrical power from other sources, with peaks of 150 megawatts from April through October and of 572 megawatts (less the power produced by the Ross Dam) November through March.

Seattle City Light agreed not to add to the dam and to pay British Columbia (US)\$21,848,000 annually for 35 years, plus an annual operating fee for 80 years, which would begin at \$100,000 and be adjusted yearly.



Ross Dam and Lake

MARRIAGES OF CONVENIENCE

National governments sign treaties but the states, provinces, cities or towns are often the prime movers.

Some regional arrangements reflect national problems—New York and Quebec, New York and Ontario, and Minnesota and Ontario, have agreements on acid rain—but most are basically practical and economical solutions to the day-to-day problems of modern life.

Here are a few examples:

Derby Line, Vermont, and Rock Island, Quebec, share a sewage treatment plant. It is administered by a committee of three Canadians and three Americans and any unresolved disagreements are subject to binding arbitration.

The public health departments of

Maine and New Brunswick have coordinated emergency plans should there be an accident at the Point Lepreau nuclear plant in New Brunswick.

New Brunswick, Quebec, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont are members of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission. The border states and provinces, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Newfoundland, are members of the Canada-United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Resources.

The Northeast Deer Study Group includes 13 American states and Quebec, Ontario and the Maritime provinces.