

4. National and Regional Energy Policy

Energy policy is dictated in part by regional considerations of future requirements. In the Maritimes over the long future new electric energy probably will be supplied by hydroelectric, thermal (using coal and oil), tidal and nuclear power. In Québec, for the foreseeable future, electric energy will continue to be supplied by hydroelectric development. In Ontario, large thermal-electric stations using imported coal will be needed together with nuclear power plants using natural uranium from Ontario mines. Manitoba's requirements will be met mainly by hydroelectric development on the Nelson River. Saskatchewan and Alberta with their coal, oil, and gas deposits probably will develop thermal plants together with some hydroelectric development. British Columbia has many sufficiently attractive hydroelectric reserves and sites for the years ahead.

In addition to power developments which have taken place in Canada and the interconnection of some of those developments, there has been an increasing amount of coordination with utilities in the United States. In British Columbia both the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority and the West Kootenay Power and Light Company are members of the Northwest Power Pool, an organization which comprises more than 100 utilities and power agencies which are interconnected by the transmission lines of the Bonneville Power Administration. The cooperative operations of this power pool increase the dependability of the power supply of its members and provide power at the lowest possible cost. Such cooperative ventures should increase in the future as the power systems of the area grow.

The federal government, in cooperation with the provinces, has been active in the development of the country's energy resources. The National Energy Board, the Water Resources Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Dominion Coal Board and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited are responsible in large part, at the federal level, for keeping in close touch with energy reserves and power development in all its forms. Joint federal-provincial activities such as the Saint John River Board, Nelson River Programming Board, Federal-Provincial Working Committee on Long Distance Transmission, Resource Ministers' Council and Douglas Point Nuclear Station, are all contributing to secure orderly development of Canada's energy resources.

On 8 October 1963 the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced a National Power Policy in the House of Commons which embraced two essential concepts:

- (a) To encourage development of large low-cost power sources and to distribute the benefits thereof as widely as possible through interconnection between power systems in Canada, and
- (b) To encourage power exports and interconnection between Canadian and United States power systems where such might induce early development of Canadian power resources.