

Applications to the Board usually require a public hearing, at which time evidence for or against an application may be presented. Under normal circumstances, it takes 12 months for the NEB to process a major application for a certificate or license.

In the United States, the Federal Power Act (enacted in 1935), established the Federal Power Commission, which was given a regulatory role in the interstate transmission and wholesale marketing of electric power. This Act prohibited the exportation of energy from the United States to a foreign country without federal authorization. Any person wishing to export energy is first required to submit an application and, if necessary, attend a hearing before a federal licensing authority. Currently, the Economic Regulatory Administration of the Department of Energy exercises the regulatory mandate.

Regulatory control over the export of electric energy from both countries is ultimately the responsibility of the respective federal governments. Neither federal government exercises any control over the import of electric energy from foreign countries, although the Canadian National Energy Board considers imports when evaluating export applications.

C. Physical Constraints

Any substantial increase in Canadian exports would require new transmission line construction and reinforcement. In the United States, transmission construction takes capital funds away from much-needed generation prospects. The situation is aggravated by over-lapping regulatory jurisdictions and by the fact that transmission lines may have to cross neighbouring states which bear some of the environmental costs but receive none of the direct benefits of the imported power.

D. Environmental Obstacles

Increased exports would impact on the environmental. Environmental impacts are assessed as part of the regulatory process. An environmental impact