

Manitoba Hydro, U.S. company plan power line

Manitoba Hydro and Northern States Power Company of Minneapolis have signed a letter of intent which could lead to a major electrical interconnection between the two utilities.

The new letter of intent supersedes the agreement announced in May 1974, which envisaged the construction of two 500,000-volt transmission lines between Winnipeg and the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. A formal agreement is expected to be signed later this year, involving a single line.

The agreement, subject to the necessary government approvals, provides for the construction of about 500 miles of 500,000-volt transmission line between Winnipeg and a point near the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The new facility, including terminal stations, scheduled for completion by 1980, has an estimated cost of \$200 million, which will be shared.

Manitoba Hydro will make application to the National Energy Board for approval to proceed with the project.

Under the new agreement, Northern States Power Company would be able to purchase 200,000 kilowatts (200 megawatts) of generating capacity for 13 years beginning in 1980. The two utilities would also make available to each other an additional 300 megawatts on a seasonal basis. The line will also enable Northern States Power Company and Minnesota Power and Light Company of Duluth, U.S., to interchange additional power.

The new interconnection will enable both utilities to take maximum advantage of the seasonal diversity that exists between the two systems. While Manitoba Hydro needs maximum power during the winter months, Northern States Power experiences its greatest electrical demand during the summer.

The exchange of power on a seasonal basis will permit both utilities to alter and defer the construction schedules for additional generating facilities. The interconnection will also allow Manitoba Hydro to purchase power from the United States utilities in the event of prolonged low flows on its rivers. Manitoba Hydro is almost completely dependent on water power while the Northern States Power system uses

mostly thermal or nuclear power.

Manitoba Hydro has been connected to the United States grid since 1970; to date, revenue from the sale of surplus electricity over this interconnection has exceeded \$34 million.

In 1974, agreement was reached with Minnesota Power and Light Company of Duluth, for a 230,000-volt transmission line between Winnipeg and the Mesabi iron range area of north-eastern Minnesota. An application has been submitted to the National Energy Board for approval to proceed with this interconnection and construction is expected to commence this winter.

Manitoba Hydro also has under way a joint study with the Nebraska Public Power District to determine the feasibility of a Manitoba-Nebraska power line.

European flavour in Ontario

Ontario's Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is, perhaps, the closest thing on the North American continent to the one held in Munich, Germany.

And while Dijon, centre of the French vineyard district of Burgundy, stages perhaps the most celebrated wine festival in the world, Ontario also holds one each year in St. Catharines in the heart of the Niagara Peninsula's lush grape-growing country.

Niagara's 23,000 acres of vineyards, which produce 90 per cent of Canada's grape yield, will be at the peak of harvest throughout the festival.



Oktoberfest, Kitchener, Ontario.

Fisheries experts from China

The Minister of State for Fisheries, Roméo LeBlanc, announced the arrival in Canada on September 5 of a delegation of fisheries experts from the People's Republic of China as part of an exchange program between the two countries. The group of eight visited Ottawa and other regions of Canada during the following 18 days. A Canadian Government fisheries and marine delegation visited China in November-December last year.

The delegation was headed by Hsiao Feng, Director, Aquatic Products Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, one of the highest ranking Chinese officials to come to Canada under the series of exchanges initiated during the Prime Minister's visit to China in 1973.

The Canadian itinerary included Halifax, Ottawa, Burlington (Ontario), Winnipeg and Vancouver, with various stops along the way to visit federal fisheries and marine service institutions and other Canadian facilities.

Mackenzie Highway stalled

Construction on the Mackenzie Highway will proceed only to Mile 440 at Wrigley, Northwest Territories, under present economic conditions, but freed funds will be reallocated to other northern roads, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Judd Buchanan announced recently.

"We have not lost confidence in the road as a tool for northern development and as a means of improving the quality of life of the Mackenzie Valley inhabitants," Mr. Buchanan said. "We must, however, face economic realities. This slow-down in construction is due to escalating construction costs."

When the continuation of the highway north of Fort Simpson to Inuvik was announced in 1972, its cost was \$70 to \$100 million. It is now estimated at nearly \$300 million.

Some of the remaining funds designated for Mackenzie Highway construction will be reallocated to meet schedules on other road projects — completion of the Dempster Highway between Dawson and Inuvik and the Carcross-Skagway Road.

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