

While the Seaway development was in progress, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and the Power Authority of the State of New York completed works in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence to convert into electricity the energy represented by the rapids west of Cornwall. The Barnhart Island-Cornwall generating plants produce 840,000 kw in each country.

History of negotiations

Negotiations between Canada and the United States aimed at developing these twin resources of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes for the benefit of both countries began toward the end of the last century, though, as has been shown, piecemeal development of navigation by Canada in the Great Lakes basin had started centuries earlier. Power was first developed at Niagara at the turn of the century. In 1912, the Canadian Government decided to improve the Welland Canal to provide 27-foot depths with locks 800 feet long and 80 feet wide. Work began in 1913, was suspended during the First World War, and was finally completed at a cost of approximately \$132 million in 1932. In the same year, Canada and the United States signed the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway Treaty, which was to provide for the joint development of the resources in the Great Lakes basin in the interests of both navigation and power. In 1934, this treaty was rejected by the United States Senate.

After further studies, and impelled by the power needs created by war production, Canada and the United States signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Agreement in 1941, with the same object in view. This agreement, which, like its predecessor, was submitted to the United States Senate for approval, remained unratified up to 1949.

The 1941 agreement was intended, among other things, to permit the development, as a joint project, of the power resources latent at Niagara Falls, where, over the Falls alone, a 160-foot drop is available for the production of power. Since there was little prospect by 1949 that the agreement would be approved, a separate treaty was signed and ratified in 1950 setting forth the principles under which the water in the Niagara River could be turned into power by Canada and the United States.

At about the same time, the Canadian Government made it known that Canada was prepared to proceed with an "all-Canadian" waterway as far west as Lake Erie once the means had been found to have the power works constructed concurrently in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River. By December 1951, the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act and the International Rapids Power Development Act had been approved by the Canadian Parliament, the former authorizing the construction of navigation works on the