

Climate Times

ENE's Monthly Report from Eastern Canada

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Nova Scotia to Cap Emissions from Power Plants

The Government of Nova Scotia recently released its climate action plan, outlining how it will meet the province's legislated GHG emissions reduction target of 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 – approximately 5 Mt annually by 2020.

A key component of the plan is an absolute cap on Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) GHG emissions in 2010, 2015, and 2020. Details on the cap have yet to be released. NSPI accounts for almost 50% of the province's total emissions.

Nova Scotia has also committed to:

- Increase overall efficiency in the province by 20% over 2008 levels by 2020.
- Require that, by 2011, all commercial buildings exceed the 1997 Model National Energy Code for Buildings by 25%.
- Require residential and small commercial buildings to meet a performance or prescriptive standard equivalent to EnerGuide80 by 2010.
- Require all building projects that receive government funds to be certified at least LEED Silver.
- More aggressive appliance standards, updated every 3 years.

Nova Scotia also released an energy strategy which includes a commitment to increase the provincial RPS to 25% by 2020 and explore the most cost-effective options for meeting future electricity needs. The plan includes a strong focus on regional electricity system integration as well as off-and on-shore petroleum development.

The climate action plan and energy strategy are available at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy/energy-strategy/default.asp>

Point Lepreau Refurbishment Delayed

New Brunswick Power has announced that the \$1.4 billion refurbishment (including replacement energy costs) of the Point Lepreau nuclear power plant is 3-4 months behind schedule.

The delay is anticipated to result in additional costs of \$70-90 million, a significant portion of

which will be borne by ratepayers.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) is conducting the refurbishment of the CANDU 6 reactor. The plant was initially scheduled to be out of service from April 2008 to September 2009.

The refurbishment is expected to extend the life of the facility by 25-30 years.

Point Lepreau has a capacity of 680 MW and provides approximately 30% of the power consumed in New Brunswick in addition to exports to other jurisdictions.

Canadian 2009 Federal Budget Released

On January 27 the federal government released its 2009 budget/stimulus package.

The stimulus measures, worth approximately \$30 billion, include investment in infrastructure, tax cuts and some green stimulus.

With respect to energy, the budget included:

- \$1 billion over 5 years for clean energy research and development and commercialization. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is highlighted.

- Accelerated capital cost allowance for investment in CCS.
- \$300 million for energy efficiency through the federal ecoEnergy retrofit program.
- \$1 billion over 2 years for upgrades to social housing, some of which will be dedicated to energy efficiency.
- Home Renovation Tax Credit worth up to \$1,350 – includes some efficiency measures.
- \$351 million over one year for the nuclear

sector.

- \$407 million over 2 years for passenger rail.

Concerns have been raised over the lack of support for existing renewables. In particular, wind developers and environmental NGOs decried the absence of new money for the ecoEnergy Power Production incentive program (1 cent/kWh) which is currently fully subscribed.

The federal budget is available at:

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/home-accueil-eng.html>

Lower Churchill EA Updates

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's proposed Lower Churchill project is subject to both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and NFLD's *Environmental Protection Act*. As such, a Joint Review Panel has been established by the federal and provincial governments to conduct the environmental review.

The panel includes:

- Lesley Griffiths (co-chair)
- Herbert Clarke (co-chair)
- Dr. Meinhard Doelle
- Dr. Keith Chaulk
- James Igloliorte

The scope of the project to be assessed includes the Gull Island (2,000 MW) and Muskrat Falls (800 MW) generating stations as well as interconnecting transmission lines to the existing Labrador grid.

An Environmental Assessment process has been initiated by Nalcor Energy, the NL government's energy corporation, for a transmission line between Gull Island in Labrador and the island of Newfoundland. A decision is expected by March 19, 2009.

The proposed Labrador-Island Transmission Link is a 1,200 km HVDC line designed to deliver 800

MW of power to the island with the potential to deliver another 1,000 MW to the Maritime provinces.

Various market access routes have been discussed for Lower Churchill, including transmission through Québec and via sub-sea cable from Newfoundland to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.

For more information on the Lower Churchill EA process, see: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?cear_id=26178#documents

The transmission link EA, see: <http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/en/Env/EA%202001/Project%20Info/1407.htm>

Québec Caps Speed of Heavy-duty Trucks

As of January 1, 2009 all heavy-duty freight trucks using Québec roads will be required to set standard speed limiters at 105 km/hour (65 mph). Ontario has established the same requirement.

It is estimated that a reduction in speed from

70 mph to 65 mph can result in fuel savings of 6% in heavy freight trucks.

In a 2008 report, ENE estimated that annual fuel consumption and GHG emissions from heavy-duty freight trucks in the NE-EC region could be reduced by 13% through a

list of efficiency measures, including reducing speed limits.

ENE's report is available at: <http://www.env-ne.org/projects/open/p/id/475/state/Eastern%20Canadian%20Provinces>

Minas Basin Tidal Project Moving Forward

The Minas Basin Pulp and Paper company recently announced it has partnered with Marine Current Turbines, a UK-based company that develops tidal power technology.

This is the latest step in Minas Basin Pulp and Paper's construction of a 4 MW, grid-connected tidal demonstration facility in Nova Scotia.

In addition, Nova Scotia Power's technology

partner, OpenHydro, has issued a request for bids to construct the sub-sea platform for the turbines.

The project is expected to be on-line by spring 2010.

N.S., PEI Shuffle Cabinets

Environment and Energy Ministers in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have shifted portfolios after recent cabinet shuffles.

In Nova Scotia, the Hon. David Morse is the new Minister of Environment,

while the Hon. Mark Parent, who previously held that portfolio, moves to Agriculture. The Hon. Barry Barnett takes over as Minister of Energy as well as the Minister responsible for Conserve Nova Scotia. He replaces

the Hon. Richard Hurlburt.

In PEI, the new Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry is the Hon. Richard Brown. The Hon. George Webster moves from Environment to Agriculture.

New Report on Commercial Building EE

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) and Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) recently released a new report on energy efficiency in Canada's commercial

building sector.

Geared for Change is intended to inform decision-makers about GHG emissions reduction opportunities and policy paths available in the commercial building sector.

The report includes best practices from other jurisdictions.

The report is available at: <http://www.nrtee-trnee.com/eng/publication/commercial-buildings/commercial-buildings.php>

Climate Times

This monthly e-newsletter focuses on energy and climate-related news regarding legislation, regulations, Request for Proposals, government programs, private sector initiatives, and other relevant announcements from Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. It will also cover significant federal announcements and will occasionally reference actions from the U.S.-state side that impact provincial issues.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our regular news feed and to pass along information that ENE may include in future issues, contact Leslie Malone, Policy Associate – Canada, at lmalone@env-ne.org or 902-628-1493.



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