

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
NS – NB Transmission Enhancement

Emera and NB Power will explore possible transmission enhancement between NS, NB and Maine. This may include a second 345-kV intertie between Onslow in Colchester County, NS and New Brunswick.

The proposed connection would have a transmission capacity of up to 500 megawatts which, when added to the existing 300-megawatt connection, would more than double the transmission capacity between the two provinces.

Benefits of an enhanced transmission connection between NS and NB include:

- new construction jobs
- access to lower cost power imports
- increased system reliability
- reduced risk of Nova Scotia system isolation

Recent studies have supported the idea of transmission infrastructure enhancements in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, both for reliability and renewable development (2008 *Hatch Report*; 2009 *SNC Transmission Report*). The SNC-Lavalin Report stated a second intertie would “greatly enhance NSPI system reliability.”

A second intertie also supports renewable growth, with benefits such as:

- greater ability to integrate renewable energy like wind
- greater ability to balance wind generation from wider geographic area
- possible facilitation of development of Lower Churchill
- ability to export excess renewable energy
- more affordable, stable prices over the long run

A stronger regional grid supports Nova Scotia’s goal of 40 per cent renewable electricity by 2020.

Total Amount of Renewable Electricity Supply					
Pre-2001	End 2009	2011	2013	2015	2020
1100 GWh/yr	1300 GWh/yr	1700 GWh/yr	2300 GWh/yr	3000 GWh/yr	4800 GWh/yr
9%	11%	14%	19%	25%	40%

*2011 and future amounts forecast based on 12,000 GWh/yr of total provincial electricity sales.

Safeguards

- Any large-scale construction would require a provincial environmental assessment (EA), and may trigger a federal EA.
- Any project costs would require approval by the UARB to ensure the best interests of Nova Scotia ratepayers are protected.