

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Fossil Energy  
[Docket No. EA-82]

ORDER  
AUTHORIZING EXPORTS OF  
ELECTRIC ENERGY TO CANADA;  
JOINT OWNERS OF THE HIGHGATE PROJECT

BACKGROUND

On July 1, 1991, the Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO), acting as an agent for the Joint Owners of the Highgate Project <sup>1</sup> (Joint Owners), filed an application with the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to export electric energy to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act. Specifically, the Joint Owners have applied for authorization to transmit electric energy to Hydro-Quebec at a maximum rate of 200-megawatts (MW). The proposed export would be delivered to Hydro-Quebec over international transmission facilities known as the Highgate Interconnection Facilities. These facilities are owned by the Joint Owners and were authorized by Presidential Permit PP-82 issued by the DOE on April 14, 1985. The facilities consist of a 200-MW, back-to-back, AC-DC-AC converter terminal located in Highgate, Vermont,

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<sup>1</sup>The Joint Owners are eight Vermont electric utilities that jointly own facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-82. The Joint Owners are: Central Vermont Public Service Corp., Franklin Electric Light Co., Inc., Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, Green Mountain Power Corp., Vermont Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc., Village of Johnson Electric Light Department, Rochester Electric Light and Power Co., Inc., and the City of Burlington Electric Light Department.



and 7.5 miles of 345-kV transmission line (operated at 120-kV) extending from the Highgate converter terminal to the interconnection point with Hydro-Quebec on the U.S.-Canadian border at Franklin, Vermont. The terms and conditions of the sale of power and energy are set forth in the existing Interconnection Agreement between the Joint Owners and Hydro-Quebec which was filed with the subject application.

Notice of this application was placed in the Federal Register on May 5, 1992, (57 FR 19283) stating that any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to the application should file with the DOE comments, protests, or petitions to intervene in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 1.8 and 1.0) on or before June 4, 1992. No responses to this notice were received.

Because the proposed export will use existing electric transmission facilities, the DOE has determined that granting this authorization is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) and, therefore, an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment is not required. (See 40 CFR § 1508.4 and 57 F.R. 15122, April 24, 1992)

In support of this application, the applicant has submitted information demonstrating the impact of the proposed import on



the operation of the U.S. electric power supply system. After reviewing this and other relevant information, the DOE has determined that the issuance of the proposed export authorization would not have an adverse impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. A staff analysis in support of this conclusion has been made a part of the record in this proceeding.

FINDING:

Based on the information in the docket, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fuels Programs finds that:

- (1) the period for public comment in this proceeding was appropriate and adequate;
- (2) the proposed action would not constitute a major Federal action which could significantly affect the quality of the human environment; and,
- (3) the proposed transmission of electric energy from the United States to Canada as limited herein and as hereinafter authorized will not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States and will not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy.

ORDER:

Based on the above finding, it is hereby ordered that:

- (A) The Joint Owners are authorized to transmit electric energy

from the United States to Canada at a maximum rate of 200-MW as further limited by the following conditions:

1. The Joint Owners shall give advance notice of all export transactions to NEPEX and REMVEC Satellite.
2. The Joint Owners shall reduce or terminate the export, as necessary, to prevent adverse effects on the reliability and stability of the systems with which the Joint Owners are interconnected.
3. The Joint Owners shall adhere to the "Security-constrained Recommended Allowable Maximum Export" schedule as follows:

<u>Vermont Total Load (MW)</u>	<u>Security-constrained Recommended Allowable Maximum Export (MW)</u>
1000	0
900	40
800	90
700	125
600	150
500	170

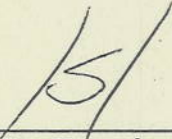
- (B) The electrical energy delivered under this export authorization shall be delivered to Hydro-Quebec over facilities known as the Highgate Interconnection Facilities which are owned by the Joint Owners and which have been authorized by Presidential Permit PP-82.
- (C) The authorization herein granted may be modified from time



to time or terminated by further order of the DOE, but in no event shall such authorization extend beyond the date of termination or expiration of the Presidential permit referred to in Paragraph (B) above.

- (D) The Joint Owners shall conduct all operations pursuant to the authorization hereby granted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Power Act and pertinent rules, regulations or orders adopted or issued by the DOE.
- (E) The Joint Owners shall make and preserve full and complete records with respect to the electrical energy exported to Canada.
- (F) The Joint Owners shall furnish a report to the DOE annually, on or before February 15, showing the gross amount of electricity delivered, the maximum rate of transmission, and the consideration received during each month of the calendar year.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on July 7, 1992.

  
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Charles F. Vacek  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Fuels Programs  
Office of Fossil Energy