

INFORMATION REQUEST TO HQ BY NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO (NLH)

Reference #1. In paragraph 55 of D-2013-145 the Board agreed to hear the parties comments related to HQT's compliance with decision D-2012-010 with respect to Attachment K of the OATT.

Reference #2. HQ's PowerPoint Presentation on the Process of Information Exchange and Discussion on Hydro-Québec's Transmission System Planning (Appendix of the "Suivi administratif" in the Report of the Transmission Provider to the Régie de l'énergie on the meeting June 7, 2013) a copy of which is filed with this question

Reference #3. HQT-12, Document 6, p. 173. Attachment K, Information and Discussion Process on Transmission System Planning:

The Transmission Provider shall implement a process for information and discussion on its Transmission System planning with all of its Customers. The purpose of this process is to enable a better understanding of the methods used by the Transmission Provider and to ensure greater transparency in its Transmission System planning development. The information and discussion process shall include annual meetings held with openness and transparency toward all Customers through the exchange of information fostering the elaboration of solutions consistent with optimal development of the Transmission System.

The Transmission Provider shall report annually to the Régie on meetings held as part of this process.

[We underline]

Questions:

1. Slide #'s 36 and 40 refer to two main components of the system – the main transmission system and the regional systems. In this regard, please advise:
 - a) What methods ("method" as it appears in attachment K) will be used by HQ to communicate to stakeholders the planning cycle for the main system?
 - b) What is the planning cycle for the main system?
 - c) What methods will be used by HQ to communicate to stakeholders the specific dates which are critical for the exchange of information?
 - d) Are there specific dates which are critical for the exchange of information to ensure that the milestones of the planning cycle can be met?
 - e) What methods will be used by HQ to communicate to stakeholders the specific dates which system studies must be completed?
 - f) Are there specific dates by which system studies must be completed?

- g) How will transmission customers, neighboring systems and interested stakeholders be notified of these dates? (ie. OASIS or email?)
2. Slide # 56 indicates that planning is conducted in an open manner and lists a number of processes such as the HQ strategic plan, the ten year planning process at the Régie, filings with the Régie, BAPE etc.

These processes appear to provide venues for engagement after studies have been completed and projects have been identified. The purpose of the Attachment K process is to ensure early input and engagement with interested stakeholders.

Accordingly, NLH requests further information with respect to:

- a) What process (“process” as it appears in attachment K) are in place or planned for engagement early in the planning process to permit input and consideration of transmission customer requirements during the initial phases of the planning process i.e. before studies are undertaken in relation to the transmission requirements of the Strategic Plan? Please explain.
 - b) What process will be used by HQ to ensure the input regarding transmission system needs, customer requirements or other factors that may require planning assessment be made available to stakeholders, including input from HQ’s planning department, its affiliates, or stakeholders? Please explain.
3. In reference to slide # 44, step one of the four step process refers to “planning studies to identify an optimal solution in response to a customer’s request or to a problem raised” and slide # 56 refers to “exploratory studies”. NLH would appreciate further information with respect to these planning and exploratory studies.
- a) What methods will be used by HQ to communicate to stakeholders the issues raised above (slides #44 and #56)?
 - b) Are studies requested by transmission customers (other than point to point service requests) included in this four step process i.e. economic planning studies? Please explain.
 - c) Will transmission customers be permitted to request studies for potential system additions or upgrades? Please explain.
 - d) Will there be a process for identifying high priority studies? Please explain.
 - e) What method will be used to select the transmission studies that will be undertaken? Please explain.
 - f) What will be the processes for stakeholder involvement in the study process and sharing of the study results? Please explain.
 - g) What will be the mechanism for recovering the cost of these studies? Please explain.

4. Slides # 30-36 outline certain design principles and system criteria. Please advise as to the method(s) that HQ will use to disclose the basic methodology, criteria, assumptions, processes and data used to develop transmission plans, along with the software and analytical tools used in the planning process.
5. Slide # 27 refers to the Distributor's needs for local load, and slide # 53 refers to demand growth, please advise:
 - a) What method will be used to communicate native load assumptions to stakeholders?
 - b) What form will the data take (i.e. by individual substation peak or by coincident peak)?
 - c) What method will be used to communicate the quantity and location of resources assigned to serve native load?
 - d) Will this information exchange be part of the planning process covered under Attachment K?
 - e) What processes will be in place that would enable transmission customers to replicate the results of the planning studies?
6. Slide # 45 refers to defining customer needs and identifying the optimal solution in response to those needs. With respect to the needs of point to point service customers:
 - a) What obligations and opportunities will customers have to submit data in the planning process? Please explain.
 - b) What methods or guidelines will be provided for use by point to point customers to communicate the needs of these customers to HQ, in order for these needs to be incorporated in the planning process? Please explain.
 - c) What data will be required? For example, capacity requirements at PORs and PODs, for potential re-directs in the future? Please explain.
7. There were no details in the presentation regarding regional participation and coordination with interconnected systems. In this regard, please clarify the following:
 - a) What is the geographic scope of HQ's planning region?
 - b) How will the planning interests of NLH or other interconnected stakeholders be incorporated into HQ's planning coordination?
 - c) Will information from regional and inter-regional planning processes with other jurisdictions, such as ISO-NE, or Ontario be incorporated into HQ's planning process? If so, how?

- d) As part of the exchange of information process to be established can such information reflected in current plan(s) be shared with stakeholders?
8. At the transmission planning meeting NLH raised the possibility of establishing a process for collaboration on potential grid development in the Québec / Labrador border region to meet mining and resource development projects in the area.
- a) Could HQ comment on this possibility and could HQ explain which process would be applicable?
9. During the meeting, a presentation was provided on three interconnection projects currently in the planning process, the Hertel – New York Line, the Des Cantons- New Hampshire Line and the Saint- Césaire- Bedford line. In relation to this presentation please advise the following:
- a) Are these the only interconnection projects under consideration in HQ’s planning horizons? Please explain.
 - b) How are uncertainties with respect to siting considerations and approval in the neighboring control area incorporated into the planning process? Please explain.
10. There are no references in the presentation to the study of the export capability from Québec on the Québec-Labrador (HQT-LAB) interconnection. Currently, and since at least 2009, the export Total Transfer Capability (TTC) and Available Transfer Capability (ATC) for this interconnection is posted as nil. Please confirm:
- a) When will be the next review of ATC on the HQT- LAB path?
 - b) What process will be in place to conduct this study and what process is in place, or will be in place, for the exchange of this information?
11. We recognize the importance of maintaining confidentiality and security over transmission system data.
- a) What types of data are considered confidential and what data will be CEII?
 - b) What process will be in place for participants to share their own confidential data and, in such instances, how will HQ ensure the maintenance of such confidential data?