

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT PP-76
AUTHORIZING
THE VERMONT ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION COMPANY
TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES ACROSS
THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

BACKGROUND

On December 11, 1981, the Vermont Electric Transmission Company (VETCO) filed an application with the Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential Permit pursuant to Executive Order No. 10485, as amended by Executive Order No. 12038. VETCO requested authority to construct and maintain facilities at the international border between the United States and Canada, for the transmission of electric energy between the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL), an association of New England utilities, and Hydro-Quebec, a public agency of the Province of Quebec. The proposed transmission line will be used to transmit hydroelectric energy produced in Canada to electric customers in the New England area.

DOE issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) on February 10, 1984.

After a review of appropriate data, the Administrator of the Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) concluded on

August 26, 1983, that the operation of the proposed transmission line would not impair or reduce the reliability of the U. S. electrical bulk power supply system. Details of this determination have been made part of the permanent docket file.

The Secretary of State by letter dated March 6, 1984, and the Secretary of Defense by letter dated March 8, 1984, have recommended that the Presidential Permit be granted. Upon consideration of this matter, the Administrator of ERA finds that the issuance of this Presidential Permit, as provided hereafter, is appropriate and consistent with the public interest.

AUTHORIZATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 10485, as amended by Executive Order No. 12038, and the Rules and Regulations thereunder (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.320 et seq.), permission hereby is granted to VETCO to construct, connect, operate and maintain at the international border of the United States and Canada, one ± 450 kV, direct current transmission line as further described in Article 2 below, upon the following conditions:

Article 1. The facilities herein described shall be subject all conditions, provisions and requirements of this Permit.

This Permit may be modified or revoked by the President of the United States without notice, or by the Department of Energy after public notice, and may be amended by the Department of Energy after proper application thereto.

Article 2. The facilities covered by and subject to this Permit shall include the following facilities, and all supporting structures within the right-of-way occupied by such facilities:

One direct current, bipolar, overhead transmission line with a design voltage of $\pm 450,000$ volts. The permitted line will extend approximately 59.5 miles from the U. S.-Canadian international border in the town of Norton, Vermont, to a dc/ac converter station located at the existing Comerford generating station in the town of Monroe, New Hampshire. The facilities authorized by this Permit include the said transmission line and the converter station at the Comerford generating station.

These facilities are more specifically shown and described in the application filed by VETCO on December 11, 1981.

Article 3. The facilities described in Article 2 will be designed and operated in accordance with the applicable criteria established by the Northeast Power Coordinating Council, and consistent with those of the North American Electric Reliability Council. Furthermore, the proposed

facilities will be operated under the following conditions and limitations:

1. The facilities described in Article 2 normally shall be operated such that the maximum electrical power entering the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) system through the proposed international interconnection shall be 690,000 kilowatts (KW). However, when required for operational purposes, the applicant may import as much as 725,000 KW of electrical power for periods of time not to exceed 6 hours per day.
2. Upon completion by the applicant of appropriate power flow and stability studies designed to demonstrate the operation of the NEPOOL system up to 775,000 KW, and acceptance of the results of these studies by the Administrator of ERA, the facilities described in Article 2 may be operated normally at a maximum power level of 725,000 KW.
3. After completion of the studies described in subparagraph 2 above, and upon determination by the applicant that an emergency exists in either its system or in the Hydro Quebec system, the facilities described in Article 2 may be operated up to its emergency rating of 775,000 KW for a period of time consistent with the definition of the emergency rating. If such an emergency situation occurs, VETCO shall submit to DOE a detailed description of the event which initiated

the emergency not later than thirty (30) days after such an occurrence.

Article 4. No substantial change shall be made in the facilities covered by this Permit or in the authorized operation of these facilities unless such change shall have been approved by DOE. Furthermore, any changes in the power purchase or interconnection agreements affecting the permitted line shall be reported to the DOE at least 60 days prior to such action.

Article 5. VETCO or its agent shall at all times maintain the facilities covered by this Permit in a satisfactory condition such that all requirements of the National Electric Safety Code in effect at the time of construction are fully met.

Article 6. The operation and maintenance of the facilities covered by this Permit shall be subject to the inspection and approval of a properly designated representative of the DOE, who shall be an authorized representative of the United States for such purposes. VETCO shall allow officers or employees of the United States with written authorization free and unrestricted access into, through and across any lands occupied by these facilities in the performance of their duties.

Article 7. VETCO shall investigate any complaints from nearby residents of radio or television interference identifiably caused by the operation of the facilities covered by this

Permit. VETCO shall take appropriate action as necessary to mitigate such situations. Complaints from individuals residing within one-half mile of the center of the transmission circuit are the only ones which must be resolved. VETCO shall maintain written records of all complaints received and of the corrective actions taken.

Article 8. The United States shall not be responsible or liable: for damages to or loss of the property of, or injuries to, persons; for damages to, or loss of the facilities covered by this Permit; or for damages to, or loss of the property of, or injuries to the person of VETCO's officers, agents, servants or employees, or of others who may be on said premises; any of which may arise from or be incident to the exercise of the privileges granted herein; and VETCO shall hold the United States harmless from any and all such claims.

Article 9. VETCO shall arrange for the installation and maintenance of appropriate metering equipment to record permanently the hourly flow of all electric energy transmitted between the United States and Canada over the facilities authorized herein. VETCO shall prepare, maintain and preserve complete and accurate records concerning the transfer of such electric energy; and shall furnish to DOE an annual report which will be due on or before February 15th of each year, detailing the transmission of such electric energy, as follows: (1) the gross amount of kilowatt-hours of electric energy received or delivered; (2) the maximum hourly rate of

transmission in kilowatts; and (3) the consideration paid or received for such energy during each month of the preceding calendar year.

Article 10. Neither this Permit nor the facilities covered by this Permit, or any part thereof, shall be transferable or assignable, except in the event of the involuntary transfer of the facilities by the operation of law. In the case of such an involuntary transfer, this Permit shall continue in effect for a period of sixty days and then shall terminate unless an application for a new Permit pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.323, has been received by DOE. Upon receipt by DOE of such an application, this existing Permit shall continue in effect pending a decision on the new application. During this decision period, the facilities authorized herein shall remain substantially the same as before the transfer.

Article 11. Upon the termination, revocation or surrender of this Permit, the \pm 450 kV dc electric transmission circuit, which is owned, connected, operated and maintained by VETCO and described in Article 2 of this Permit, shall be removed within such time as DOE may specify and at the expense of VETCO. If VETCO fails to remove such facilities or any portion thereof authorized by this Permit, DOE may direct that such actions be taken for the removal of the facilities or the restoration of same at the expense of VETCO. VETCO

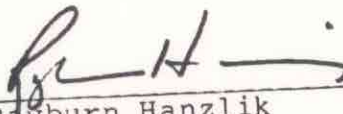
shall have no claim for damages by reason of such possession, removal or repair. However, upon a showing by the relevant owner that certain facilities authorized herein, such as portions of its rights-of-way or the transmission line within the United States, are useful to other utility operations within the bounds of the United States, the DOE will not require that those facilities be removed and the land restored to its original condition upon termination of the international interconnection.

Article 12. An FEIS (DOE/EIS-0103) entitled "New England/Hydro Quebec + 450 kV Direct Current Transmission Line Interconnection" was produced as a condition to granting this Permit. To the maximum extent practical and reasonable, the recommended mitigation measures specified in Section 4.3 of EIS-0103, as they apply to the corridor and facilities described in Article 2, are hereby incorporated into the terms and conditions of this Permit. The environmental impacts therein examined were based upon the operation of these facilities at their full design limits of the conductor rather than at the lower operational level as specified in Article 3. However, the environmental implications of additional physical facilities and corridors that may be required in other parts of the system for continuous operation in excess of the limits specified in Article 2 were not examined. In the event the Permit holder requests operation above the level specified in Article 3, DOE will examine the environmental implications of such a

requested change on facilities required beyond the boundaries of those described in Article 2 as part of any requested amendment to the Permit conditions.

Article 13. This Permit shall be valid upon receipt by DOE of the Testimony of Acceptance properly executed.

In Witness Whereof, I, Rayburn Hanzlik, Administrator, Economic Regulatory Administration, hereunto sign my name, this 5th day of April, 1984, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia.



Rayburn Hanzlik
Administrator
Economic Regulatory Administration