

Hydroelectric Power

"Sufficient information is available to evaluate the Hydroelectric Power interest. New studies or additional data collection are not required"



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How do water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River relate to Hydroelectric Power Interests?

The levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River have dual impacts on the hydroelectric interests. Primarily, the levels on Lake Ontario dictate the outflows as determined in the Plan of Regulation. Secondly, the levels of Lake St. Lawrence are the headwater for the Moses-Saunders Power Plant near Massena/Cornwall. Higher Lake St. Lawrence levels increase the head and therefore increase the output of generation, and conversely, lower Lake St. Lawrence levels lower the head thereby reducing generation. The flow in the St. Lawrence River provides the source of water used for hydroelectric developments near Cornwall/Massena operated by Ontario Power Generation and New York Power Authority, and near Montreal by Hyrdo Quebec. Together, these facilities have the potential to generate approximately 3,000 megawatts.

Why was the Hydroelectric Power Technical Working Group (TWG) created?

The Plan of Regulation directly impacts the operations of the hydroelectric power entities. It is, in fact, a product of the 1952 Order of Approval, which authorized construction of the seaway and power projects at Massena/Cornwall. The Hydropower TWG was created to provide input to the Study Board related to the Plan of Regulation, and to evaluate the impact of proposed changes thereto, concerning hydropower issues.

What are the Group's goals for the Study?

The Hydropower TWG has identified plan criteria for consideration by the study board that will attempt to maximize megawatts; maximize the dollar value of megawatts; assure flow predictability and stability; and provide flexibility for ice management within the framework of the Plan of Regulation. The Hydropower TWG also desires to increase awareness of the benefits to the environment and the economy of clean, low-cost hydropower and to minimize negative impacts that may arise from proposed changes to the regulation plan.

How will the Group achieve these goals?

The Hydropower TWG will try to achieve its goals by actively participating in the development of recommendations and supporting the study board and its various sub-groups.

What are the Group's Year Two and Three Objectives?

The Hydroelectric Power Technical Working Group has completed a white paper providing general information about the facilities and operations of the hydropower entities in both the International and Canadian portions of the St. Lawrence River. The white paper also discusses ice management and issues associated with the development of competitive electricity markets in both the United States and Canada. A series of appendices addressing additional issues related to power generation, initially prepared for other purposes, was also provided.

Links of Interest and Resources

[New York Independent System Operator](#)

[The Independent Electricity Market Operator](#)

[Ontario Power Generation](#)

[New York Power Authority](#)

[Hydro-Québec](#)