



Q & A DOCUMENT

New Brunswick / Nova Scotia Transmission Reliability Project

September 2023

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GENERAL PROJECT

1. Why is this project needed?

This project will assist NB Power to meet the federal governments reduction target for the electricity sector to achieve net zero by 2035.

To help address climate change challenges, including mitigation (overall reduction in GHG emissions in the region) and adaptation (strengthening the transmission connection between NB and NS to ensure increased reliability and resiliency to a changing climate). The project will help to facilitate the phasing out of carbon emitting generation and make more clean energy available to customers throughout the Atlantic region.

A new 345 kV line from Salisbury to Nova Scotia is a step toward enabling secure bi-directional energy flows between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia which will be essential as more clean energy projects come online in both provinces in the years ahead.

2. How does New Brunswick benefit from this project – can energy flow both ways?

The project could result in a variety of future benefits to New Brunswick, including:

- Becoming a key infrastructure component to assist New Brunswick and the overall Atlantic region in achieving climate change objectives and targets, phasing out of carbon emitting generation, and promoting renewable energy generation in the region
- strengthening the transmission connection between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, ensuring increased reliability and resiliency
- resulting in job and other economic opportunities in the region, such as local jobs for contractors in New Brunswick
- demonstrating how provinces can cooperatively work together to proactively address climate change challenges facing us all

It is difficult to predict what the region's energy make-up will be years from now. Energy could flow towards New Brunswick on the same line, depending on conditions and availability of energy. Think of this project like the twinning of highways in both provinces has helped move people and goods through the region with greater ease. A second transmission line will accomplish the same in moving energy – clean energy.

3. How much will the project cost?

Currently there are ongoing efforts to perform estimates to determine the project costs.

4. Who is paying for the work?

A development agreement is currently being worked on with Nova Scotia Power.

5. Is this related to or part of the Atlantic Loop – if so, how much money is the federal government contributing?

The overall scope of the Atlantic Loop initiative has not yet been finalized, and ultimately would include one or more projects within New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. The NB/NS Reliability Transmission Line Project is a stand-alone project which is required to ensure the reliability of the connection between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Should the Atlantic Loop initiative move forward and federal funding is made available, the project would be a key component of the overall Atlantic Loop initiative to allow the transmission of renewable energy into the region to offset coal.

Although it is understood that discussions are ongoing at the federal level, to-date the amount of federal funding that would be contributed has not been confirmed.

6. Has the planning included First Nations involvement?

Discussions have been held throughout the early phases of this project with First Nations as well as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, and environmental agencies, (provincially and federally). Those discussions continue. In addition, First Nation input during ongoing project planning and involvement during the Environmental Impact Assessment review process will help to ensure that any project-specific impacts to First Nations are identified and addressed.

Engineering and Construction

7. Why not put wires on the existing transmission towers and poles?

For the new powerline to serve as a backup to the existing powerline (and allow for reduction of energy produced by carbon emitting generation and similar benefits), it must be supported on its own towers.

With both powerlines on one or more common towers, the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC Home Page) considers this arrangement as a single powerline. For the two powerlines to be considered as independent, the powerlines need to be supported on separate towers.

8. Will it create local jobs for contractors in New Brunswick or will they come from Nova Scotia?

Workers and contractors on the project, should it come to fruition, would be chosen based on price and expertise, and it is anticipated that this would include jobs and other economic opportunities in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. At NB Power, local procurement and hiring local contractors is always top-of-mind and best practice wherever possible.

9. How long will the project take?

If this project goes forward, the goal is to have this newly proposed 345 kV transmission line from Salisbury, New Brunswick, to Onslow, Nova Scotia in service by late 2027.

Environmental

10. What is being done to protect wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas along the route?

Field studies are currently being conducted to collect existing environmental information in the overall project area. Studies are conducted by trained environmental experts and engineers, and we also have observers on hand from Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. (M.T.I.) and NB Power's First Nations Field Monitor. Once collected, this information will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment process required for the project which focuses on addressing any potentially

significant project-related environmental impacts (i.e., through avoidance or development of mitigation and/or compensation requirements).

11. Is an EIA required and if so, how long does that process take? What about the Energy and Utilities Board – do they have to approve it?

If the project is deemed feasible, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) registration and review would be required before the project could proceed. The EIA process generally takes a minimum of 90-120 days assuming all consultation requirements are completed, and potentially significant project-related impacts are addressed.

Energy and Utilities Board engagement will depend on the development agreement with Nova Scotia Power and financial structure of the project.

12. What are the electric and magnetic fields from powerlines?

NB Power's transmission and distribution lines are built to industry standards and use very conservative factors. For example, the calculated electric fields for the proposed new line one meter above the ground at the edge of the right of way are less than half of that required in IEEE standard C95.6-2002, as noted by Electricity Canada (formerly the Canadian Electricity Association).

It should be noted that both electric and magnetic fields (EMF) decline rapidly with distance from the source, such as a powerline.

The new proposed transmission line will be built to ensure that the EMF levels outside of the right of way are below the limits deemed acceptable for the public by Health Canada.

Acquisition of Land Rights

13. Will land expropriation be needed?

NB Power may be required to use the Expropriation Act process. This process is sometimes invoked to ensure the project schedule is not at risk and may be required to address title issues on properties where owners cannot be identified or title to the land is not clear. When invoked, the expropriation process occurs at the same time as the landowner engagement and negotiations. During any expropriation process, NB Power commits to continue in good faith to negotiate with all landowners and attempt to come to agreeable compensation terms.

14. What is expropriation?

Expropriation is a process that enables NB Power to acquire property without a direct agreement with the landowner for the purpose of building critical transmission infrastructure, while still ensuring that the legislated process is followed, and landowners are compensated in keeping with the *Expropriation Act*. Expropriation is a time-consuming process and would only be initiated if it becomes apparent that an agreement might not be reached within the required timelines for a specific project. The preferred approach is always to negotiate directly with landowners to reach amicable, mutually beneficial agreements.

Even when expropriation is initiated, NB Power continues to negotiate with owners in the hope of reaching an agreement.

15. What is offered for compensation?

An important element of NB Power's land rights acquisition strategy is the compensation package that is offered to landowners affected by a project. Land rights compensation considers the fair market value of the land, associated improvements, along with potential loss in value to the remaining land and where applicable, may include loss of merchantable timber and crops.

Valuations are completed by an independent appraisal firm, whose appraisers are accredited and have a designation from the Appraisal Institute of Canada. The compensation offer made to landowners is a one-time payment and varies based on the individual land traits and the nature of the interest in land required.

In exchange for the compensation offer, NB Power requires a grant of easement or other type of interest on the property impacted. NB Power's standard easement terms include the rights and obligations of the landowner and NB Power. These terms are noted in the Resources Section of the Project website.

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