GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC
QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE
NEW YORK

THE DELEGATE GENERAL

New York, July 3, 2014

Ms. Melanie Kenderdine
Director, Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis, EPSA-60
QER Meeting Comments
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121
USA

RE: Comments on QER Public Meeting "New England Regional Infrastructure Constraints" on April 21, 2014

Dear Ms. Kenderdine,

It is with great pleasure that we submit comments to the Quadrennial Energy Review. We applaud this important initiative and look forward to continued and increased energy partnerships with the United States.

Québec's near zero-emission hydropower has provided reliable, affordable and renewable energy to New England and the Northeast for decades. With the potential for expansion, we see an opportunity to bring these same advantages to addressing some of the energy and environmental challenges facing the United States.

Québec has significant installed hydropower capacity (40,000 MW, with the potential to eventually double that amount). Since the early 1990s, Québec has transmitted over 100 billion kWh of electricity to consumers and businesses in New England and the Northeast through multiple interconnections. Even under harsh weather conditions, Québec hydro has consistently been a steady source of reliable power in the region. Further synergies can be leveraged given the differing seasonal peaks in energy use between Québec and New England.

Canadian hydropower provides an affordable source of energy, from the United States' largest and most integrated economic partner. New England is burdened by some of the highest energy prices in the nation; access to affordable Québec hydro allows consumers, businesses and local governments to more effectively diversify the mix and weather potentially volatile markets.

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Hydropower from Québec serves our common environmental goals through the provision of one of the lowest emitting carbon sources available. Beyond this advantage, however, reliable baseload hydropower creates opportunities for entrepreneurial development of intermittent renewable energy sources. Hydropower is well positioned to help U.S. states secure a prosperous, low-carbon future. The availability of significant quantities of hydropower also offers state policymakers important flexibility as they address new federal emissions standards.

New England states have already recognized the potential for Québec hydropower to have a positive impact on the region. In 2013, the New England governors came together to collaborate on increasing clean energy transmission by 1,200 to 3,600 MW. Vermont signed, in 2010, a long-term power purchase agreement with Hydro-Québec. Connecticut has modified its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) to include Québec hydroelectricity, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island are discussing long term contracts as a way to facilitate hydropower imports.

American industry has proposed several potential transmission projects between Canada and the United States to address energy challenges in the Northeast. The Northern Pass would bring 1,200 MW of hydroelectricity to the region via a HV-DC line. The New England Clean Power Link would provide 1,000 MW of hydropower transmission via an underwater and underground HV-DC line. The Green Line would transfer up to 1,000 MW of clean electricity to greater Boston, Massachusetts. In New York, the Champlain-Hudson Power Express project would provide 1,000 MW of hydroelectricity in an HV-DC line directly to Astoria, Queens.

These proposed transmission lines are at varying stages of development, but speak to the significant growth potential of hydropower in New England and the Northeast. Whatever the outcome of these projects, Québec is committed to providing reliable, affordable and clean energy to our American partners to support our shared vision of a prosperous low carbon future. As you develop the Quadrennial Energy Review, we respectfully urge you to consider the value that Québec hydropower can bring to addressing energy challenges in New England and beyond. Broad recognition of our common interest in preserving and growing that cross-border energy flow is our shared responsibility.

Thank you for allowing the Government of Québec to contribute to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

for Dominique Poirier