Chair in Energy Sector Management **HEC MONTRĒAL** 

Regional Collaboration and Infrastructure Optimization in Energy Modelling

Pierre-Olivier Pineau June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 3:25 - 5:00pm AT Session 4: Collaborating in Action: Bridging Energy Modelling with Policy Agility **Atlantic Canadian Conference on Energy System Modelling** *Energy Modelling Hub and Net Zero Atlantic* Delta Hotel Beausejour, Moncton, New Brunswick.

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#### Outine

- 1. Short review of the long history of electricity modelling in Atlantic Canada
- 2. An illustration of the benefit of regional collaboration
- 3. Understanding inertia in regional collaboration
- 4. Linking modelling to policy

#### An early study (2009)



*"It is recommended that a Maritime Regional Transmission Planning function* be implemented to study and plan transmission system requirements on a regional basis for attaining mutual benefits over the long term."

#### Atlantic Energy Gateway (2012)

Atlantic Energy Gateway Report on Regional Electricity System Operations

NAVIGANT **Atlantic Energy Gateway** "Nord Pool contributes to a more integrated and Transmission Modeling Study Report efficient energy market that offers its customers **Regional Clean and Renewable Energy Market Opportunities** the highest standards and provides cost Study Findings synergies. It is a model for a more connected and A Study of Transmission Upgrade Options For Prepared for: efficient European energy market whose vision is Atlantic Canadian Utilities Atlantic Energy Gateway to stretch from Portugal to Finland." Canada Atlantic Energy March 30, 2012 Gateway MARTILLAC LIMITED and THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES Atlantic Energy Gateway (AEG) **Balancing Study Report** Resource ABB Ventyx Development Strategist<sup>®</sup> model Modelling Study A Study of Potential Savings in the Case of a Common Unit Commitment and Dispatch Function for Atlantic Canada FINAL REPORT A Study of Potential Savings for June 15. 2012 the Combined Resource Planning DA of Atlantic Canadian Utilities Plexos March 2012

#### Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure (2018)



"there are efficiencies to be gained through cooperation and integrated operations.... energy trading arrangements that are very common for electric utilities with contiguous neighbouring utilities around the world"

Plexos

"To address the concerns of ratepayers and taxpayers, it will be important to engage in **transparent and inclusive public processes** even when the investments are responding to government mandates."

**Atlantic Clean Power Planning Committee** 

#### Atlantic Loop (2019 - ...)



TOWARDS A CLEAN POWER ROADMAP FOR ATLANTIC CANADA



August 2020

"Building on a long history of collaboration, the

Atlantic Provinces and the federal government [...]

clean power superhighway across the region"

may collaborate over the coming decades to build a

E3's PATHWAYS Model E3's RESOLVE model

- No endogenous transmission investment
- No hydro storage



"Achieving very deep levels of decarbonization will thus require firm, dispatchable low-carbon energy and capacity to ensure reliability. Without broader regional coordination, this would mean leaning on resources which have not yet proven commercial viability, such as advanced nuclear or carbon capture and sequestration."

# 2. Illustration of the benefit of regional collaboration

Northeast: Population, Generation, carbon intensity and residential price (US\$)





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March 2012

2021

2021

**Integrating Thermal and Hydro Electricity Markets: Economic** and Environmental Costs of *not* Harmonizing Pricing Rules

2016 Etienne Billette de Villemeur\* and Pierre-Olivier Pineau\*\*

#### Annual decarbonization cost No Trade / No New Transmission / Optimal Transmission



#### Interties are critical



#### Benefits of deeper regional coordination

- 1. Improving reliability and pooling reserves
- 2. Reduced investment in generating capacity
- 3. Improving load factors and increasing demand diversity
- 4. Economies of scale in new construction
- 5. Diversity of generation mix and supply security
- 6. Economic exchange
- 7. Environmental dispatch and new plant siting
- 8. Better coordination of maintenance schedules

Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (2002) Environmental Challenges and Opportunities in the Evolving North American Electricity Market
 UN (2006) Multi-Dimensional Issues in International Electric Power Grid Interconnections
 Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (2010) Regional Power Sector Integration, World Bank 12



# 3. Understanding inertia in regional collaboration

- 1. Loss of local power
- 2. Sense of belonging to the provincial system
- 3. Protectionism / vested interests
- 4. Keeping prices low / high
- 5. Separation of powers (constitution)
- 6. Québec
- 7. Fear of the neighbor
- 8. Lack of skills / competence / workforce
- 9. Other...



### 4. Linking modelling to policy

#### Modelling can enable

- Leadership, credibility, trust
- $\odot$  Education of decision makers and all stakeholders
- Commitment to long term economic prosperity & sustainability

- ... in a context often characterized by...
- Short-term horizon
- $\,\circ\,$  Diffuse benefits, concentrated costs
- $\,\circ\,$  Lack of Federal leadership and provincial resistance/ignorance

#### Models can support cost allocation

 $\odot$  All should gain from integration:

low cost regions through higher profits
high cost regions through lower prices

○ Interties: by demonstrating their value

Compare decarbonization costs:

- $\,\circ\,$  with regional collaboration
- $\,\circ\,$  without regional collaboration

#### Possible Next Steps

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement (formerly the Agreement on Internal Trade): open market and harmonize
- Health care strategy: common criteria on portability, accessibility, universality, comprehensiveness, and public administration
- North American Electricity Reliability Corporation (NERC): require/support regional reliability planning in a decarbonization/electrification context
- Nordic approach: Facilitate provincial discussions, bottom-up collaborations

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