

# Bipole III Transmission Project

Clean Environment Commission  
Public Hearings

Fall 2012

*Reliability*

*Ed Tymofichuk*

# Overview

- History of Bipole I and II
- Critical Infrastructure
- Vulnerabilities and Exposure
- Near Misses/Other Events in Manitoba
- Neighbouring Provinces
- Consequences
- Present Need

# Bipole I and II - History



# Bipole I and II - History

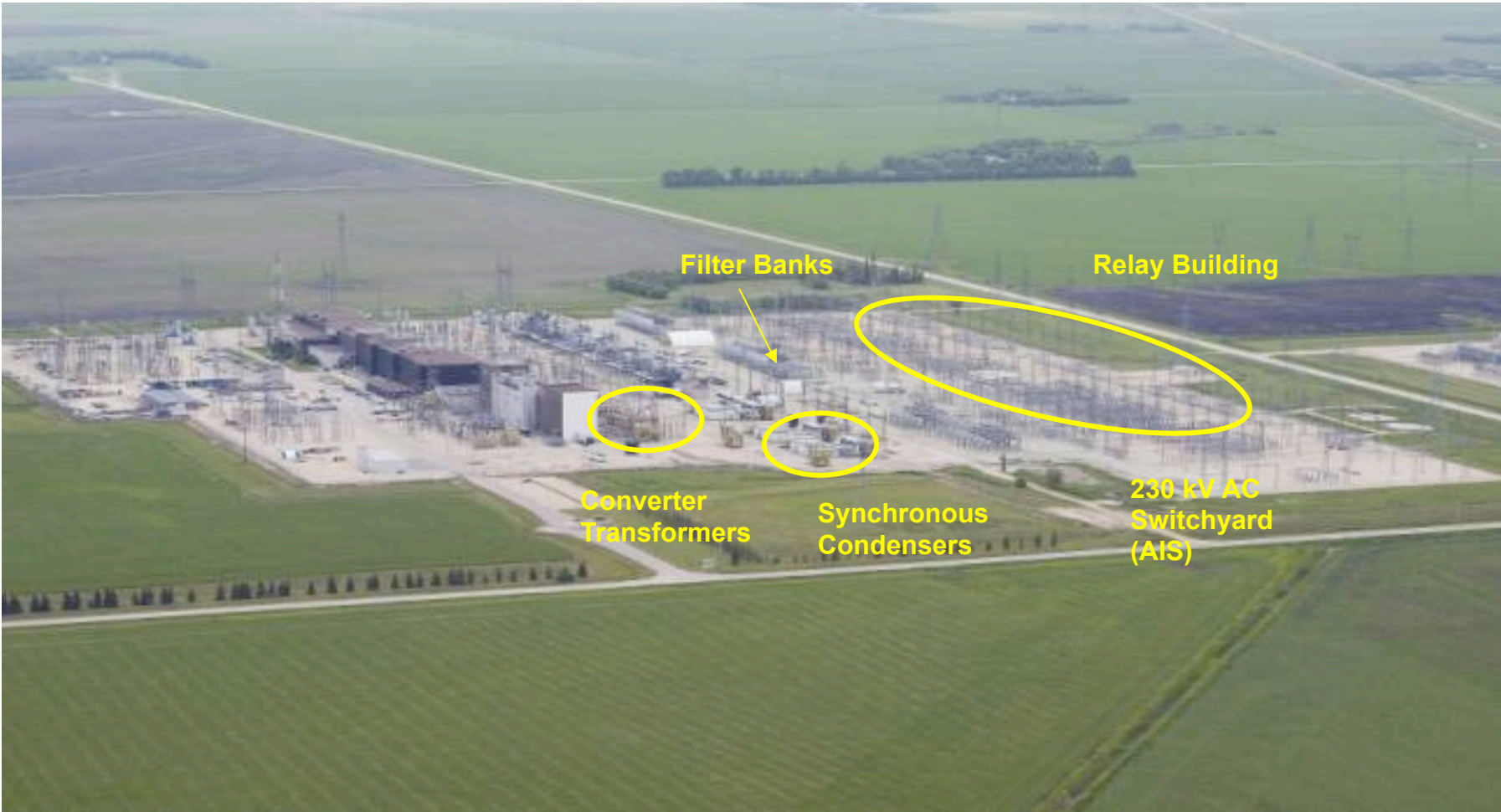
- In late 1960s and early 1970s load growth was forecast in the order of 7% annually, hence ...
- More new northern generation would require a third Bipole, and therefore an
- Economic decision to build Bipole I and II lines on same corridor anticipating a third Bipole shortly thereafter
- Bipole I and II converter stations were developed in economic stages from early 1970s to mid 1980s matching needs of load growth
- This Nelson River HVDC scheme put Manitoba Hydro on the world leader map



# Dorsey

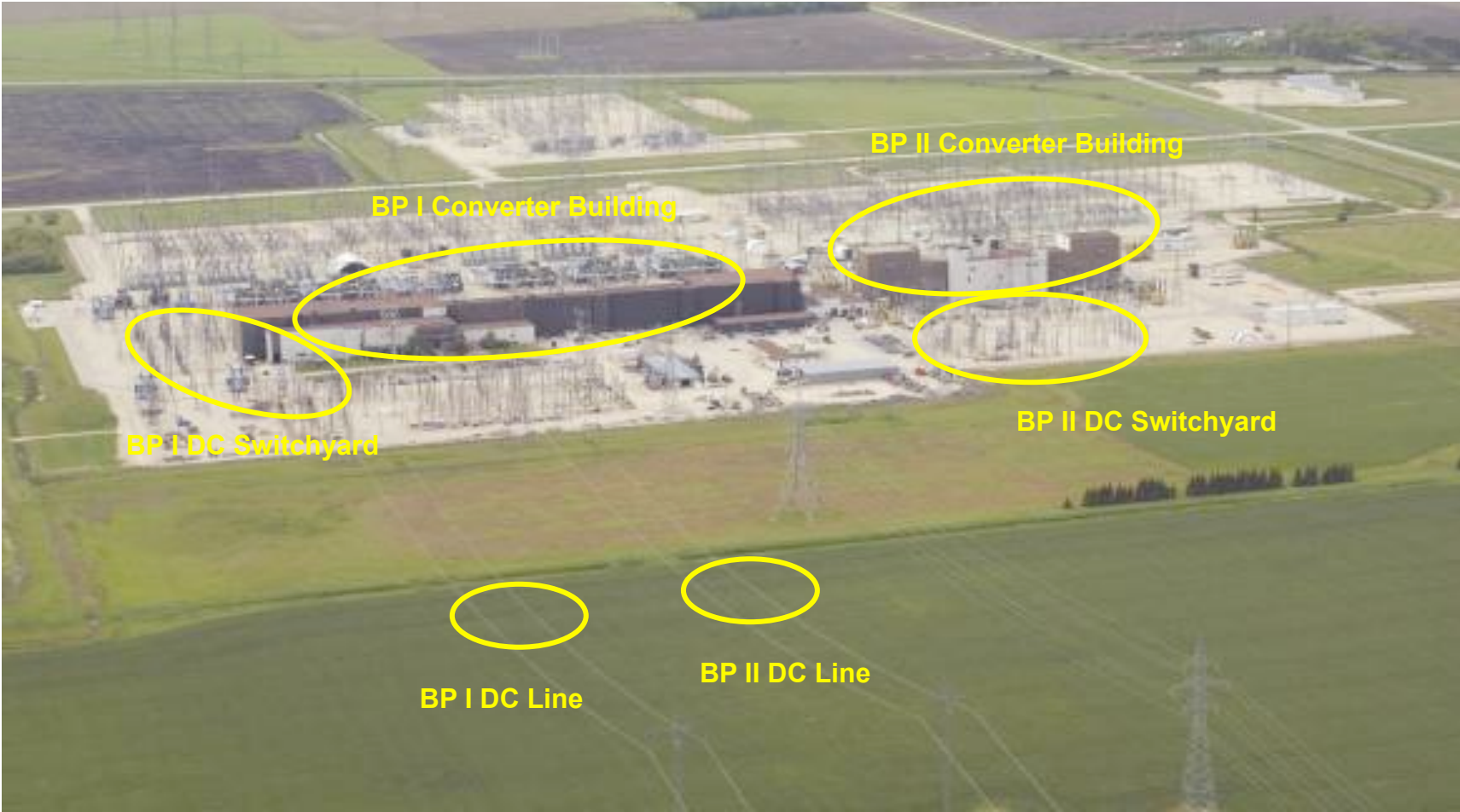


# BPI/BPII Dorsey Converter Station AC Equipment





# BPI/BPII Dorsey Converter Station DC Equipment



# Dorsey

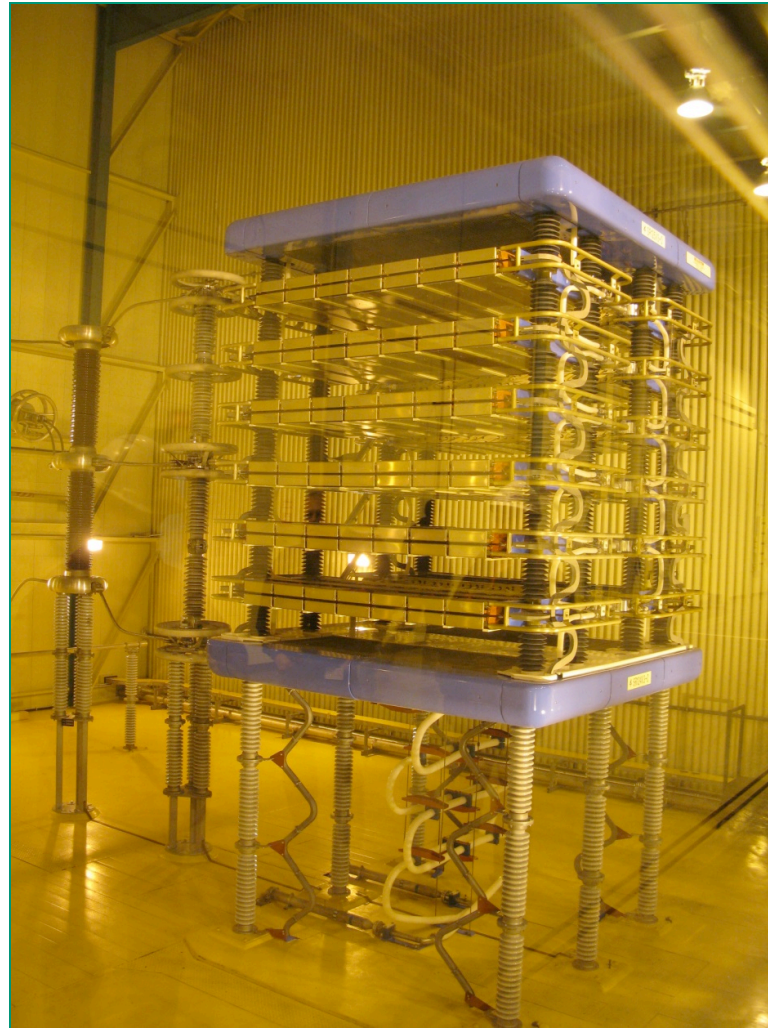




# Dorsey

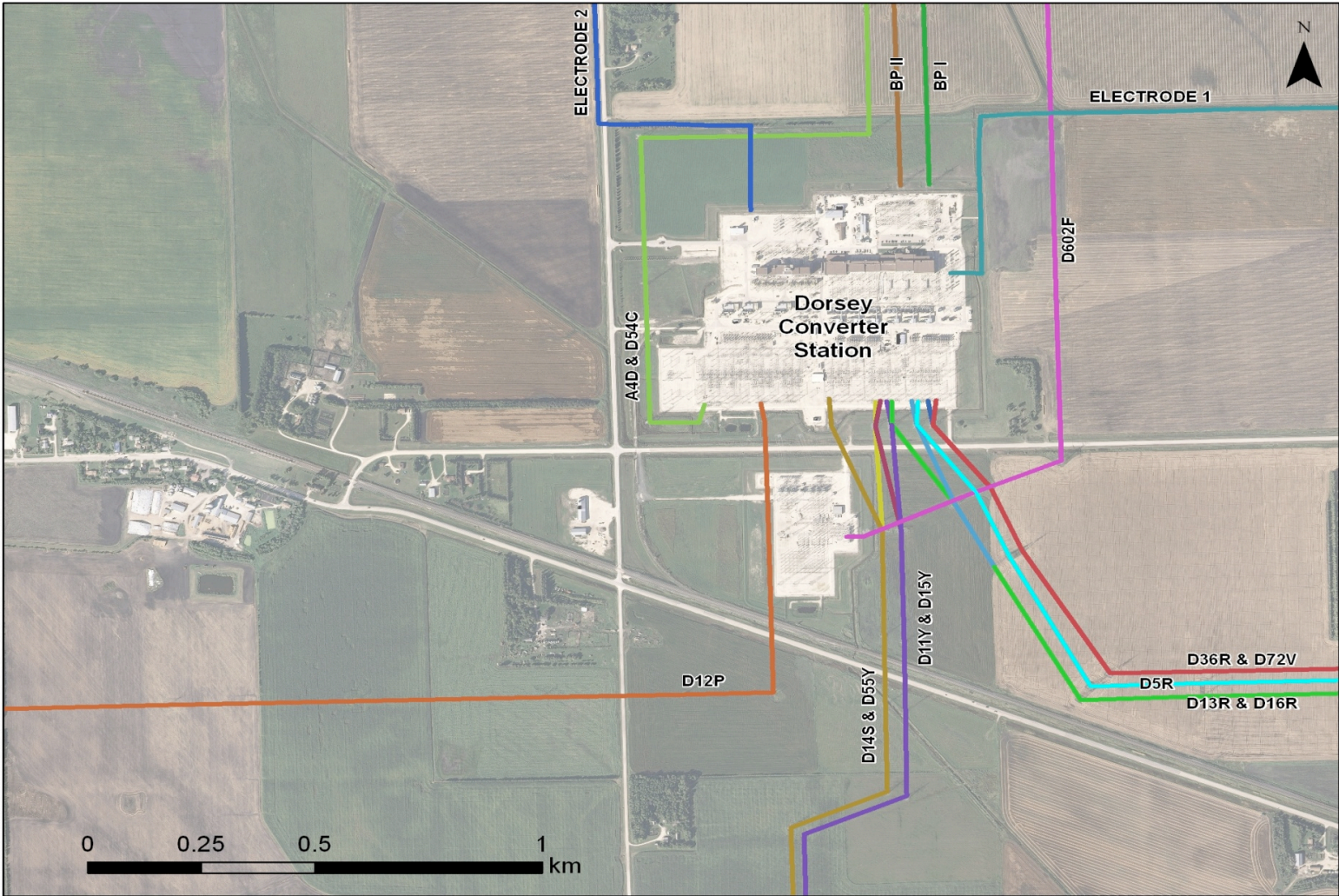


# Dorsey 500kV Valve Group





# Dorsey



# Critical Infrastructure

- A term used by governments to describe assets that are essential for the functioning of a society and economy
- Canadian government has 10 sectors
- U.S. government has 18 sectors
- EU has an Operator Security Plan identifying important assets, risk analysis of major threat scenarios, vulnerabilities of assets, and counter-measures



# Canadian Critical Infrastructure Sectors

- Energy and Utilities (Includes electricity)
- Finance
- Food
- Transportation
- Government
- Information and Communication technology
- Health
- Water
- Safety
- Manufacturing

# The Most Critical

- The Electrical Infrastructure is deemed to be the most critical in that it ....
- Enables and supports all other critical infrastructures
- Failure of Electrical infrastructure diminishes the other infrastructure sectors that depend on electricity, and so....
- Society and economies suffer

# DC Transmission- South



# DC Transmission Lines – Northern Manitoba



Guyed towers  
in non-agricultural  
areas for BP3



# DC Lines - Northern Manitoba



- 2 – HVdc lines
- 2 – 230kv lines in northern Manitoba



# DC Lines – Northern Manitoba



Difficult  
terrain  
and access

# DC Lines – Southern Manitoba



- No guyed towers for Bipole III
- Self supporting towers only
- Preserves arable land for agriculture use



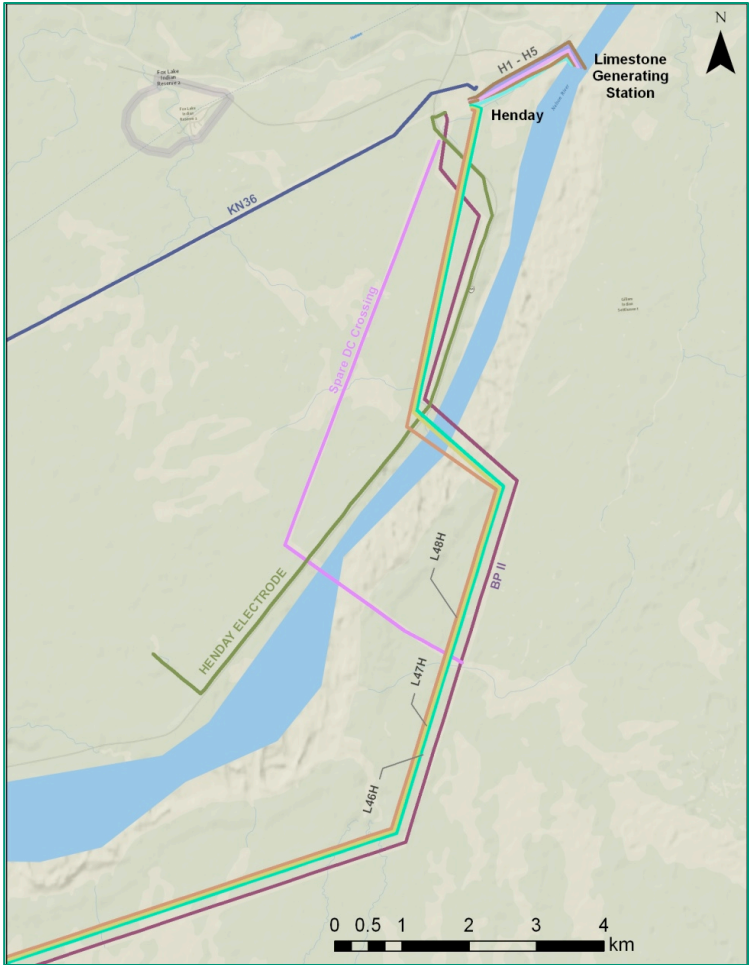
# BP II DC Line

Largest span crossing of Nelson River 288' high, 4000' span



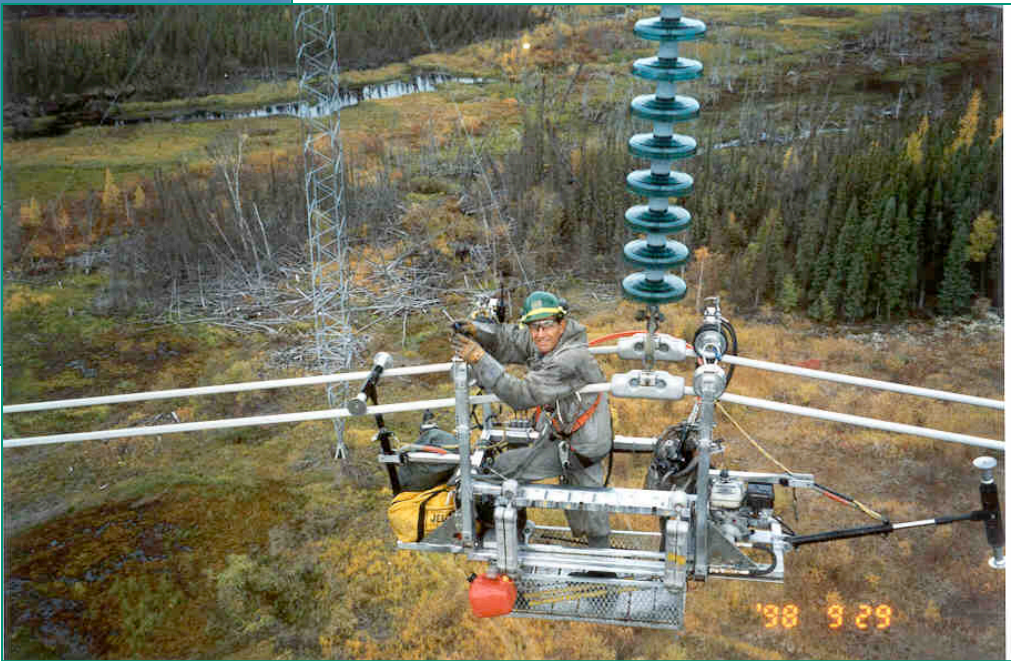


# Nelson River BP2 Crossings near Henday



Emergency crossing protects bottling up Limestone power

# DC Lines – HVDC Spacer - Damper Refurbishment





# Spacer Damper



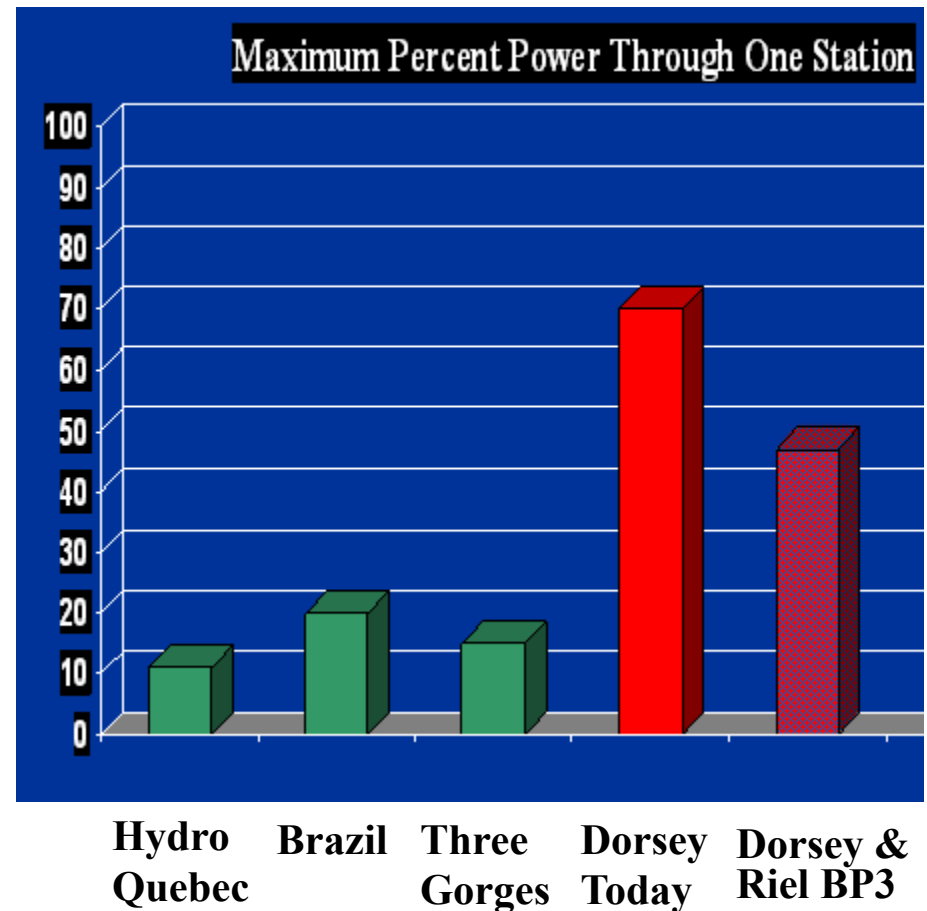
# Vulnerabilities & Exposure of HVDC System

- Two Bipole lines 900kms long on same right-of-way
- Two lines and the southern Dorsey Station transmit 70% of northern hydro generation
- Dorsey has “most eggs in one basket”
- No utility in world transmits so much power through one critical facility

# Vulnerabilities & Exposure of HVDC System

## Statement of the Problem

- World comparison
- Manitoba Hydro has a serious load serving reliability problem as driven by vulnerabilities in the HVdc system.

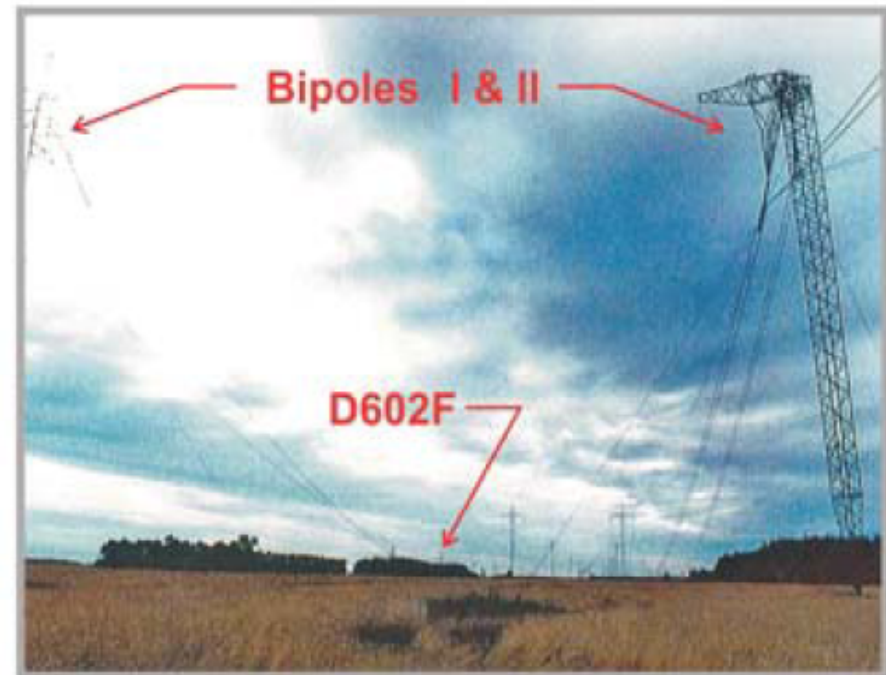
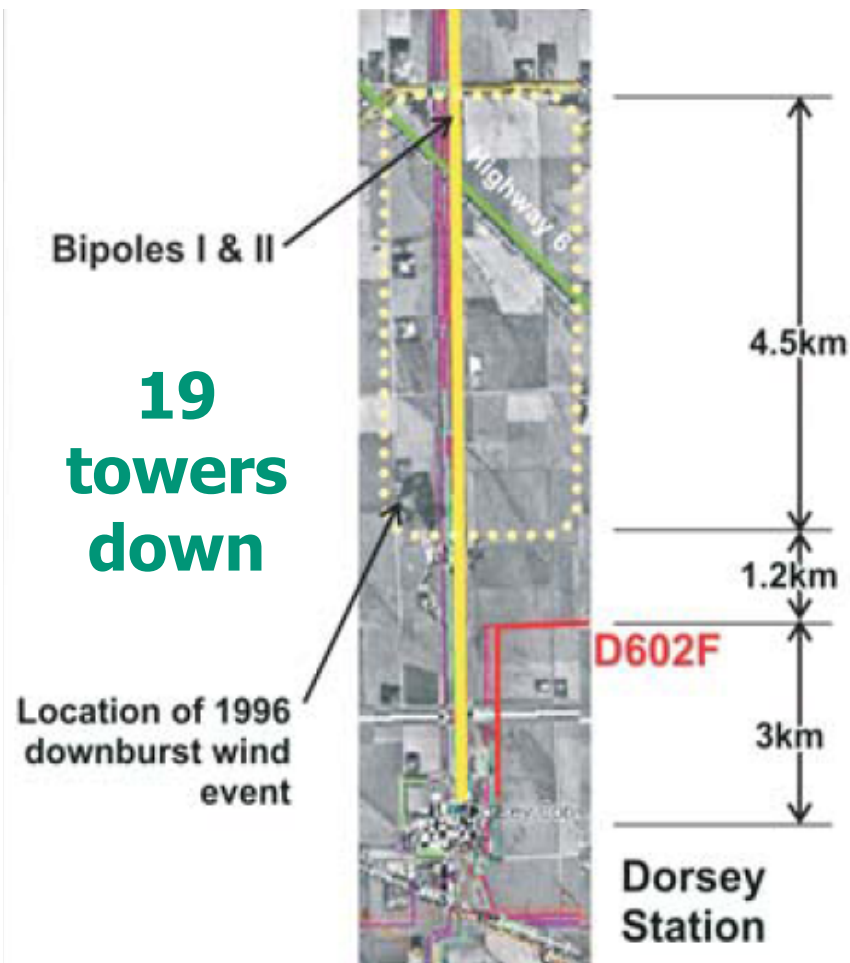


# Near Misses & Other Events in Manitoba

- September 5, 1996 - Downburst 1.5 miles north of Dorsey
- July 17, 2006 Storms collide over Winnipeg
- June 2007 – Elie F5 Tornado
- August 9, 2007 – Storm Hits Dorsey Bipole 1
- May 2008 - Marchand Forest Fire – 500 kV AC line
- June 2008 – Buffalo Lake Forest Fire – DC lines
- January 2011 – Flood waters /Ice buildup on 117 km of DC row and structures in northern Manitoba – 50 towers and 400 guys encased in 3 feet of ice
- May 2012 – Forest Fires in SE Manitoba
- July 29, 2012 – 150 km/hr Plow Winds in St. Laurent and area



# September 1996 Downburst

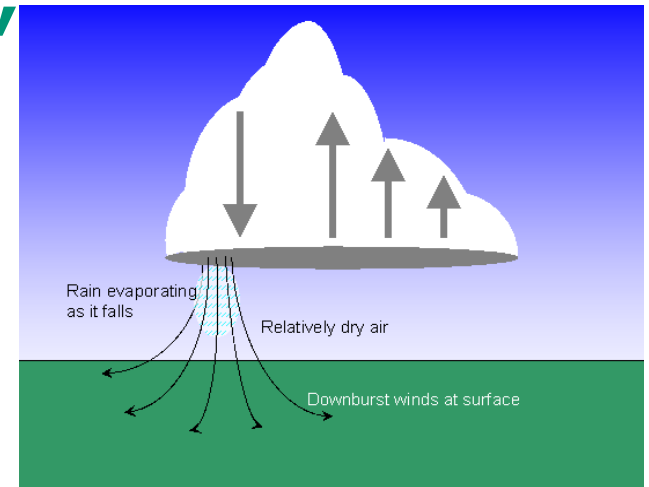


Sept. 5, 1996 Downburst Wind Event in which Bipoles I & II were lost

**Electrode Line Damaged**

# September 1996 Downburst 1.5 miles north of Dorsey “5 times lucky”

1. Barely missed Dorsey, 500kv station and 500kv line
2. Time of night; power flowed from U.S. instantaneously
3. Weather was perfect for next few days
4. Close to Hydro equipment storage
5. Access from PTH6 was excellent



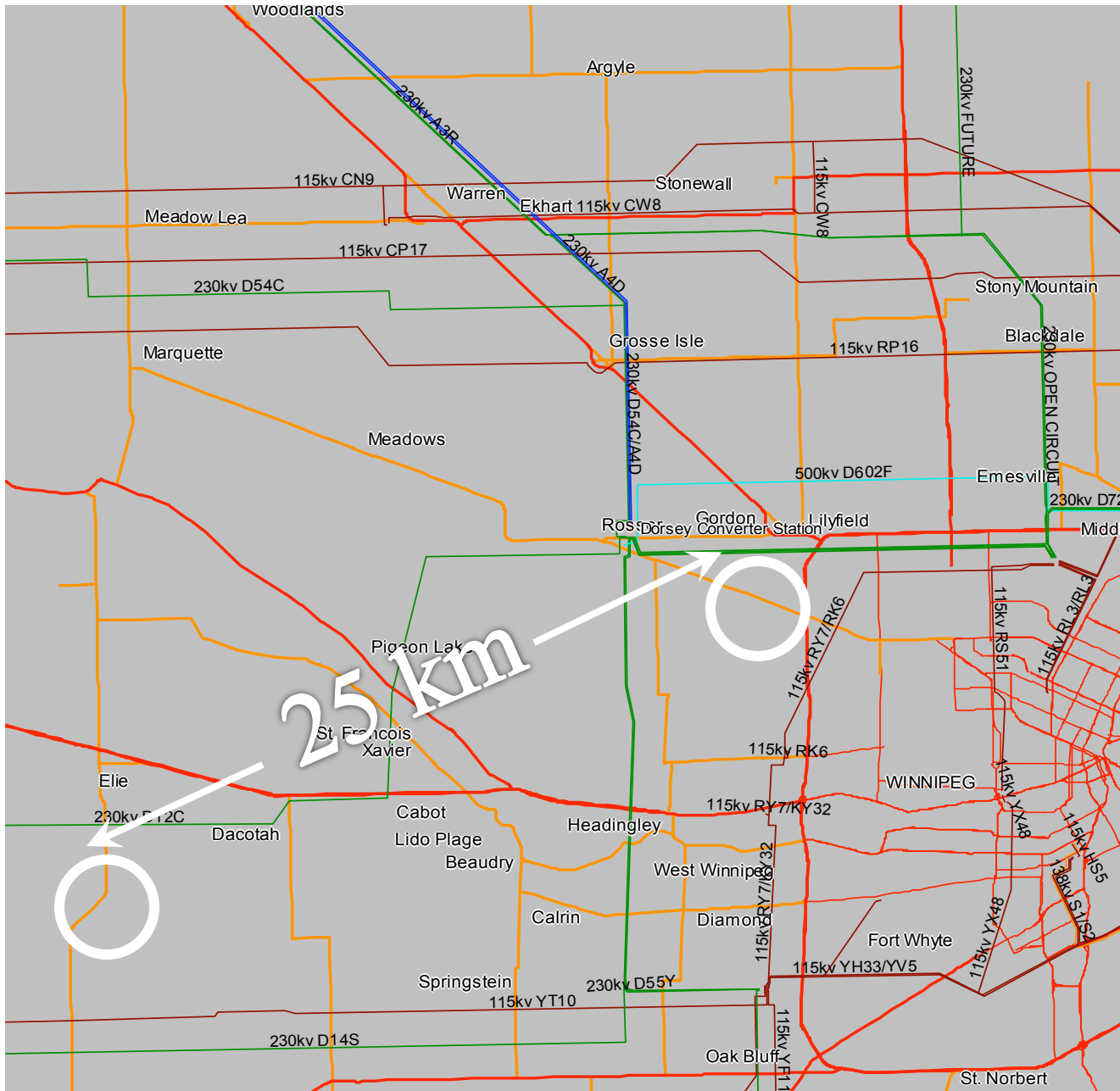


# July 2006 – Two Storms Collide



# June 2007 – Elie F5 Tornado





# June 2007 - Elie F5 Tornado

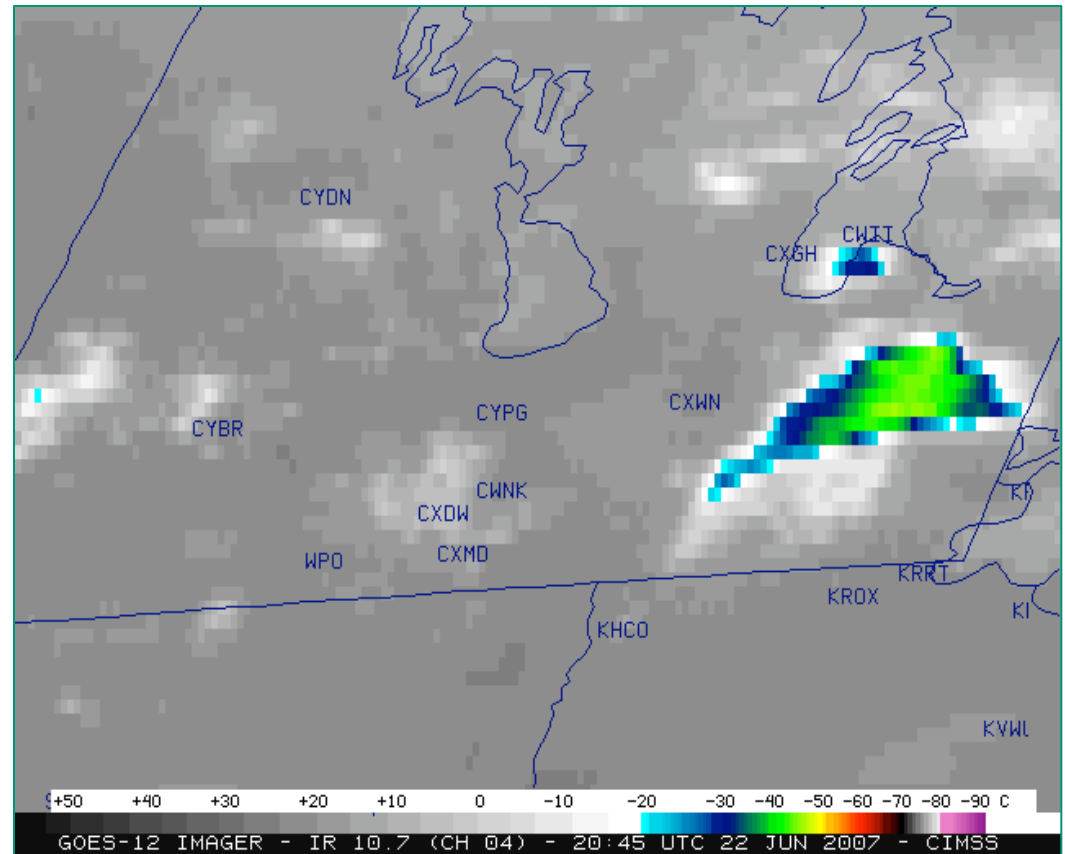




# Elie F5 Tornado



# Elie F5 Tornado





# June 2007 – Elie Tornado



# August 2007 – Storm Hits Dorsey Bipole I



- Damaged equipment
- Lost 1348 MWs of power
- 7 valve groups tripped off
- 3 transmission lines tripped



# August, 2007 – Storm Hits Dorsey Bipole I





# August, 2007 – Storm Hits Dorsey Bipole I

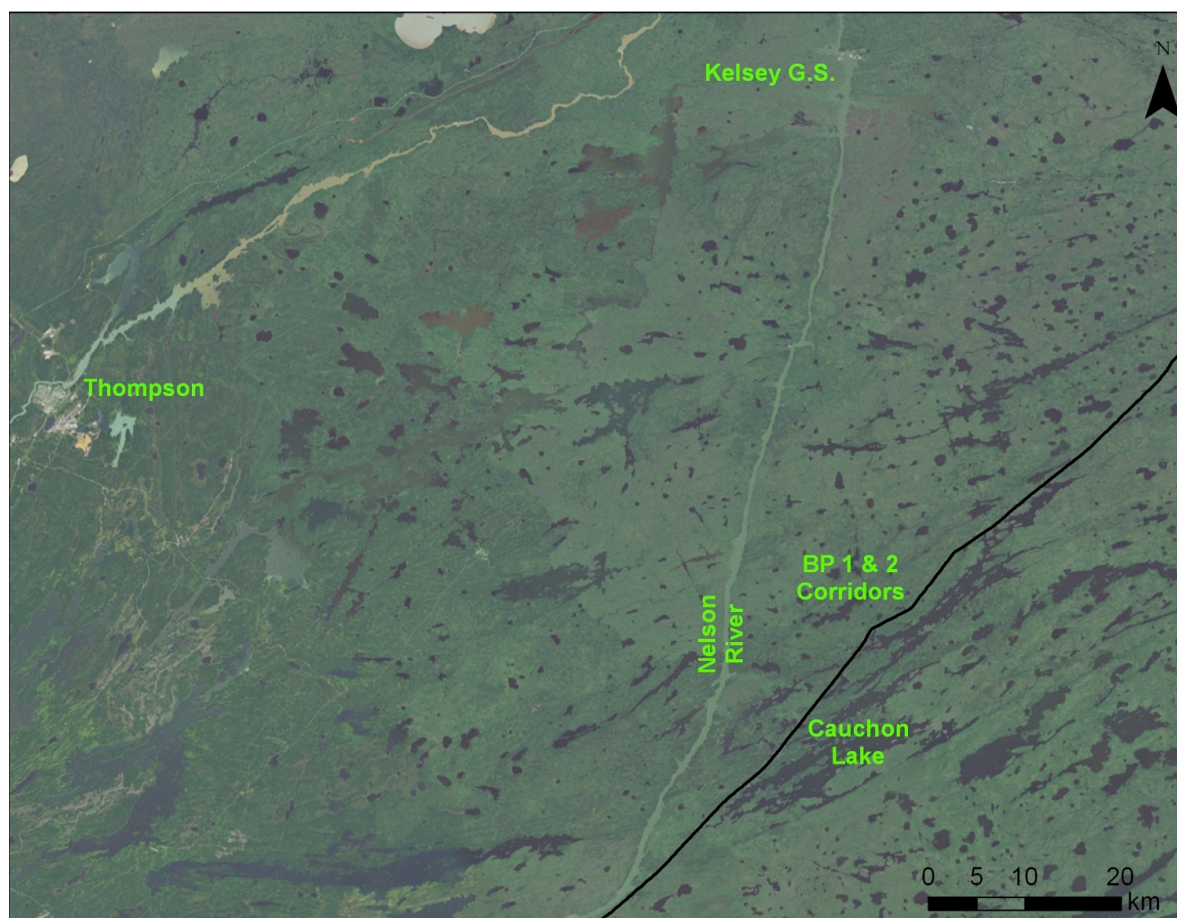


# August, 2007 – Storm Hits Dorsey Bipole I





# Cauchon Lake



- Very wet fall (2010)
- Excess water flows over Nelson River bank and inundates area
- Ice forms but water flows under ice
- Ice 3 feet thick
- Encases 50 towers and 400 guyed wires
- Damages towers and guyed wires
- Failure could have caused blackout

# January 2011 – Flood in Northern Manitoba



*Temporary device to hold tower on ice (left) and trained diver (right)*



# January 2011 - Flood in Northern Manitoba



*Guy attached to anchor (left) and guyed wire tower base (right)*



# January 2011 - Towers in Ice in Northern Manitoba (video)



# May 2008 – Marchand Fire



Tripped 500kV Dorsey to Forbes line

# June 2008 – Buffalo Lake Forest Fire





# June 2008 – Buffalo Lake Forest Fire



- 3 poles tripped
- 3/4 of power on the DC system lost

# June 2008 – Buffalo Lake Forest Fire



# May 2012 – South Eastern Manitoba Forest Fires





# May 2012 – South Eastern Manitoba Forest Fire



# Ice storms



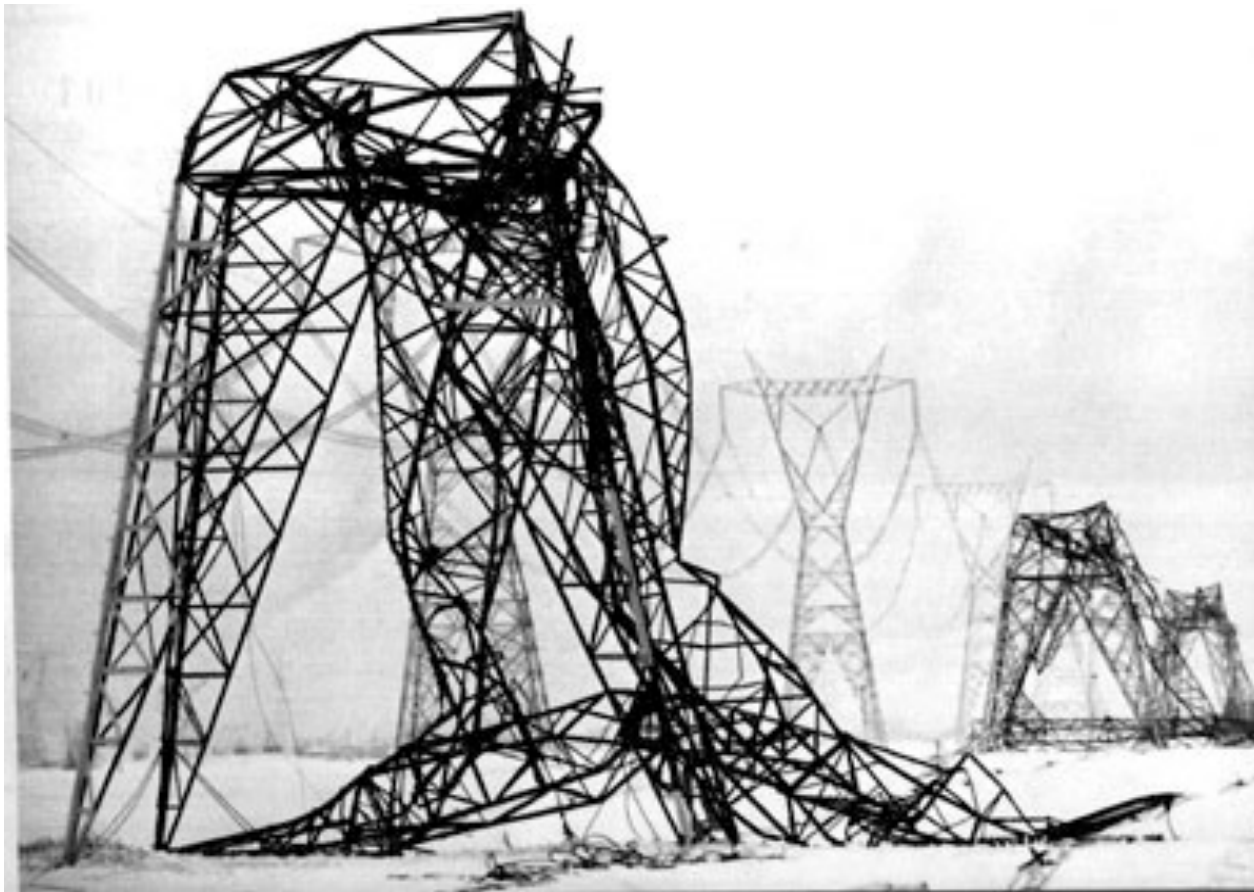
- April 27, 1984
- 12 - 230kv AC steel towers failed

# 500kV Line near Dorsey Galloping





# Eastern Ice Storm Hydro Quebec

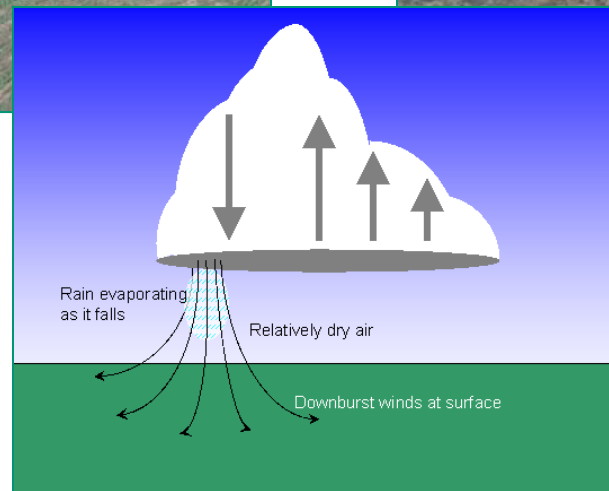


- Hydro Quebec 1998
- Thousands of customers out of power for the month of January

# June 2012 – Saskatchewan Power Corporation System



8 towers failed  
near Prince Albert



Prince Albert out of  
power for one day

# Catastrophic Consequences DC Lines Fail

- Maximum outage of up to two months to restore is a conservative estimate
- Depends on season and location
- In winter between November and March rotating outages in southern Manitoba 2 hours at a time
- In summer south, east, and west interconnections and all local generation may supply Manitoba Load



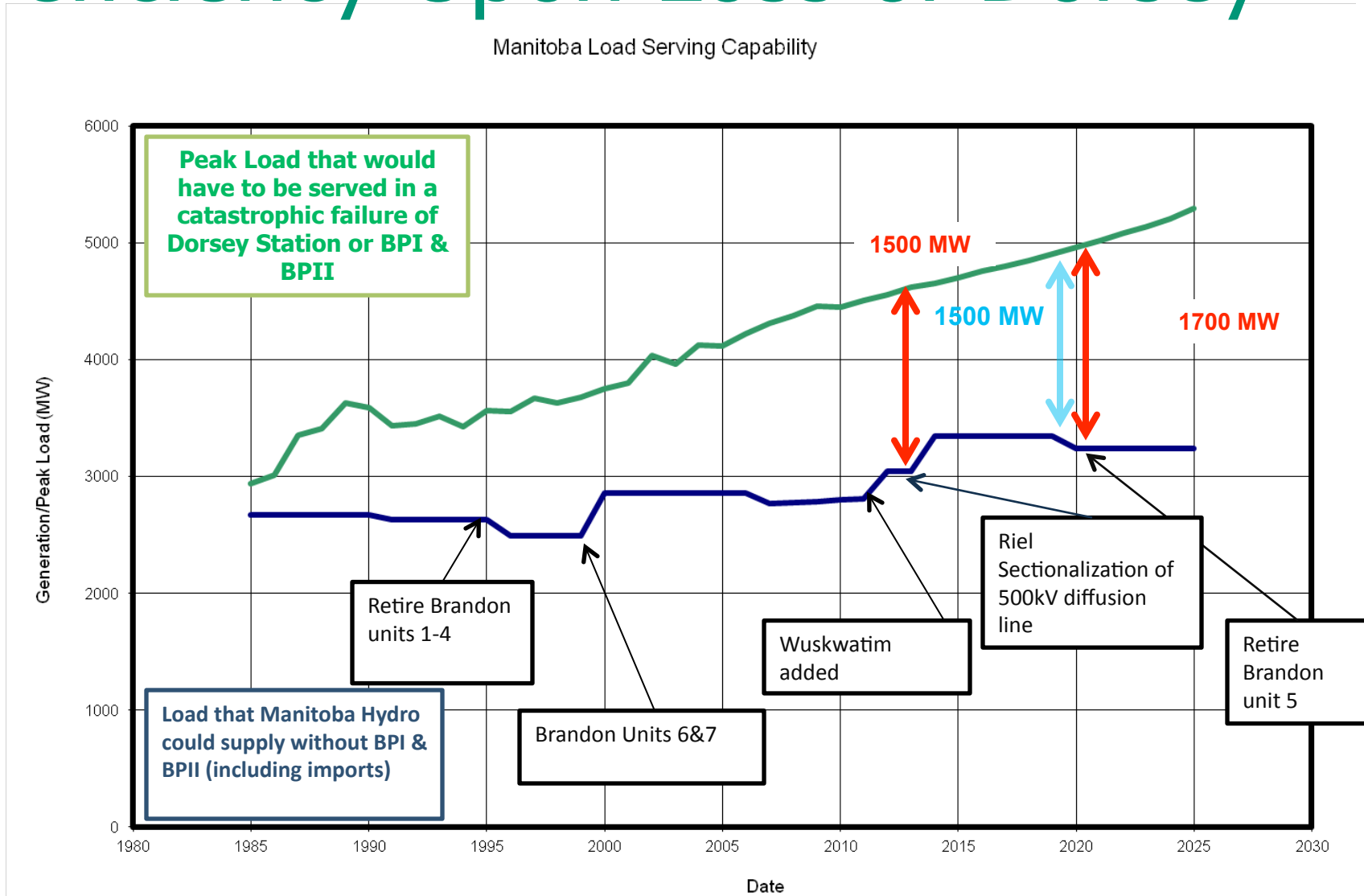
# Catastrophic Outage to Dorsey

- 3600 MWs lost from northern Manitoba hydro generation
- Time to restore or rebuild entire converter station at Dorsey – 3 years
- Devastating to provincial economy, our society, public safety, integrity and reputation – cannot be tolerated

# The Problem We Have Today

- ***Lack of redundancy*** in the HVDC system and insufficient emergency backup resources
- ***Load serving deficiency*** under catastrophic contingencies
- The ***deficiency gap grows*** with time due to load growth and the resources capacity is relatively constant

# Deficiency Upon Loss of Dorsey





# *Manitoba Hydro Act*

“The purposes and objectives of this Act are to provide for the continuance of a supply of power adequate for the needs of the province ...”

# Dorsey June 2010



Thank you