

Québec's Electricity Supply Problem:
(Follows Video #3-A on Imports in the CRPP Series)

Doug May

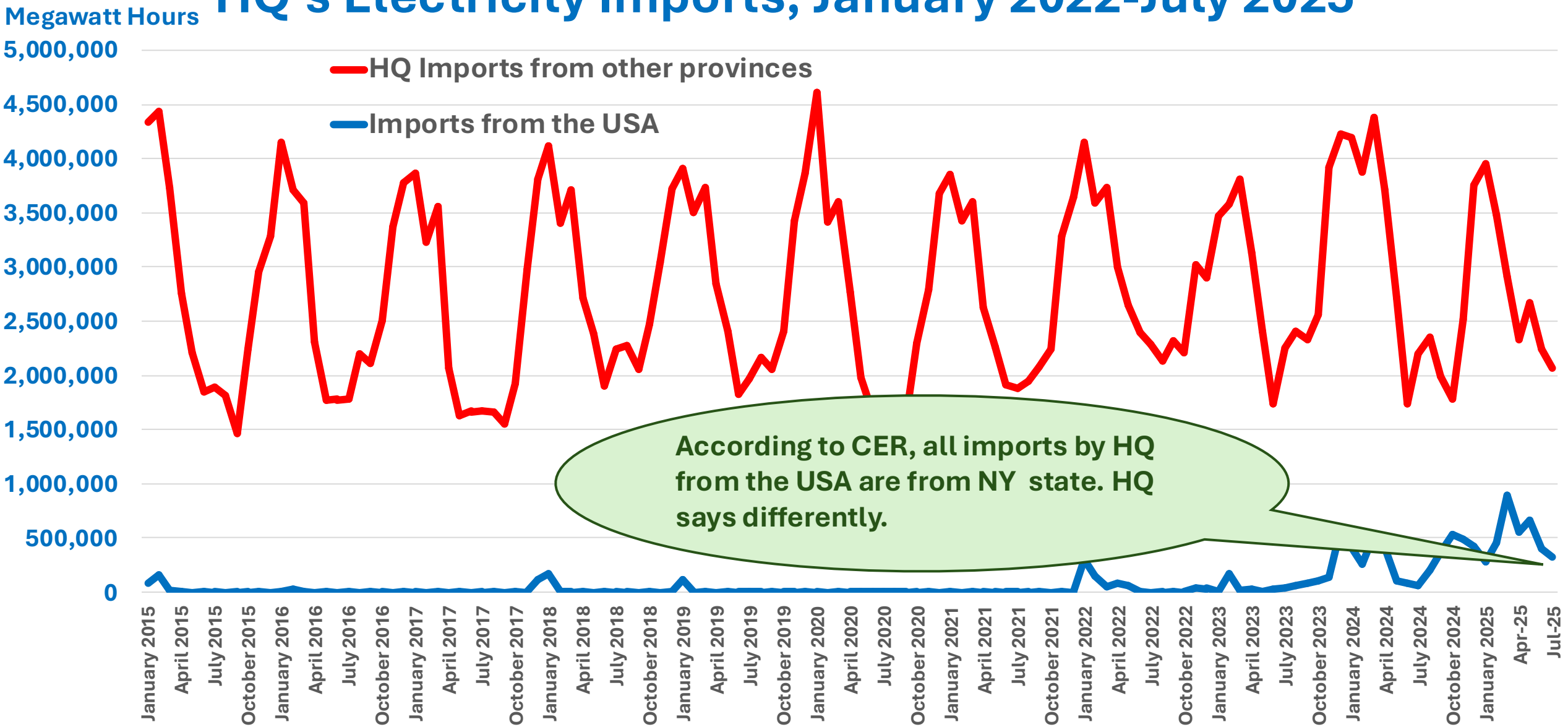
The Role Of Churchill Falls Import in Quebec's Electricity Picture (Video 3-A)

- CF electricity is a **necessary** "import" to Hydro-Quebec (HQ). It guarantees Quebec a long-term, secure, and extremely cheap source of electricity to meet its domestic needs and to **profitably export electricity** to NB, **particularly** to the USA.
- As such, CF electricity enables HQ to provide Quebec households and businesses with the cheapest power in Canada and the G7, which includes the USA.
- Some would say that NL "**subsidizes**" the low prices.
- The key to CF electricity's low price is the almost **free cost** of the vast water resources of the Churchill River.
- As the former Government of Newfoundland and Labrador wrote in its "Our Chapter", it hopes the MOU will unlock the "**value**" of CF.

HQ's Import Picture 2022 & Earlier

- In 2022, **14.0%** of the electricity available in Quebec came from imports.
  - **13.7%** of the available power came from other provinces, some from Ontario, but the **vast majority** from Churchill Falls.
  - **0.3%** came from the USA
- Before 2022, HQ rarely imported power from the USA.

HQ's Electricity Imports, January 2022-July 2025



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 25-10-0016-01

The Amazing Restructuring of HQ's Import Picture in 2024 & 2025

- In the first eight months of 2025, total imports were **down 4.2%** from the same period last year.
  - Imports from other provinces were **down 13.6%** during this period.
  - Imports from the USA were up **111.4%!**
- In the first eight months of 2025, **imports** from the USA exceeded **exports**. Traditionally, during this same time period, exports to the USA are greater are greater than imports. **This is an amazing change in electricity trading patterns with the USA.**
- In 2024, **17.4%** of the electricity available to Quebec came from imports.
  - **15.7%** of the available power came from other provinces.
  - An approximate estimation is that about 31.5 TWh of electricity imported into Quebec in 2024 came from Churchill Falls. This represented about **80.6%** of the total imported power.
  - **1.7%** came from the USA



CAUTION:

- Statistics Canada table (25-10-0016-01) on imports, exports, and domestic use concerns total electricity for Quebec, not solely Hydro-Québec. Hydro-Quebec's production is about 90% of the total generation in Quebec. I believe that most imports and exports are through HQ. Non-HQ production is likely to be primarily for domestic industrial production.
- Statistics Canada considers CF's electricity to be an "import" into Quebec and an "export" from NL. Since HQ is a substantial shareholder of CF(L)Co, which owns the CF generating station, I believe that HQ does not include CF power as an "import" in its publications.

Conclusions

- There is a growing dependency in Quebec on imported power, particularly **relatively expensive** electricity (about **25 times** more expensive than CF electricity) from the USA.

	First Quarter 2025	Second Quarter 2025	To date (Sept.	
Price (per kWh) of Imported power from NY into Quebec	10.25¢	5.04¢	7.15¢	

- Churchill Falls, with its super cheap power, has reached its generating capacity and **cannot** export more power to Quebec.

- HQ has a long-term security problem with a cheap electricity supply!

Thanks for Watching