



Ontario to boost power imports

TORONTO ♦ Hydro One will spend \$116 million to boost the amount of power the province can import from the state of New York.

Hydro One plans to reinforce a 76-kilometre transmission line between stations in Thorold and in Middleport, west of Caledonia, in order to reduce the risk of potential electricity shortages when demand is high. The project will increase the amount of power that can be imported from New York state to 800 megawatts – enough power to meet electricity needs for about 300,000 homes. It is scheduled for completion this summer.

Ontario has to import power from neighbouring jurisdictions when demand is too high for the province's own generators to supply it alone.

The project will also help carry additional power supplied by Ontario Power Generation's Sir Adam Beck stations in Niagara Falls after completion of an expansion there.

Money for the transmission upgrades in the Niagara region will come from within existing budgets at Hydro One, the company said. Hydro One, a wholly owned company of the Ontario government, owns and operates Ontario's 28,400-kilometre

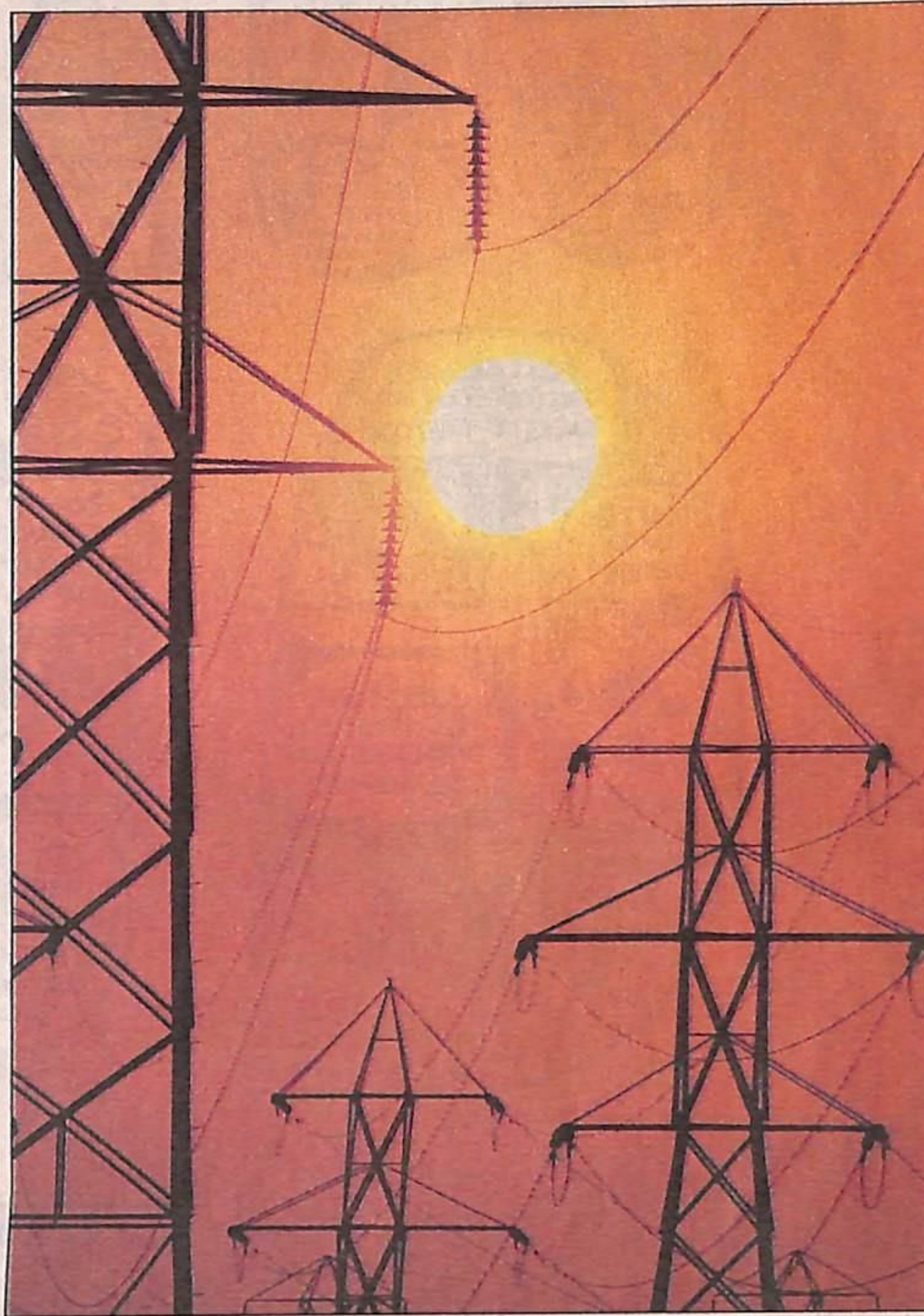
high-voltage transmission network that delivers electricity to large industrial customers and municipal utilities.

Transmission network expansion will be crucial as the province looks to build new power generating stations in coming years to ensure Ontario has an adequate supply of energy.

The province is considering construction of controversial new nuclear stations over the next decade to meet rising demand, as proposed by an Ontario Power Authority report delivered to the government last month.

OPA's proposals have faced some controversy. Organizations such as Greenpeace say OPA's December report, which recommends more than \$70 billion worth of new power projects, should be subject to a full environmental review under Ontario law. But officials in Ontario's ministry of energy say the OPA report was only advice to the province and shouldn't be subject to a full review.

Government officials also say they would conduct environmental assessments on proposals to construct any new power generators, including nuclear, on a project-by-project basis.



HAMILTON SPECTATOR FILE PHOTO

Power lines between Thorold and Middleport will be reinforced.

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