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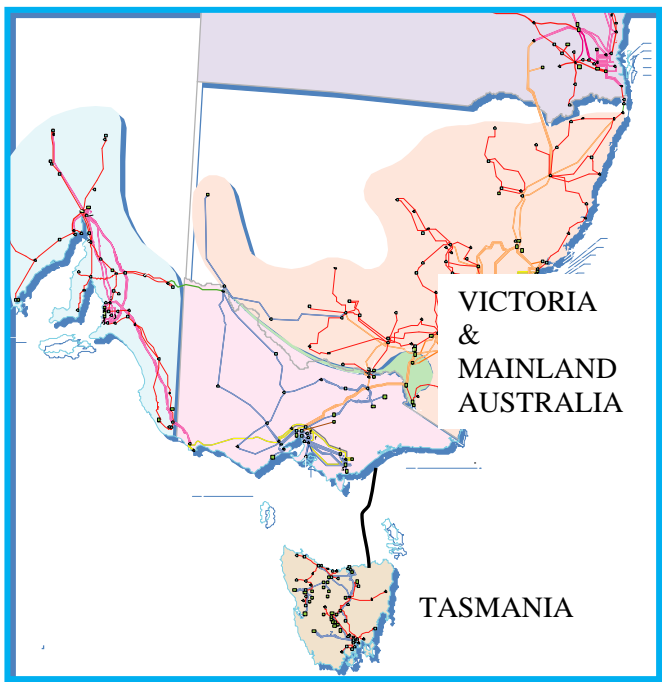
United States Energy Association

SRI LANKA EXAMINES THE AUSTRALIAN BASSLINK AS MODEL FOR SRI LANKA – INDIA SUBMARINE INTERCONNECTION



Under the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/Energy)

Partnership Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), five members of the Sri Lanka Submarine Interconnection Steering Committee and Task Force traveled to Australia May 5 – 9, 2008 to examine the Basslink interconnection between Victoria and Tasmania states. The visit was conducted to facilitate the ongoing efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka on the implementation of the India – Sri Lanka electricity interconnection.



Australian Basslink Interconnection



India – Sri Lanka Power Transmission Interconnection Options

The USAID/SARI/Energy program promotes energy security in South Asia through three activities areas: (1) cross border energy trade, (2) energy market formation, and (3) regional clean energy development. Through these activities, SARI/Energy facilitates more efficient regional energy resource utilization, works toward transparent and profitable energy practices, mitigates the environmental impacts of energy production, and increases regional access to energy. SARI/Energy countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.



Loy Yang Basslink Converter Station

Recent feasibility studies carried out under SARI/Energy, point to the potential for a short term link of 500MW and a medium and long term link of 1000MW between the two countries. It is expected that there are significant benefits to both India and Sri Lanka through such power exchanges using an interconnection. It is against this backdrop that the technical visit of the Australian electricity interconnection was arranged. The proposed interconnection includes a 185km 400kV HVDC overhead line from Madurai to Rameshwaran on the Indian Sea Coast, a 50 km 400kV HVDC cable from the Indian Sea Coast to Thalaimannar on the Sri Lankan Sea Coast, and a 150km 400kV

HVDC overhead line from the Sri Lankan Sea Coast to Anuradhapura. The tentative total cost for the project is US \$430 million.



Power Works Energy Technology Centre in Victoria

Left: Ministry of Power and Energy & Co-chairman of the Interconnector Steering Committee MMC Ferdinando and Ceylon Electricity Board General Manager DR Pullaperuma study the open cut mining mechanisms used in the Latrobe Region of Victoria – the location of vast thermal power resources based on **brown coal which generates more than 85% of the electricity needs of Victoria.**

The Basslink interconnector runs from Loy Yang in Gippsland, Victoria, across the Bass Strait to Bell Bay in northern Tasmania. As the world’s longest sub-sea electricity cable of 360 km, Basslink was constructed to allow Tasmania to join the Australian National Electricity Market, exporting Tasmanian hydro-generated power at times of peak prices in Victoria during summer and importing Victorian base-load during off-peak periods during winter. Since commercial operations began in April 2006, Basslink has achieved an average availability of 99.5%.



George Town Converter Station in Tasmania

Above: Delegates review the control mechanisms of the Basslink Interconnector.



Left: George Town Converter Transformer