



Mary's Harbour Town Council

60 Hillview Road, P.O. Box 134
Mary's Harbour, NL A0K 3P0

Phone: 709 921 6281 Fax: 709 921 6255
Email: admin@mhtc.ca



June 6, 2023

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts on the *NL Hydro – 2021 Capital Budget Supplemental Application Approval of the Construction of Hydro's Long-term Supply Plan for Southern Labrador- Revision 1*, as submitted to the Board on May 31, 2023.

After reviewing the revised application, the Town of Mary's Harbour would like to express our disappointment with the Application. Labrador is home to TWO mega hydro-electric projects (Churchill Falls & Muskrat Falls) and there is mention now of a third project (Gull Island) and still NL Hydro is proposing to construct a multimillion-dollar diesel plant in Southeastern Labrador, just 400 km southeast of the grid. The Midgard Report barely mentioned the possibility of powering this area through the Labrador Interconnected System, basically saying it would cost over \$300 million, but no other details were given. In fact, no details were provided on any other alternative besides diesel. We really cannot understand the reasoning. We are in an era when all we hear about is getting to 0 emissions, cutting down on greenhouse gases, going green, etc. and the idea of providing diesel power to any area for the next 50 years is outrageous. There is definitely enough power created from these mega projects to power ALL of Labrador and this was definitely the wishes of ALL communities in this area when Muskrat Falls was being considered for development (please see attached Press Release from Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation – SADC, dated December 1, 2010).

It is unfortunate that Charlottetown lost its diesel plant to a fire in 2019, but what is more unfortunate is that NL Hydro is trying to expedite the construction of a regional diesel plant to supply this area with power for the next 50 years in order to provide Charlottetown with a reliable power supply.

Thankfully, the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador is proposing changes to the Public

Utilities Board's (PUB) that will mandate the PUB to consider issues of environmental responsibility and not just the least cost option which is the PUB's current mandate. The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (Minister Parsons) states, "*Given our commitment to net zero, amendments to the Electrical Power Control Act will now provide the Public Utilities Board with the ability to consider environmentally responsible decisions related to all sources and facilities for the production, transmission and distribution of power in the province, in addition to the lowest cost option....*". We were very happy to hear this. As we see it, the least cost option that NL Hydro is presenting is definitely not the greenest, most environmentally-friendly option.

Again, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our views as the decision will directly impact our community and our region.

We look forward to working with NL Hydro, the PUB, and the communities in this area to ensure that we have an affordable, reliable, clean energy for our future generations.

Respectfully yours,

Mary's Harbour Town Council



for Alton Rumbolt
Mayor

Attachment

Cc: Hon. Andrew Parsons, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology
Hon. Lisa Dempster, MHA Cartwright – L'anse au Clair
Yvonne Jones, MP – Labrador
Todd Russell, President – NunataKavut Community Council
Combined Councils of Labrador
NL Hydro
Town of Charlottetown
Town of Port Hope Simpson
Town of St. Lewis

Press Release

Contact: Roxanne Notley
Phone: (709) 960 0470

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3 P.M. NL, December 1, 2010

Community Leaders outline expectations from Lower Churchill/ Muskrat Falls Development

Community Leaders in Southeastern Labrador expect great things in their region from the Muskrat Falls and Lower Churchill development. On November 30, 2010, Town Leaders in the region joined the Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation in outlining the critical issues affecting their economic growth. The Cartwright – Lodge Bay region, including the entire electoral district recognizes the tremendous need for the province to develop new power supply. The discussion around the table was all about “how this region with a small population but huge opportunities can clearly communicate to government that power for coastal communities is critical”, stated Roxanne Notley, Executive Director for Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation.

Municipal leaders acknowledge that the 2.5 million dollars announced this week to study small hydroelectric projects is encouraging. “There are many rivers in our region that can supply the current and future power demand from Cartwright to the Straits”, says Deputy Mayor Ford Rumbolt, Mary’s Harbour. “In fact these rivers do not have to be flooded to generate the power that is required, causing very little environmental impact which is great”. “We will leave the ‘how’ with the engineers, we just want to ensure that this region is no longer limited to diesel generated power and there is enough for current and future use. This power must also be affordable, and reliable”, says Mayor Margaret Burden, Port Hope Simpson. Furthermore says Mayor Charmaine Powell of Charlottetown “the strategy to provide alternative power for the coastal communities must not wait until the mega energy project is complete it must precede or coincide with this development”.

The activity that will be taking place during this development will be tremendous. During the past year, the towns have experienced huge increases in traffic on Roads throughout the region. This development along with expected increases in mining activity will increase traffic on an already busy highway. The roads are vital to the region's economy and well-being, the dust and deterioration of roads due to high levels of traffic warrant an immediate plan and action to widen and construct a hard surface throughout the district.

"In addition to placing hardtop on roads in the region, the municipalities strongly agree that a development fund (a.k.a. Heritage Fund) be established for Labrador communities to help with badly needed infrastructure projects such as water and sewer", says Mayor Ann Rumbolt of St. Lewis. "Cartwright joins and echoes the statements regarding the tremendous potential in social and economic growth that can be the result when clean, renewable, affordable, reliable power is realized. Continued dialogue and involvement and consultation will ensure that the people and land resources in Southeastern Labrador will continue along the positive beneficial path", declares Mayor Rosetta Holwell

Mr. Alton Rumbolt the Vice President with Combined Councils will be meeting with government leaders next week to reiterate the expectations from the region. "The high cost and availability of power is something we have been advocating for many years, and we now have an opportunity with Lower Churchill and Muskrat Falls development to address the energy challenges for our communities as well", says Mr. Rumbolt.

For More Information:

Mayor, Rosetta Holwell, Cartwright 938 7259

Mayor, Charmaine Powell, Charlottetown 949 0299

Mayor, Margaret Burden, Port Hope Simpson 960 0236

Mayor, Ann Rumbolt – St. Lewis 939 2282

Deputy Mayor, Ford Rumbolt, Mary's Harbour 921 6281

VP Combined Councils, Alton Rumbolt, 921 6281

Vice President SADC, Byron Rumbolt 960 0470