



Mary's Harbour Town Council

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January 9th, 2025

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

Attention: Jo-Anne Galarneau, Executive Director and Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Galarneau:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide our comments on the ***NLH – Approval of the Construction of Hydro's Long-term Supply Plan for Southern Labrador*** application, currently being considered by the Public Utilities Board.

As stated in all previous correspondence from the Town of Mary's Harbour, we DO NOT support the construction of a regional DIESEL plant in southeastern Labrador to supply this area of the province with electricity for the next 50+ years. We strongly and firmly believe that this is not the right approach to enhance our area for future growth and prosperity. It is expected that the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the Government of Canada would not support such a venture. There is a strong global movement towards clean energy, and both the Province of NL and the Government of Canada has committed to developing a ***net-zero electricity system by 2035 and developing a net-zero economy in 2050.***

On December 12, 2024, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Quebec to terminate and replace the 1969 Upper Churchill Contract, develop Gull Island, and expand capacity of the Churchill Falls plant. According to the press release, this deal will result in more than \$225 billion in total revenue for the province over the life of the agreements. This should be a game changer for supplying electricity to ALL areas of Labrador. With the abundance of electricity being produced and sold to other provinces and countries, it would only be reasonable to think that those living closest to the resources would have their electricity needs met as part of the on-going negotiations. All coastal communities in Labrador have been reliant on diesel generated power since they first received electricity in the 1970's. In the 1970's all coastal communities in Labrador were isolated, but that is no longer the case. We are connected by a paved highway and many improvements have been made with communications, transportation, etc. We are trying to

move forward, but for some reason, NL Hydro wants to continue providing coastal Labrador with diesel generated power.

Residential and commercial customers of NL Hydro want the opportunity to heat their homes/business with affordable electric heat, similar to that of Central/Western Labrador. We want to attract investors to our area to enhance economic activity, but with this area staying with diesel generated electricity, and the high cost that is associated with it, we are not an attractive area to start a business/industry when you compare it to other areas of Labrador. We have senior citizens that are still cutting and burning firewood because they cannot afford the high cost of electricity in this area. With the proposed new deal regarding Churchill, it is an opportune time to address our electricity concerns.

Please consider the fact that it will cost \$110 million dollars to construct a regional diesel plant (that will only service 6 coastal communities – all of which are connected to the Trans Labrador Highway) plus operating costs for the next 50 years – this alone should be enough reason to include this item in the negotiations of the Churchill Agreement. The Town of Mary's Harbour will be taking part in the webinars that will allow us to ask questions and express our concerns. This is a time when ALL of Labrador should stand united to ensure ALL communities receive an affordable, clean energy. If we allow this regional diesel plant to be built, it will prevent our area from future growth – which is totally unacceptable.

Again, thank for you for the opportunity and we look forward to reviewing correspondence/submissions from various intervenors.

Sincerely yours,

Mary's Harbour Town Council



Alton Rumbolt
Mayor

Cc: Lisa Dempster, MHA – Cartwright to L'anse au Clair
Yvonne Jones, ML – Labrador
Andrew Furey – Premier – Newfoundland & Labrador
Andrew Parsons, Minister – Industry, Energy and Technology