

Town of Charlottetown

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June 16th 2023

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
120 Torbay Road, PO Box 21040
St. John's, NL
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To Whom it may concern,

The Town Council for Charlottetown (Labrador) is submitting this letter to the Public Utilities Board regarding the Southern Labrador Regional Diesel Plant proposed by NL Hydro. Being without a proper power supply since the fire in November of 2019, the communities of Charlottetown and Pinsents Arm have been forced to receive power from an assortment of back-up generators. The generators were described as a short-term fix while a permanent solution was being developed. The decision by NL Hydro in 2020 to construct a regional diesel plant, to not only replace the Charlottetown plant, but also allow for the decommission and replacement of the aging plants in St. Lewis, Mary's Harbour and Port Hope Simpson was not a popular decision. However, our community council requests that the PUB make a decision regarding the matter because we can not continue to operate our communities with for the power solution that's in place.

Our council, like others in the region, were not pleased with Hydro's decision to construct a diesel plant because it goes against federal environment initiatives as well the Provincial Governments commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, which is an essential aspect of the 2021 Provincial Renewable Energy Plan. When it was explained that this new plant would be the primary power source at first with the ability to be converted to a regional back-up station when a clean energy source is developed, our council agreed that this proposal was a step in the right direction because it would provide the required ground work for future development of infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions in the region. The new plant would also address our regions immediate needs, which the current power plants do not, by doubling the power capacity output, which would be good for potential commercial investment and growth in the region.

Our council understands the oppositions side over the viability of the NL Hydro's regional plant. Those communities, corporations and Indigenous groups are highlighting that Labrador is home to 2 hydro electric projects (Churchill Falls & Muskrat Falls) and are in early development stages of a third (Gull Island). It is undeniable that these projects would provide ample amounts of electricity to the Labrador South Coast, and fall in line with the provincial Renewable Energy Plan. Even NL Hydro has not denied this fact. However, none of these opposers are noting that even with the potential hydro transmission line, each community would still require a diesel power plant as a back-up. NL Hydro is stating that this

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regional plant would not only act as that back-up, but will provide the necessary infrastructure that a transmission line would require to provide each community hydro electricity in the future. NL Hydro has always been transparent in their stand that they will not be the corporation developing the renewable resources solution. However, in meetings with our council, NL Hydro has stated that they will support another group interested in providing renewable resources, and would even be willing to develop a partnership.

The proposed Southern Labrador Regional Diesel Plant is a necessary development for Charlottetown and Pinsent's Arm; however, it will benefit the entire region. It would solve the power capacity issues, well outputting less emissions than what's in place. However, our council feels it should be viewed as being the first phase in a long-term hydro electricity solution for the region. It is hard to accept that a diesel power plant is the only solution for Southern Labrador. A commitment to provide hydro electricity to the region, within a given time frame, could provide peace of mind to those opposers and allow for construction of the current project to begin. How this is achieved; whether it be through government intervention with legislation and policy, mediation or developed through partnerships with Nunacor, NunatuKavut or another corporation, the people of Charlottetown and Pinsent's Arm need to know that a proper power solution is moving ahead, well also knowing they are part of a long-term energy solution.

What cannot happen is that the project sits idle well parties deliberate over the viability of the proposed project. The communities of Charlottetown and Pinsent's Arm can no longer be used as a bartering chip for organizations to pursue their agenda, this includes both NL Hydro and opposing parties. A regional diesel plant is not the environmentally friendly solution, no one is denying that, but it is in our council's opinion that a regional diesel development will lead to the regional hydro electricity project that our area deserves., well providing our communities a stable power in the meantime. If the PUB does not take action, the communities of Charlottetown and Pinsents arm are fearful that they will remain on a back-up power supply for many years. A back-up power supply that all parties involved have agreed is not a safe long-term solution, and is unprecedented in the province's history.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ricky Oram'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

His Worship Ricky Oram
Mayor, Town of Charlottetown (Labrador)

*The following letter was reviewed and supported by the Community Council for the Local Service District of Pinsents Arm

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Cc: Hon. Andrew Parsons, Minister of Energy and Technology
Hon. Lisa Dempster, MHA Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair
Yvonne Jones, MP – Labrador
NL Hydro Executive Board
Todd Russell, President – NunatuKavut Community Council
Combined Councils of Labrador
Local Service District of Pinsents Arm
Town of Port Hope Simpson
Town of Mary's Harbour
Town of St. Lewis