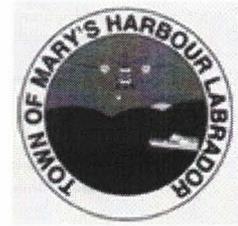




Mary's Harbour Town Council

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November 1st, 2021

Ms. Cheryl Blundon
Director of Corporate Services & Board Secretary
Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
Prince Charles Building
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

Dear Ms. Blundon:

Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro – Application for Approval to Construct Phase 1 of Hydro's Long-Term Supply Plan for Southern Labrador.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our thoughts/concerns regarding the above captioned proposed development.

First of all, we would like to say that we were somewhat shocked and very disappointed that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro – a Crown Corporation – would consider providing electricity for the long-term to any part of Newfoundland and Labrador via diesel generators in a time when the rest of the Province, Country, and the World are going green.

We see from reading the application that consideration was given for a number of different options. Option 4.5 Alternative 4 - Interconnection to the Labrador Interconnected System is definitely the preferred option for providing electricity to this area for the future. We understand that the cost is estimated to be \$400 million for this option, but there is no mention of the savings from decommissioned diesel plants & the fuel cost savings. It is also our understanding that the Federal Government has funding available to help with this sort of initiative, as per an announcement on May 13, 2021 - it stated "*...government is investing an additional \$300 million to give rural, remote and Indigenous communities currently reliant on diesel the opportunity to be powered by clean, reliable energy by 2030.*" From the application on file to the PUB from NL Hydro, they are proposing to keep all of southern Labrador connected by DIESEL for many, many years into the future.

The Town also feels that there is an option that has not been explored - that is the option of bringing the power back from the Island to southern Labrador (L'anse au Clair to Cartwright). It is our understanding that power leaving Muskrat Falls makes its way to the Island and is then distributed throughout the communities on the Island. Wouldn't it make sense to bring the power back to Labrador (the same way it is taken out)? This option would eliminate the need for any diesel plants in SE Labrador (Cartwright, Charlottetown, Port Hope Simpson, St. Lewis, Mary's Harbour, and L'anse au Loup – and St.

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Anthony too for that matter). There would be NO fuel costs in the future, net zero emissions for this area!

We understand that Charlottetown has been without a diesel plant since a fire in 2019 and they are desperate for a reliable power supply and we certainly agree that they need this problem rectified immediately. We do support construction of a new diesel plant for Charlottetown or the construction of a transmission line from the current Port Hope Simpson diesel plant (with upgrades as need) to accommodate Charlottetown in the interim, but only UNTIL a study is sanctioned that will look at all possible options to provide this area with a connection to the grid.

Diesel generated power limits business and industrial development in our area, it limits our ability to heat our homes/businesses with electric heat, it is noisy, dirty, and harmful to the environment. We presently have a mining company that is looking at starting in our area and one of the biggest challenges they face is an adequate and dependable power supply. Imagine the opportunities that will be missed in this area should the mine not start because of a lack of electricity!!

It will be a great injustice to our children and grandchildren if we do not do the right thing here and look to where the rest of the world is heading in terms of becoming friendlier to our environment. We are living in a time when our Province is promoting electric cars and installing charging stations for these electric cars/trucks - not to mention the billions of dollars that have been spent to develop a power supply for the entire Province (well almost) to do away with the Holyrood Generating Station.

The Town of Mary's Harbour is onboard to doing its part to promote a healthy environment and we are against the construction of a super DIESEL plant to provide electricity to our community or any community going forward. We can do better and we must do better.

Thank you again for this opportunity and we look forward to working with the Provincial Government and NL Hydro to secure a reliable, clean power supply for this area.

Sincerely yours,

MARY'S HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL



Alton Rumbolt
Mayor