



Mary's Harbour Town Council

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November 22nd, 2023

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:

First of all, we would like to thank you again for the opportunity to express our concerns and comment on NL Hydro's proposed Regional Diesel Plant, as a long-term plan for supplying Southern Labrador with electricity. As stated previously, we do not support this application for a number of reasons and we definitely do not think that diesel generated power is acceptable as a long-term solution for any area, especially in an area of our Province that have two major hydro electric projects in our back yard.

Secondly, we would like to commend the Public Utilities Board (PUB), Newfoundland Power (NP), and NunataKavut Community Council (NCC) for doing a thorough review of the application and asking NL Hydro questions that needed to be asked. In small communities, such as ours, we do not have the human resources, financial resources, or technical expertise to conduct a proper review of the application and we want to say "thank you" for doing what appears to be an awesome review.

Since the fire at the diesel plant in Charlottetown in 2019, it is our understanding/observation - living in the area - that a lot of resources have been spent in Charlottetown, and rightfully so. Charlottetown deserves a reliable power supply. It would be interesting to know how much financial resources (materials/labour) have been funneled into providing Charlottetown with power since the fire?? It may very well have been enough to have a new diesel plant built in Charlottetown, while NL Hydro took more time to review and source out financial opportunities to provide this area with a power supply that will be less expensive to operate and maintain into the future than a diesel plant.

The Mary's Harbour Town Council would like to reiterate our stand on this application – we DO NOT support the construction of a regional diesel plant to provide us with electricity for the next 50 years. We would like to be connected to the Lower Churchill grid and receive electricity rates similar to those in Central and Western Labrador. We would like to install electric heat in our homes and ensure that it is affordable for our residents/businesses. We would like for NL Hydro to provide a reliable, affordable electricity supply to our area so that our communities can attract new economic development, allow local business the opportunity to expand, and make it affordable for residents to stay or more attractive for our children/grandchildren to move back to this area.

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One last point – the application refers to providing electricity to Southern Labrador, but only looks at the communities of Charlottetown, Pinsent’s Arm, Port Hope Simpson, St. Lewis, Mary’s Harbour and Lodge Bay – but it would be an oversight to not include the communities of Cartwright, Paradise River, and the Labrador Straits (these communities are also located in Southern Labrador) as part of this long-term plan for supplying electricity to Southern Labrador. It is our understanding that the Labrador Straits area receive their electricity from Quebec and have diesel generators as a back-up. It is well-known in that area, that they have issues with the power from Quebec and with their diesel back up. The Labrador Straits is less than 80 kms from the area included in NL Hydro’s application to the PUB.

Again, thank you for the opportunity and we look forward to future correspondence, including answers to questions that have been posed to NL Hydro.

Sincerely yours,

Mary’s Harbour Town Council



Alton Rumbolt
Mayor