



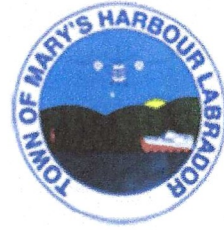
Mary's Harbour Town Council

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August 12th, 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

Subject: Comments on NL Hydro's Application for Long-Term Supply Plan – Southern Labrador

Dear Ms. Galarneau,

It is deeply concerning that NL Hydro continues to propose a regional diesel plant as a long-term energy solution for Southern Labrador. This concept has been discussed, studied, and ultimately rejected in the past—for valid and well-documented reasons. Upon reviewing their recent application for reconsideration, we are disappointed to find no substantial changes or new information that would justify a reversal of the Board's earlier decision.

It appears evident that NL Hydro is persisting with this application primarily due to the loss of the diesel plant in Charlottetown and Pinsent's Arm in 2019. However, it must be emphasized that both the Town of Charlottetown and the Local Service District of Pinsent's Arm *do not* support this plan—and neither do we.

The Town of Mary's Harbour has consistently and unequivocally stated its opposition to the construction of a regional diesel plant to serve Southeastern Labrador for the next 50+ years. We believe this approach is fundamentally misaligned with the goals of growth, sustainability, and economic opportunity in our communities.

We respectfully remind the Board that both the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada have committed to achieving a **net-zero electricity system by 2035** and a **net-zero economy by 2050**. Endorsing a long-term diesel generation project directly contradicts these national and provincial commitments and would further marginalize our region—both economically and environmentally.

Moreover, the historic **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** signed on **December 12, 2024**, between the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec marks a turning point in this province's energy future. This MOU—which aims to replace the 1969 Upper Churchill Contract, develop Gull Island, and expand Churchill Falls capacity—has the potential to generate more than **\$225 billion in revenue**

over its lifespan. This transformative agreement must also benefit Labrador's coastal communities, particularly those in close proximity to these energy resources.

Historically, coastal communities in Labrador have depended on diesel power since the 1970s. But today, these communities are no longer isolated. The **Trans-Labrador Highway** now connects us, and modern advancements in infrastructure, communication, and transportation have reshaped the region. It is unacceptable that NL Hydro continues to advocate for diesel as our primary energy source when the rest of the province and country are moving toward clean alternatives.


Residents and business owners in Southeastern Labrador deserve the same access to affordable, reliable, and **clean electricity** as those in Central and Western Labrador. Our continued dependence on diesel only exacerbates the high cost of living and hampers our ability to attract investment or grow our economy. Many of our seniors still burn firewood because they cannot afford electric heating—a situation that is unacceptable in 2025.

At a time when our Province is investing in and exporting clean energy to other jurisdictions, it is only fair and logical that **coastal Labrador**—which lies closest to these resources—should also benefit. Spending **\$110 million** on a diesel plant to serve just six communities (all of which are now road-connected) is neither **economically responsible** nor **environmentally sustainable**. When long-term operational and fuel costs are factored in, the total cost becomes even more burdensome.

We urge the Board and the Government to incorporate this issue into the ongoing Churchill negotiations and work toward an energy future that is **clean, affordable, and equitable** for all Labradorians.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to share our views. We look forward to reviewing other submissions and will continue to advocate for solutions that prioritize sustainability, equity, and progress for all communities in Southeastern Labrador.

Sincerely yours,
Mary's Harbour Town Council


for Alton Rumbolt
Mayor

Cc: Lisa Dempster, MHA – Cartwright to L'anse au Clair
Philip Earle, MP – Labrador
John Hogan – Premier – Newfoundland & Labrador
Steve Crocker, Minister – Industry, Energy and Technology