

Dear IRAC

Please find attached my comments to the approval to purchase combustion turbine by Maritime Electric. Please confirm receipt.

Cheers,

Tracey

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Maritime Electric Diesel Plant Response

While it is true we need an immediate solution to our energy shortfall, I believe as do others that adding an old technology plant isn't the solution and presents a very short-sighted and narrow view of both the problem and the solution. Below is a comparison on advantages and disadvantages the key items to consider. The main problem is primarily consumption which I understand there is some limited education proposed to be implemented by the corporation who profits from selling energy. That's like asking any business to tell customers to please don't use or buy my product.. This should be a third party driven educational component. The second is that our over consumption habit is both driving up our need for more power and our cost for power, since we need expensive solutions to create more power. Now step back and think Island wide for a moment, think of rural PEI and its needs. We have an opportunity to support rural communities, create local new technology jobs for the next generation, build infrastructure that is sustainable, and build the capacity we need for decentralized power. Put solar panels with back up storage units that feed into the grid on the roofs of Community centres/rinks etc.. The infrastructure costs could be borne by the existing federal infrastructure program where there are monies not being used by some communities who have no infrastructure. The input costs are free as the sun doesn't cost a penny while diesel the input required for the new proposed plant costs money, fluctuates in price, and will be an obsolete fuel in ten years. There are solar panel power plants being established worldwide – Green. Local. Profitable and deploy-able within months. No fuel risk, minimal water use, no noise or pollution. Solar hasn't been considered in the application.

Please consider this more and don't invest \$70 million in old technology for 140,000 residents.

Comparison of Diesel Plant to Solar Panels

Diesel Plant

Solar Panels & Storage

Advantages/Disadvantages

Technology -We know and love this old technology even if it will again need to be replaced in 10 years due to fuel costs or that fact that diesel will be an obsolete fuel in the near future.

Technology – panels and storage have been proven in Germany and other locations with the storage device . <http://www.solarenergystorage.org/>

Do we move forward to use sustainable technology or hold onto the old technology until it is obsolete?

Labour – There is some initial labour and ongoing maintenance labour to supply jobs in a declining old technology job market

Labour – helps to create a new and growing industry on PEI with Government leading the way. It supports the Holland College programs designed to train in renewable energies – students are looking for work.

Do we give jobs to those approaching retirement or to those who are just starting out and save them from moving off island?

Benefits beyond energy generation – If solar panels with or without storage were placed in key locations across PEI (Community Halls, Rinks, Government Offices, Churches etc.) they could assist rural/urban communities in supplying needed services at reduced cost while feeding into the electrical system.

Can we start looking at more than singular solutions, seeking to create benefits beyond one corporate interest?

Infrastructure vs Input Costs - \$70 million only considers the initial infrastructure and not the input costs (diesel) or ongoing maintenance costs.

How many litres of diesel/infrastructure cost does it take to create one kwh?

Infrastructure vs Input Costs - \$70 million will buy a lot of solar panels and storage units.

Input – diesel cost with the future trend that diesel will be obsolete in 10 years. Plus the price of diesel fluctuates creating uncertainty.

Input – Sun - Free

Environment – fuel leaking risk, pollution, noise and water usage which is currently at a prime in Charlottetown....think of our water strategy!

Environment - No fuel risk, minimal water use, no noise or pollution.

-- Tracey Allen