

From: [Doug Crossman](#)
To: [Electricity Inquiries](#)
Cc: info@energydemocracy.ca
Subject: RE: request for input into Maritime Electric Diesel Turbine Proposal
Date: Monday, August 10, 2026 3:08:03 PM

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RE: request for input into Maritime Electric Diesel Turbine Proposal

Dear IRAC,

The Premier's spring session Mandate Letter outlining his 5 policy priorities is a directive to Cabinet to conduct the Government's business based on solid governance principles: collaboration across Departments; accountability; responsible fiscal management; affordability and, achieving measurable outcomes, among others. I believe that the most important 'measurable outcome' is stated at the end of the Premier's Letter: **"These priorities reflect our shared goal: to improve quality of life, strengthen communities, and build a sustainable and prosperous future for Prince Edward Island"**. If this vision is to be taken seriously, none of that can, or will, be achieved without securing our **Energy Future**.

Although Climate Change is not mentioned as a considerable risk to our public health and economic prosperity, it is encouraging that access to reliable (affordable) Energy is the number 1 priority. You have heard/read the concerns of many Islanders regarding the short sightedness of Maritime Electric's 'energy solution plan', the strongest voice being, the impressive work by Energy Democracy Now! The article by EDN (Guardian March 26/27), as well as the opinions of other energy experts, articulates the present-day complexities of ensuring a reliable-affordable supply of energy, as well as the critical need for a strong legislated policy and regulatory framework to steward and sustain an essential Public Resource.

So, why should the average Islander support stronger regulation? First, as the cost-of-living pressures grow, we are being blamed for the problem (too much consumption) while also seen as the solution (reduce our consumption). Clearly, demand mitigation should be a component of any effective energy management policy strategy. However, it is hard to accept a 'citizen based' approach to energy system management, when Maritime Electric has a plan to increase our rates 7-8% to ensure their shareholders receive a 9%+ pay back on investment. Second, Maritime Electric is owned by Fortis, along with 9 other utilities across North America. Fortis plans to spend \$28.8 billion (capital investment) over the next 5 years to stabilize earnings targeting continued dividend growth for its shareholders. **Their goal: "to keep growing the dividend, to frame Fortis as an income-oriented name with a clear investment agenda" (Feb. 2026).**

Third, given Fortis's influence over Maritime Electric, is our utility simply executing the Fortis plan to ensure that their parent company achieves their shareholder sensitive performance objectives? Is the purchase of diesel fueled turbine(s) simply expanding their regulated asset base that we pay for? We need to consider the implications of the Fortis plan, and given Energy Democracy Now's analysis, the CEO of Fortis needs to be called before the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Standing Committee to explain how his company's asset-driven profit strategy will

help achieve the Premiers 'shared-goal' with Islanders. If accountability is a key principle of governance, demand it!

In addition, recent commitments to improve Island access to mainline power supply and a growing interest among the three Maritime Premiers to create a Maritime wide approach to our energy future requires extensive citizen participation and transparency. In addition, strong legislation; enforceable regulatory policies; as well as an energy future focused independent body, will be needed to ensure that **energy is a publicly owned resource**; actually understands and plans for climate change challenges; ensures investments in energy renewables; and extends controls over profit driven energy companies.

The Premiers dismissive response to the Green Party's proposed Act to Amend the Electric Power Act reflects a disconnect to his own stated principles. We must build on the principles which indeed ensures a strong energy future for Islanders and Island business interests. The Governments response to needed changes in Electric Power legislation along with Maritime electrics diesel turbine proposal (Fortis), are the opposite approaches to an energy renewable and affordable future.

Doug Crossman, Rustico

The main body of this letter was sent to the PEI Legislature(MLAs) in March ,2026