

Joint submission from Island residents regarding UE20742

We need to choose options that are safe and sustainable. Diesel needs to be phased out.

- Julea Boswell, Charlottetown

I am a concerned Islander regarding the future proposed investment of large sums of money by Maritime Electric in a technology of diesel-fired generators to top up the power grid during peak load times.

This last-century technology needs to stop as soon as possible. The transition to renewables is a process and one we need to invest in for the good of the future and the health of the only planet we have. The profit line of a company whose primary purpose is to their share holders's profit margin is in stark contrast to the absolute ethics of planetary wellness. We need to view the future, doing all that we can to buy into the transition to a renewable energy future. Climate disruption is real, and ignoring that fact is not smart and very short-sighted. I do not want to be investing in the last century's technology.

Maritime Electric is a big disappointment for their lack of creativity and progressive solutions to the challenge before us. Please, IRAC, make decisions that benefit people and life's viability, not simply buy into this company's line, whose proposal benefits their own economic gain rather than our health and well-being.

- Marilyn Sparling, Charlottetown

Please pay attention to the continued damage this would cause and consider options that are more earth-friendly. If not now, when!!!

- Connie Siemens, Charlottetown

I see absolutely no justification for choosing an outdated fossil fuel option when the way forward is undeniably reduction in use of fossil fuels. We have a viable option with batteries on the table now. Let's do it, PEI.

- Douglas Miller, Stratford

The most expensive power to meet demand makes little common sense.

- Darren Riggs, Charlottetown

There is no reason, with technology where it is at today, to invest further in fossil fuels. There are local companies who can work with regulators to design and build out a grid made up mostly of renewables. Frontier Power Systems in Georgetown has expertise in such things, for instance. I want a stable climate for my children and we all should feel responsible for making that future for them.

- Amy Macpherson, Murray River

IRAC, As we all are well aware, it is 2026. The world is not longer metaphorically on fire, but quite literally. Allowing Maritime Electric to install diesel turbines is not only untimely, and egregiously short-sighted, it will also not be the most cost-effective nor reliable solution to the energy issue. Please do not allow this plan to proceed. Instead, as the Energy Democracy Now Cooperative has outlined in their alternative solution, please recommend a Battery Energy Storage System. We must to all we can, at all scales of human activity, at this exact moment, to curtail the very worst effects of the rapidly escalating climate crisis.

- Mille Clarkes, Charlottetown

Please, please, please do not turn to burning more fossil fuels! In case you haven't noticed- THE WORLD IS ON FIRE. Tens of thousands of people are dying from extreme heat. Our Island is so small, we cannot misuse our water sources on cooling these diesel generators. I am living in energy poverty now. There are alternatives to diesel generators- please listen!

- Lois Doan, Rocky Point

A combustion turbine is not the safest or most reliable option. The infrastructure comes with a one-year warranty, but a 50-year lifespan, and the turbines are not new; they are used. With infrequent, intense use, these used turbines are at risk of damage and breaking. Pro-energy, the manufacturer, is based in Missouri, so if a part breaks during a storm We are reliant on the US Diesel is NOT the answer. It's too expensive and not clean.

- Lyn B. Dean, Ellerslie-Bideford

Concerning Maritime Electric's proposal to install diesel combustion turbines in downtown Charlottetown: I am extremely concerned about tying the island's energy to expensive, polluting technology while cheaper, more sustainable alternatives are ignored. We should be choosing more sustainable options to combat climate change rather than going backwards with more fossil fuel technology. We have the opportunity to be a positive leader in our region and join the many regions and countries that are making cleaner, more sustainable and ultimately cheaper choices for our energy needs.

- Liza Wendt, Charlottetown

Enforced mandatory rules for making Maritime Electric and other corporate users of public [our] money. No to diesel or any other fossil-fuel run generators. Take away the power of IRAC and give to Islanders of a community-appointed provincial committee separate from IRAC. This committee would be in charge of public funds to develop community-based green energy. This funding should include what Maritime Electric usually gets of public funds, along with whatever else it siphons off Islanders who invest in green energy and back onto the M.E. grid. Maritime Electric should have no seat at the table of such a committee. Indeed, IRAC has much to have done to it to truly address the need for affordable and clean energy.

- Edith Perry, Vernon River

Corporations seem to be more fossil-fuel oriented these days. This move is not an improvement but a return to the ways that brought us to the climate crisis in the first place. It is wrong and there are better ways to move forward with the times.

- Kathleen Romans, Charlottetown

Dear IRAC, I don't support MEC's application to purchase a gas generator which will be rarely used and if MEC implemented more load management options and invested in more renewable resources and battery back up the diesel generator is not justifiable. We don't need or want any more fossil fuel generators, the climate emergency demands that we meet our electricity needs without increasing CO2 emissions.

- Roy Johnstone, Bonshaw

While I fully realize that our growing need for electricity requires backup emergency power. I would like to see any investment in backup be weighted toward wind and solar energy. Investing in battery storage of that energy as well. I would like to see PEI transition away from fossil fuels. I understand our climate is not ideal, but if Germany can make the transition, I am confident PEI can as well.

- Susana Rutherford, Charlottetown

My name is Mark MacDougall and I live in Cornwall, PEI. I have recently retired after 35 years as a teacher. Thank you for asking for input on this decision.

I feel strongly that we should be rejecting the idea of diesel turbines to supplement the grid in peak times. This would be a very expensive undertaking and tie us to burning fossil fuels for decades. Besides higher upfront costs and the need to continue to import fuel to the province to run the turbines, it would produce emissions that would be detrimental to the health of local residents and make our goal of lowering emissions more difficult.

Fortunately there are alternatives like increasing renewable clean energy and using BESS systems to store energy for later use. In addition to the positive effects on human health and the environment, it is also the cheaper option! The amount of free solar and wind energy that we leave untapped every day is really a shame. We need to capture that and use it.

I would argue that even if the BESS option was more expensive it would be still preferential. The fact that it is also cheaper and could be expanded in the future makes it seem like an obvious winner. The timelines for implementing each option is also the same.

People will argue that the amount of electricity is very small, but that will become larger as our energy usage continues to be more electrified. I believe it is a time for Canada in general and PEI in particular to do our part to advance renewable, cleaner, cheaper ways to provide our community with electricity.

As a father and a former teacher I am interested in the future we are setting up for the children of our community. I don't want to wait again to do the right thing. I want us to be part of the solution.

Thank you for asking for input into this very important issue.

- Mark MacDougall, Cornwall

Enough is enough. Maritime Electric needs to wake up and start using its own money instead of asking customers to pay by hiking up rates. If one owned a home, car, or small business and didn't have the funds, they would either take out a loan or save up money if they didn't have it. Never mind "oh my god" I have to make shareholders don't lose money ???

- Brian MacDonald, Summerside

I am very concerned about Maritime Electric's diesel proposal for PEI. The way forward should not be to tie ourselves to outdated energy sources but should be looking for solutions that will be least harmful to our climate and environment. I object strenuously to Maritime Electric's plan.

- Nancy Macconnell Bourque, Charlottetown

I am opposed to the proposal of diesel turbines ANYWHERE in PEI. Residents are tired of being held hostage for our power. I say NO!

- Kim Kempton, Charlottetown

It seems foolish to make the island dependent on an expensive fossil fuel when we have wind power. Surely it would be better to spend funds to expand that power, we do have a lot of wind over this island.

- Gail Rutherford, Charlottetown

Hello, I am entirely against the building of diesel engines by Maritime Electric. We should be pursuing renewable energies via solar and wind to supplement the energy we have now.

- Laura Bourque, Charlottetown

My Comment is simple: do NOT support Maritime Electric's proposal for two 50-megawatt diesel combustion turbines in downtown Charlottetown.

This is a move that is contrary to all positive developments for our city, province, and country. Do not allow this corporation to hold the Province hostage with regard to electricity supply. Do not allow this corporation to control the industrial expansion in the downtown core of a city that is dependent on tourism. Do not allow this corporation to contribute to the overabundance of SO₂, NO_x, VOCs, CO, and PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀ that are filling up our atmosphere and causing irreversible harm to the biosphere.

The scientific evidence is overwhelming and completely clear. This is a BAD IDEA, and there is a need to stop this behaviour now.

There is no human health without recognizing the importance of planetary health.

Refer to the most recent publication in NATURE (one of the world's most important scientific journals) -- Quilcaille, Y., Gudmundsson, L., Schumacher, D.L. et al. Systematic attribution of

heatwaves to the emissions of carbon majors. Nature 645, 392–398 (2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-09450-9>.

- William Montelpare, Charlottetown