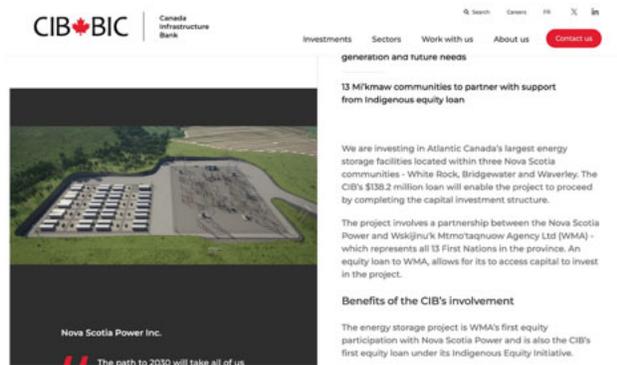


3) <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/TdNiHwEBmw>



4) Clean Electricity Solutions Task Force

The task force of two was comprised of Alison Scott, a former Nova Scotia deputy minister of Energy and former member of the National Energy Board, and [John MacIsaac](#), a former senior vice-president of Nalcor Energy in Newfoundland and Labrador from 2016-2019.

5) Additionally, Rob Batherson, a Conservative Party operative, was extended a non-publicized [\\$100,000 contract](#) to assist Scott and MacIsaac with “administrative” duties.

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/economy/energy/task-force-recommends-sweeping-reforms-of-nova-scotia-power-and-uarb/>

7) Ontario Gas Plant Failures & Controversies

-Ontario:

- **The 2011/2013 Scandal (\$1B+ Cost):** The Liberal government cancelled two gas-fired power plants (Oakville and Mississauga) in 2011 to save seats in a provincial election, a move that cost taxpayers an estimated \$1 billion.
<https://taf.ca/ontarios-next-gas-plant-scandal/>

-Quebec:

Failed Past Project (Bécancour): Hydro-Québec previously paid over **\$1-billion in compensation** to TransCanada Corp. for a "hardly-used" gas plant in Bécancour, which was mothballed.

Jan 14, 2016 — *Hydro-Québec has found it cheaper to pay TransCanada not to produce power rather than to pay for electricity from Bécancour and resell it on the ...*

8) <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/UOcJO5nnzz>

**Analysis of Proposed Development of the
Maritime Link and Associated Energy from
Muskrat Falls Relative to Alternatives**

Prepared for:

Nova Scotia Department of Energy

January 16, 2013



poweradvisoryllc.com
978 369-2465

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

e2efdadb

Submission Date

01/02/2026 12:33

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

I am a 30+ year resident of Six Mile Brook and a property taxpayer. I live within one kilometre of this proposed plant and am deeply concerned about how it will affect my health and financial security.

If this plant goes ahead, I will lose a significant amount of money on my property value. This property was supposed to support me in my later years – that investment is now at risk because of fumes, noise, and industrial pollution that will make my home nearly unlivable. The enjoyment of my home, which I have worked hard to pay for and maintain, will be destroyed.

Living within one kilometre of this plant means I will be directly exposed to its pollution. The fumes and noise will affect my daily life and my health. At my age, I cannot simply tolerate or recover from this.

I am also very concerned about the water table and the quality of my well water. What guarantees do we have that this plant will not contaminate our groundwater? Water is

essential to life, and I need to know that my water will remain safe.

Our property taxes are already high enough. I should not have to bear additional costs from this plant's fallout while watching my property value plummet. It is fundamentally unfair that I will lose so much money – money I was counting on for my retirement years – because a private company wants to profit at our expense.

If this project proceeds, I demand full compensation for property devaluation, health impacts, and any contamination of my water supply. Longtime taxpayers like me deserve better than this.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

Please note:

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

No documents to display.

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

b97acaef

Submission Date

01/02/2026 12:35

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

I am a current landowner of several hundred acres. My property was intended as a retirement investment, and with the proposed new plant adjacent to me, its value will drop by approximately 50%. I believe I am entitled to compensation if this deal goes through, as the land will be rendered unusable by fumes and noise. As a property taxpayer for over 60 years, I feel I should not be stripped of my right to use my property as I wish. If this plant goes through, I will have to put up with the noise and fumes if I sit on my front veranda. As a citizen of Six Mile Brook, entering my mid-seventies, I have long considered my land a long-term investment – I will be robbed of that money for retirement. History shows that uneducated people in politics should not be making these decisions. In the early 60s, the government decided to bring a pulp mill to Pictou Co., NS, and for well over 40 years, taxpayers were forced to keep the plant running while the company pillaged the environment and taxes. The only beneficiaries of the mill were those who had employment from the plant, while the rest of us were subject to the

plant's pollution. My belief is that if governments are going to take and invest taxpayers' money, they need to be educated investors making those decisions, not leave it to elected officials with no background or experience. Older people are at great risk for respiratory and cardiac, and other health issues. This plant will produce fumes that are hazardous even at levels below regulatory limits. This plant also puts our well water at risk and will damage our brooks and streams. The pulp mill was often found to be exceeding toxin limits, and there was no oversight, monitoring, or repercussions.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

Please note:

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

No documents to display.

ad; landowner at Gunn Road, New Road #2)

Monday, February 2, 2026

Environmental Assessment Branch
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8
Email: ea@novascotia.ca

Re: Public Comment — Environmental Assessment Registration for the Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility — Salt Springs

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility in Salt Springs, particularly related to clean water use, drought vulnerability, and consultation with Mi'kmaw communities.

The project proposes ongoing withdrawals of clean water for operational use at a time when local water systems have already demonstrated significant vulnerability. During the summer and early fall of 2025, severe drought conditions resulted in very low water levels in Six Mile Brook and the West River from June through October. These conditions highlighted the fragility of both surface water and groundwater systems relied upon by residents, ecosystems, and downstream users. Approving new industrial water demands without clear, enforceable safeguards poses a serious risk under current and future climate conditions.

The project documentation acknowledges potential connections between groundwater withdrawal and surface water levels, yet does not provide sufficient assurance that withdrawals at the proposed scale will not worsen low-flow conditions during dry periods. Given increasing drought frequency, a precautionary approach is warranted.

I am also concerned about the apparent lack of meaningful consultation with Mi'kmaw communities, including Pictou Landing First Nation. While the reserve itself may not be immediately adjacent to the site, impacts should not be assessed by distance alone. A Mi'kmaw family resides approximately one kilometre from the proposed facility, and the surrounding lands and waters are part of Mi'kma'ki — a living cultural and ecological landscape.

As an educator, I bring my Mi'kmaw students outside to different environments to learn as part of our Outdoor Education learning. This has included trips to Salt Springs Provincial Park as part of our Fish Friends project release, and for hikes at Six Mile Brook and along Four Mile Brook. These experiences centre on stewardship, respect for land and water, and understanding our shared responsibility to protect natural systems. It is deeply important that development decisions align with these values and model accountability for future generations.

Given the well-documented environmental harm experienced by Pictou Landing First Nation at A'sek (Boat Harbour), it is essential that new projects in this region demonstrate a clear commitment to early, respectful, and trust-building consultation, informed by past failures and reconciliation responsibilities.

I respectfully urge IESO Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change to require:

- A comprehensive hydrogeological assessment that includes worst-case drought scenarios and impacts on local streams and wells;
- Enforceable water withdrawal limits tied to real-time hydrological conditions;
- Transparent, public monitoring of water levels; and
- Meaningful consultation with Mi'kmaw communities, including Pictou Landing First Nation.

Energy infrastructure should not come at the expense of clean water, community resilience, or reconciliation commitments. Wela'lioq for taking these concerns seriously.

Kindest regards,

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

c75aae5a

Submission Date

02/02/2026 19:25

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

Please see the attached letter outlining my concerns/inquiries about the proposed Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Station in Salt Springs.

Wela'lioq for taking residents' concerns seriously in this process.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

 IESO Natural Gas Plant Letter -

df 47.93 KB

Remaining No of Files : 9

Please note:

By submitting your comments, you are consenting to the posting of your comments on the department's website.

Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

Total Documents: 1

[IESO Natural Gas Plant Letter - .pdf \(/Admin/View-Documents/941013f0-4cc3-435c-867f-dc16b61c6e0e/878b4e15-8c4c-4527-8df4-0fa645e6edd3\)](#)

Saltspring's Environmental Assessment Findings Review Questions and Suggestions

@eastlink.ca · @eastlink.ca>

Date Mon 2026-02-02 11:25 PM

To Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

 1 attachment (3 MB)

Environ Assess Review Feb 9, 2026.docx;

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Please accept my review of the Saltspring's Environmental Assessment regarding the proposed Natural Gas Generating Power Plant. I make these comments, questions, and suggestions to understand and perhaps stimulate thought for my community and this development.

I hope you will answer the questions and review the suggestions for their merit. I understand changes need to be made with our Power source(s), distribution system, suppliers, owners/investors. These changes will affect our future as Nova Scotians and Canadians. I hope the developments are made wisely without bias or prejudice with this in mind.

Saltsprings Environmental Assessment Review for Feb 9, 2026

As a citizen of Pictou County, Nova Scotia, I have concerns about the development of the Saltsprings Fast Acting Simple Cycle Natural Gas Generating Project. Although, I am strongly in favor of alternative power solutions as per the Clean Power Plan, I see the timeline of the EA and its transparency as minimal. The following will be my concerns and questions regarding this project and its interrelationship with the IESO and with Nova Scotia's Clean Energy Plan by Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment for Saltsprings presented November 12 and 13, 2025, in Pictou County, I realized one thing. Although the environmental assessment addressed repercussions and impacts of the projects, but the actual details of the fast acting simple cycle Natural Gas Generating Plant requires an understanding of how this plant processes electricity. This requires more information more information about this type of plant and also about alternatives.

These are some of my questions:

- 1. How reliant will Pictou County and Nova Scotia be if natural gas must be imported into Nova Scotia mainly via the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline from the US?** Nova Scotia relies entirely on *imported Natural Gas* since the closure of the Sable and Panuke offshore in 2018. The Trenton Coal Electrical Generating Plant is to be decommissioned and the proposed Saltspring's Natural Gas is supposed to be peak only.
- 2. What will be the baseload plant and how will it produce electricity if there is a peak natural gas electrical generation facilities at Saltsprings and/or Marshdale?**
- 3. What is the overall electrical power development plan for Pictou County? How does it relate to proposed Saltsprings Natural Gas Generation Plant including the Trenton Coal Electrical Generation Plant, the Trenton Battery Project, and the Marshdale power plant?**
- 4. Why did the IESO not address, in detail at the public presentation, how this type of generating plant (simple cycle natural gas) operates by a description of of all its components in relation to its the EA? Why was a 300 page+ hard copy, in the interest of transparency, not provided to local libraries where individuals and groups could have an open discussion?** This would have helped and aided in the discussion of the socio, economic, and environmental concerns.
- 5. Why is this IRP being asked for when EA is not yet accepted? *The EA deadline for acceptance is Feb 19, 2026. Construction to begin summer of 2026.*** The posting of the IRP for submissions was Oct 15, 2025. IESO Nova Scotia will be creating, engaging stakeholders on, and publishing an Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP"). As a key input to developing its RP process, IESO Nova Scotia is seeking proposals from qualified consultant firms to assess the current Nova Scotia Power Incorporated ("NSPI") IRP development process and assess its effectiveness – drawing from best practices executed by other North American system operators and utilities responsible for long term power system.

6. Have other processes been adequately assessed?

1. Combined Cycle vs Simple Cycle. Combined Cycle Natural Gas Generation plants have less environmental impact (less emissions), use emissions heat to produce more electricity, so are more efficient, and recover water from the process.
 2. Propane as back up solution rather than oil in simple cycle. Less pollutants, cleaner emissions, a product of Natural Gas. Oil use and storage is considered the highest environmental threat so other alternatives should be considered.
 3. Renewable Natural Gas or biomethane (RNG) as an alternative peak electrical producer
- same chemical make-up as natural gas sourced possibly from the **Pictou County landfill** or other biomass source materials, fast acting, non emitting, low GHG.
 4. Hydrogen & Bio Fuel not assessed in the EA as indicated would be converted in near future. What impact do they have on residents and environment? What does the plant look like and require?
5. EA did not include:
1. Impact on Fish – “compliance with the Fisheries Act is not anticipated at this time” page 4 of EA. **Why, as the settling pond empties in a tributary of 6 Mile Brook?** Department of Fisheries monitoring the West River Salmon Fishery not far from proposed site on the West River.
 2. Onsite sewage disposal not discussed. This approval **will be acquired prior to the** installation of any on-site sewage disposal systems as set out in the On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations. **Where are they located and what type?**
 3. Water approval for withdrawal and storage -Water approvals will be submitted to INSECURE in accordance with the Activities Designation Regulations, N.S. Reg. 47/1995, following EA Approval. **Why is this completed after EA?**
 4. Wetland and Water course alteration - “Wetland alteration applications will be submitted to NSECC in accordance with requirements under the Environment Act, S.N.S. 1994-95, c 1 following EA approval. Watercourse alteration applications are not expected to be required” – **What about the holding pond and the proposed ditching of its water into an existing watercourse? See Freshwater Aquatic Map 9.3.**
 5. Indicated Hydrogen fuel is considered as a future fuel source should it become available in the province. Only a brief description with no information on the physical stamp or EA.
 - The combustion turbine design shall allow for operation on blended hydrogen and natural gas fuel based on blend ratios that have been fully tested and demonstrated for commercially available combustion turbine models and shall allow for a future transition to 100% hydrogen fuel with minimal retrofitting. *Hydrogen, separated from methane using an industrial process called steam methane, which can release greenhouse gas emissions. Decarbonizing technologies help decarbonize like carbon capture or microwave reforming or a process called pyrolysis that uses heat to decompose natural gas, yielding hydrogen and solid carbon. Hydrogen can be split from oxygen in water by using electrolysis with a device called an electrolyser which can be powered by hydro, wind, or non emitting renewable energy – no harmful byproducts. The*

natural gas pipeline system in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is hydrogen friendly so can be converted. Although indicated not analysed for its impact on Saltsprings development.

6. Gas and new electrical lines were considered incidental. Interconnection to the natural gas pipeline and the installation of new electrical transmission lines are incidental activities required to operate the Facility but excluded from this EARD/IPD. Power lines and gas lines require land expropriation and or purchase and may affect various property owners as well as natural resources. ***If separate why were they not addressed by appropriate company involvement?***

7. **Considering our reliance and vulnerability on imported source especially south of our boarder, in the USA, is there a consideration of reopening the supply from Sable and Penuke in conjunction with the development of more environmentally efficient sources of energy?** Will we have a continuous, cost efficient, and stable supply of natural gas based with current supply and the grid configuration now and in future. Realizing we do get some supply from Muskrat Falls and western Canada, what does the future supply look like?

8. **Who are the partners or owners of the development of various parts of the grid and how does the government of Nova Scotia protect the costs of electricity for the people of Nova Scotia? Is there adequate public transparency of ownership and development of the grid lines and infrastructure? Is there true diversity and fairness of the marketplace or are we putting too many eggs in one basket, meaning one proponent or group of investors allowed too much control the development and function of the grid?**

“Federal authorities are not providing financial support for this project”.

I ask this question as Nova Scotia Power, a subsidiary of Emera currently generates most of Nova Scotia’s electricity and therefore influences power rates based on investor returns. Most Nova Scotians are not happy with how this company is profiting from the grid and rates. I would argue that electricity is a lifeline of our province and control of power rates by Nova Scotians are paramount in the development of projects as consumers transition to renewable and environmentally protective forms of energy as well as continued operation of the various projects. I can say, that there is information on the internet but most of it is scattered and requires study to understand the proposals, plans, and implications. I say this in context of Pictou County electrical power projects and Nova Scotia Power.

Water Resources Usage: Clarification please confirm figures

1. Water on Site: water supply and storage

- Drilled wells to supply raw water to the site. Raw water will be stored on the site.

Freshwater 3.3.2.3

Preliminary desktop investigations estimate a peak raw water consumption of 175 m³/hr, and average *annual consumption of 23 to 31 m³/hr based on the expected power plant operation.*

175 m³/hr peak consumption = 38,494.6 imp gallons or 175,000 litres per hour
or 923,880 imp gallons or 4,200,000 litres per day.

31 m³/hr average annual consumption = 6,819 imp gal/hour or 31,000 litres/hour average annual consumption or 163,656 imp gal/daily or 744,000 litres/daily average annual consumption

Two 1,500 m³ raw water/fire water tanks = 329,954 imp gal x 2 = 659,908 imp gallons supply

Four 750 m³ tanks for demineralize water= 164,977 imp gal per tank x 4 = 659,908 total demineralized water. (*Is this water left from the raw water demineralized?*)

2. Water treatment for emissions and cooling

- Raw water will be demineralized through a water treatment system. Demineralized water will be stored on the site in the 4 tanks as calculated previously then released at the rate below once used in *combustion turbines and for emissions control in stack.*

What is the water treatment system to be used?

50m³/hour demineralized water release - 10,999 imp gal /hour or 263,976 imp gal/day

3. Residual Process water treatment

- Concentrated water with elevated mineral content will be residual to the water treatment process. The concentrated water will be neutralized, tested for quality, **and stored in a settling pond for a controlled release.**

- *Oil/water separator system to process rainwater drainage from the fuel storage tank containment.*
- *Oil/water separator system to process drainage from other areas where oil and fuel products are handled and there is the potential for spillage to the drainage system.*
- *Neutralization system and wastewater property monitoring system for demineralized water treatment plant wastewater.*
- *Settling pond to receive stormwater and wastewater and manage release rates.*

Water release rates must be controlled to ensure there are no adverse impacts to receiving points or watercourses such as erosion or effects on aquatic life. *Who is responsible for this after this?*

4. Stormwater retention ponds

- Site drainage water will be collected and tested prior to controlled release.

Wastewater and stormwater management systems will ensure water discharge and runoff from the site meet Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Guidelines.

During operations, stormwater will be managed by directed runoff into a settling pond through

diversion and collection ditches, roadside drainage channels, and/or vegetated swales. Wastewater will also be released into the settling pond after going through a neutralization system. Stormwater will be treated to ensure CCME FWAL guidelines and NS Tier I EQS are met, then released at a controlled rate.

The effluent pipe line or drainage line goes from the holding pond and then flows into tributary of 6 Mile Brook. This effluent should be monitored by the Department of Fisheries should have input into this part of the design and management. As stated previously “compliance with the Fisheries Act is not anticipated at this time”.

At what point are the Department of Fisheries Involved?

Public Water use vs Water use by Plant

The public presentation information indicates that the water usage for natural gas generating plant is equivalent to 750 homes. This is an arbitrary comparison as we do not know what you are basing this on. Let’s estimate 4 person family and normal water use per day (showers, laundry, toilet flushing, based on 2021 Canadian usage as per internet).

Family Use:

223 litres per day per person or 892 litres per day for 4 persons per day
x 750 households = **669,000 litres per day**

49.05 imp gal per day per person or 196 imp gallons for 4 persons per day
x 750 households = **147,000 imp gal per day** □□□□□□ □ □□□ □□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□
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Peak daily water usage approx raw water □

□ 923,880 imp gallons or 4,200,000 litres per day. □

Average annual consumption usage based on 31 m3/hr □□□□□□□□ □ □□□ □□ □□□□

163,656 imp gal/daily or 744,000 litres/daily average annual consumption □

Two storage tanks on site (total)

650,908 imp gallons supply or

Four demineralized water storage tanks (total)

659,808 imp gal total demineralize

Peak water use has been indicated to be in the summer months which could adversely affect local residence and their supply. 12 wells are to be dug to confirm adequate water supply. This of great concern to local residence. Who will be monitoring this? Are residents compensated for water supply issues?

Suggestions:

I would suggest water use is increased with the use of oil. Since this fuel source creates the highest environmental risk, I strongly suggest to remove oil from the process. This would reduce the risk of oil storage, oil tank maintenance, spills, emissions, and treatment. Propane, Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) or other alternative clean sources of energy should be investigated. The combined cycle natural gas generating plant which uses hot exhaust gas emissions to generate more electricity and recaptures and recycles water back into the system creating a closed loop process. Emissions are minimal. Although the initial costs are higher, the reduction in risk, monitoring, and greater efficiency should out-way the use of oil.

We have a bio gas supply at our local Pictou County Solid Waste Treatment Plant which should have been assessed for its usage as a development llocation for a “PEAK” electrical plant. The landfill is positioned strategically and seems ideal for this type of plant. The Middle River is a great water supply, major electrical transmission lines and the Michelin Natural Gas supply line are close by, and a major Trans Canada Highway 106 can provide an access corridor to the site. Already an industrial area, this site may present a reduced imprint on the environment or the surrounding residents. Why create havoc in another area, if you can see a symbiotic relationship with existing industries and their technologies? There may be reduced costs assoiciated with this relationship. Was this considered? I would suggest that Saltsprings, location may be out of sight from the road but not out of mind.

□ □□□□ □□□□ □□ □□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□□

Please answer questions as they relate in this document.

Fw: Re Saltsprings Fast Acting Natural Gas Generating

@eastlink.ca>

Date Tue 2026-02-03 8:33 PM

To Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Forwarding this email from _____ as her email not working.

Her letter for Saltspring's Environmental Assessment

@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 5:59 PM

_____ @eastlink.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Re Saltsprings Fast Acting Natural Gas Generating

Just in case you are interested in my letter.to politicians.

Give me feedback if you like. See you soon.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

)@gmail.com>

Date: February 1, 2026 at 9:56:28 PM AST

@icloud.com>

Subject: Re Saltsprings Fast Acting Natural Gas Generating

Attention please, Sean Fraser MP Central Nova, Federal Representative

I am writing to you about the Saltsprings Fast Acting Natural Gas Generating Facility.

_____ I lived and worked
_____ in Central West River for 30 years. Swimming in the Six Mile Brook
and WestRiver Junction at the Saltsprings Park has been a great joy for many
children,adults, myself and my grandchildren for many years. It was quite a shock to hear
of this plant being pushed thru so quickly before we could read all the information.

November 12th 2025 to February 9th, 2026.

1. I know we need to become greener and another plant needs to be started. What really shocks me is that the back up is diesel oil rather than propane. I saw the pollution on the Dartmouth Eastern Shore from the Tufts Cove NS Power Generating Plant. Have you forgotten 24,000 litres of oil leaked from pipes thru an 11 inch hole in the pipe with insulation rapped around it, not the tank? 19,000 litres leaked on land and 5,000 litres leaked in Halifax Harbour. This cannot be accepted again. The West River is very pristine for animals drinking and swimming, our paradise for so many years. The settlement ponds from the Saltsprings Plant will be released into the Six Mile Brook, then into the West River. If there was a diesel oil leak it could get into the water aquifers and pollute many wells and into the West River and out to our beautiful beaches.

Propane leak has minimal effect on the environment because it is non toxic that does not contaminate soil, water or aquifers. It rapidly vaporizes and dissipates into the air, avoiding long term environmental contamination and posing no risk to marine ecosystems, wildlife or groundwater. Non combusted propane is not a greenhouse gas.

2. Many power plants have to make their exhaust stacks taller because of oil and natural gas. With propane it burns much cleaner than diesel. Diesel exhaust is classified as a carcinogen. Exposure is linked to lung cancer, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other respiratory illnesses. We are trying to go greener, why not propane for back up?

3. Propane does not have a shelf life. It lasts forever when properly contained. Propane tanks can be recycled, oil tanks cannot. Diesel oil has a shelf life of 6-12-24 months. It breaks down. A typical propane tank has a useful lifespan between 30 and 40 years, and is made from recycled steel. The brass fittings are also 100% recyclable.

4. Propane is renewable when it is produced from plants, plant oils, waste grease. A green propane.

At combustion green renewable propane's carbon is neutral. No new carbon is added to the atmosphere. Yes that is down the road but why not be set up for possibilities if we are TRULY GOING GREEN.

5. Propane's low carbon intensity is why it is approved as a clean air alternative fuel under the Clean Air Act of 1990. PRIME Minister Carney took a surcharge off of propane gas because it is so much cleaner than oil and gas.

6. Propane is not mined like battery materials or extracted like oil. It is primarily manufactured from natural gas as a by product of methane purification.

7. Propane has a higher energy density than ethanol, methanol, and liquified natural gas. Therefore it means on a tank of fuel a propane engine can last longer than other same engines. The energy star program gives propane a source site ratio to 1.01 compared to 3.03 for electricity from the grid. This means it takes 3.03 units of electricity to produce and deliver one unit of energy to a home compared to only 1.01 for propane.

8. \$5 million dollars will be spent on this project by the end of March 2026. Is this tax payers money? Give us a chance to be heard. Please consider a cleaner back up fuel like propane.

In the write up of the project it said our homes are worth around \$200,000 . One beside the concerned area just sold for \$410,000. We have put a lot into our homes and care about where we live. We love it here. Thank you for listening.

Sent from my iPad

Fw: EAs Marshdale and Salt Spring, Pictou Co.

From Higgins, Jeremy W <Jeremy.Higgins@novascotia.ca>
Date Wed 2026-02-04 7:50 AM
To Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 6:03 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Cc: info@marcomacleod.com <info@marcomacleod.com>; Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca <Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: EAs Marshdale and Salt Spring, Pictou Co.

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

I am writing as a resident of Pictou Co. Both of the Environmental Assessments for the proposed Marshdale and Salt Spring sites should be dismissed. Below, please find comprehensive arguments that in my opinion, obviate any serious consideration of these projects. I echo his objections.

To these comments I will also add my voice to the concerns already expressed by many Pictou County residents regarding the excessive use of water these proposed projects are projected to use. The summer of 2025 should alarm all Nova Scotians given the lengthy drought that was experienced. This type of drought should be expected to occur again in the future. Large industrial sites such as those proposed that use huge amounts of water would put the public at risk and affect other industries such as agriculture.

Nova Scotia should not be considering investing billions of dollars in fossil fuels especially given the tremendous advance of renewable energy technologies. These proposed projects in Marshdale and Salt Springs are egregiously out of step with our country's energy future. Instead, Nova Scotia should continue to focus on wind and solar and related technologies as it has been doing and not be distracted by the fantastical claims of fossil fuel based technologies.

ition to these projects.

From:

www.blackriver.group

To:

Hon. **Timothy Halman** and Hon. Julie Dabrusin

Minister Department of Environment Minister Environment

1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800 House of Commons

P.O. Box 442, Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8 OEawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Minister.Environment@novascoMa.ca **ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca**

The Environmental Assessments for two proposed 300MW gas plants lack independent non-biased scrutiny. They fail completely, to do in a professional manner, the requirement to examine project alternatives. Instead, these EAs only adopt the biased position of the proponent, which wrongly states that there are no viable alternatives to building these two gas plants. These EA's simply promote the need for the construction of these two massive gasburning, and polluting, electrical generating factories. It is embarrassing that these two environmental assessments, probably costing a half million dollars or more, have failed to look at project alternatives in a competent manner.

The capital cost of these plants is not stated, although it is likely \$1 billion dollars each. It is not just the capital cost of the gas plants, but the long-term fuel and operating and maintenance costs, over 40 years, that need to be examined in these EAs. Not examining the alternatives properly in the EAs, is a total failure in these EAs to seek such approvals.

Oil and gas industry lobbyists have influenced governments in this region to think that gas plants are now needed. To now see that such biased project ideas have already proceeded to have EAs completed, on behalf of the Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator, and at public cost is unacceptable. These EAs, and these proposed plants, should be summarily dismissed.

There is nothing smart or reasonable about building gas plants that are not needed. These plants will be a major user of fossil fuels, and producer of related greenhouse gases and pollution that will degrade air quality, water quality and public and environmental health for 40 or more years. This is the poorest decision making one could imagine for Nova Scotia's energy future.

These EAs do not even provide a real project alternatives section. What little there is, less than 2 pages, relies on repeating general comments provided by the proponent, and do not even examine properly the alternatives that the proponent claims to have looked at. The couple of vague negative references to alternatives in the EAs, cannot be found to exist either in their Appendix, or even an internet search.

The Alternatives Are Obvious- They Are Available Now:

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-If you want to have 300 MW of battery storage it is going cost around \$300-400 million. Quite economical compared to each 300 MW gas fired power plant costing \$1 billion just to construct. Then, there is the additional costs of the gas, and ongoing operation and maintenance of these gas plants.

-Grid scale batteries are long lasting, and almost always charged up at the lowest cost price from renewables.

-These battery storage units are already being distributed around the province to reduce transmission losses. These batteries can be charged up in off-peak times.

-600 MW of battery storage costing no more than \$1 billion dollars, may be sufficient, based on wind and solar science, to cover any power needs. What sizing we actually need, to not build these gas plants, is not examined, an inexcusable failure of these EAs.

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--organize the grid to accept power from EVs, with a program to get people to buy EVs with a 50% subsidy, and a clause for 10 years, that requires these cars be available for grid supply, 50,000 cars x 80KW battery is 4,000,000 KWH.

-how much is available from solar, can there be 100MW+ of solar available.

It is unacceptable that these options, not properly explored, have been dismissed in the EA's.

7) Backup Requirements: Vice-Presidents at NSP have explained to me and others in meetings

of our CLEAN POWER NOW group, over the last decade, that maybe, and only maybe, there is the need of significant backup for only 5-7 days a year. Hardly justification for spending \$2 billion dollars when you have multiple system options on those days, which can be predicted several days in advance.

8) What NSP presently does as low wind days approach:

- Determine how much they can procure from Hydro Quebec, or any extra that can be had from Newfoundland, PEI and New Brunswick.

- Notify the Interruptible Power Rate customers that they may have to shut down, and then about 100-150MW is then available.

- In the future keep a coal plant which is already paid off, available for those few days a year.9) The cost of the gas for 40 years: Think about the cost of the gas for the next 40 years. Is

anybody able to come up with any idea of what the cost on the world market of this gas is going to be? Or its availability? And what about the cost to public health and environment?

10) Power Rates will go up a huge amount: Nova Scotia ratepayers, are going to be paying off through their power bills the \$2 billion cost of building these proposed, unnecessary gas plants, and in addition, the cost of the gas. The amount that our electricity bills will go up because of the cost of gas cannot be estimated. Building these gas plants, is a huge mistake with costs that will harm Nova Scotia for many years.

11) Independent System Operator – Independent or the Premier's Yes Men?

- Nova Scotia has a new government agency called the Independent Energy System Operator.

- Why suddenly is their first major undertaking two 300 MW gas fired power plants? Where is the evidence that this is needed, and the best option? And how did the IESO decide this? The need, and the process that has gone on here, has certainly not been justified in the EAs.

- What is the purpose of the Independent Energy System Operator in Nova Scotia? Nova Scotia Power is operating the energy system properly, and was planning their decarbonization to meet the 2030 deadline.

- There is a significant financial cost to setting up and running the IESO as a new arm of government. How do these costs compare to the status quo that we've had, relative to the cost on our bills as ratepayers?

- There might be some rationale why Ontario and Alberta have IESOs, but those jurisdictions have massive and complex power needs, we don't.

- Is the IESO just the Premier's front for control of our electric power system?

- You don't decarbonize by building gas plants, but you sure can make your friends wealthy building these plants. This looks like classic Pork Barrel politics.

12) These 2 Proposed Gas Projects Are A Two Billion Dollar PORK BARREL: The options are very bad here, so let's discuss them.

- In his first term, Premier Houston decided that we needed an Independent Energy System Operator, which came into being after a study was done for the Province/Premier (*4). Rob Batherson, the former President of the Conservative Party of Canada, and former President of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia, was paid \$100,000 to assist with administrative duties for this study (*5).

- Did the Premier want to have an Independent Energy System Operator, so that he could more closely control electricity procurement in Nova Scotia. This report is written to say what the Premier wanted.

- The next step in this process once the IESO was being set up, at significant public cost, was to appoint the IESO Board of Directors, chosen by the Premier. The Directors are certainly a group of qualified professional people, management executives, but none of them represent, experience in renewables, and what is the best mix of power sources for decarbonizing the grid in Nova Scotia.

- In 2025, having been re-elected, Premier Houston appointed himself as the Minister of Energy.-The next step the Premier takes as the Minister of Energy, is that the IESO calls for a party to build and own these \$2 billion for these proposed gas plants, that are to be huge construction projects located as close as possible to the Premier's home riding.

- It is shocking to see shortly after this that the IESO releases EAs for these two gas plants. They were obviously commissioned secretly months before. Were these tendered contracts? Is their cost known? Where are similar studies examining other renewable power supply options instead of just these gas plants? Not done.

- The Premier is also very public about the fact that he fantasizes that Nova Scotia will be a major gas producing province through fracking. Fracking is strongly opposed by the Nova Scotia public. That public opposition led to a legislative ban against fracking in 2014. Premier Houston removed that ban on fracking in 2025 without public consultation or public support.

- Will the Premier soon proclaim his fantasy that Nova Scotia fracked gas will be used for these gas plants. In any case the gas, local or not, gas would be provided at world market prices.

- These gas plants by desire, rather than legitimate process or need, are similar to when John Buchanan was Premier. Buchanan had built coal fired power plants that were not needed, and we have a legacy of having the dirtiest electricity in Canada on a per capita basis.

- The difference between the Buchanan days and now, is that Premier Houston has organized this process in a more sophisticated manner than 30 - 40 years ago, to try to avoid these proposed gas plants being seen for what they really are, a two billion dollar pork barrel of construction projects, as near to the Premier's home riding as possible.

-Look up the definition of Pork Barrel in Canada, and this fits the description perfectly.

13) The Failures of Building Gas Plants: Both Quebec and Ontario built gas fired electricity plants in the last 30 years, and in both provinces these have been huge mistakes, a massive costly liability, not needed or even used. Now it seems that Eastern Canadians are about to be the next fools stepping up for gas plants, that are not needed. (*7)

-If these proposed gas plants are built, Nova Scotians for up to two more generations, will be saddled with major polluting electrical energy, and be a laggard in Canada for getting off fossil fuels. This will lock Nova Scotia into long-term economic and environmental harm.

-The mindset that gas is the next step for clean energy, is a direct step backwards from decarbonization.

14) A Failure of Decision Making:

-The problem with all this, is that none of it is in step with best policy decisions, and best practices, that are taking place in many jurisdictions, that are already adopting high levels of renewables, decarbonization, and battery backup. If we even need an IESO, this new organization should search the world, hiring the best experts, for what are the best options for Nova Scotia's energy system planning and decarbonization.

-The Premier's decision to spend what will be billions to provide infrastructure for offshore wind, will leave our communities stuck in the same rut we have been in for years, lacking proper funds for infrastructure that we need, from good roads to public transportation, schools to recreation facilities, to funds for public service, public safety or health care. One more stupid mega project idea, that drains money away from where it is most needed. 15) Why Fix What Is Not Broken?

-The cost to Nova Scotia electricity consumers for this new power, should have been part of these environmental assessments for these proposed gas plants. This is a very big issue relative to proposing to build these gas plants. How can such proposed projects as these be justified? They would add billions of dollars of costs to our power bills, and an unknown long term future cost for the fuel, will certainly cause significant increases in our power bills.

-Reducing Nova Scotia's carbon footprint from electricity by 80% by 2030 does not mean that NSP turns off 100% of the coal plants. Operating an existing, paid for coal fired power plant that would need to operate somewhere between five and thirty days a year makes the need to construct two 300 MW gas plants at a likely cost of \$2 billion dollars look like what it is-ridiculous.

-Importing some amount of power from Quebec through system planning, on an ongoing basis, also eliminates the need to build two 300 MW gas plants.

-Construction of 150 MW of battery storage is already being undertaken with assistance from the Federal Infrastructure Bank. Why not simply add another 150 megawatts, or 300 megawatts, or more? 600Mw of batteries, would cost less than these two proposed billion dollars each gas plants, and be cheaper to run.

This not a happy situation. It's actually a sad situation to live in a province where system planning has suddenly become so politically biased, so as to not even be able to clearly examine best alternatives, and make the right decisions that are best for the price of electricity in Nova Scotia. Here comes our mega project that will be like Newfoundland's Muskrat Falls fiasco, to Nova Scotia's economy.

16) Biased Decision Making: The proposed construction of these billion dollars each gas plants, has the same biased assumptions that led to how we got the Mari4me Link, and Newfoundland and Labrador's Muskrat Falls. For example;

-If there had been an unbiased analysis, Newfoundland would have instead built wind projects across the province over 2 decades instead of Muskrat Falls, at a fraction of the cost.

-When NSP decided on the Mari4me Link versus Hydro Quebec power almost 13 years ago, Nova Scotia did a biased comparative study in 2013, by studying 300MW from Newfoundland versus 500 MW from Quebec. You couldn't bring 500MW from Quebec but you could have brought 350MW. (*8). While the Mari4me Link today may be a good asset for power in the region, the original study was biased and led to a decision that was not the best cost option for Nova Scotians.

-Biased decision making and biased studies, have led to a history of bad decision making, that has plagued Nova Scotia for generations. It is time to put an end to the idiotic mega-project mentality, that proposes gas plants for 2030.

-The bias is clear, the politics are clear, and these gas plant projects should be rejected at the outset.

Spending \$2 billion dollars to lock us into gas plants is as regressive as it gets. Nova Scotia can be a leader in its transition to renewables, but not unless we decarbonize. As Ministers you should be saying NO to building two 1 billion dollar 300 MW fossil fuel gas

plants in Nova Scotia. There are cheaper, better, available options.

I would be pleased to speak with you at your request.

Sincerely

References

1) Nov 21, 2024 meeting with
Risk Management | Nova Scotia Power

| Director, Energy and

2) <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/8EVH8GIEXU3>) [hXps://spaces.hightail.com/receive/TdNiHwEBmw](https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/TdNiHwEBmw)

4) Clean Electricity Solutions Task Force

The task force of two was comprised of Alison ScoX, a former Nova Scotia deputy minister of Energy and former member of the National Energy Board, and [John MacIsaac](#), a former senior vice-president of Nalcor Energy in Newfoundland and Labrador from 2016-2019.

5) Additionally, Rob Batherson, a Conservative Party operative, was extended a non-publicized **\$100,000 contract** to assist ScoX and MacIsaac with "administrative" duties.

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/economy/energy/task-force-recommends-sweeping-reforms-of-nova-scotia-power-and-uarb/>

7) Ontario Gas Plant Failures & Controversies

-Ontario:

- The 2011/2013 Scandal (\$1B+ Cost): The Liberal government cancelled two gas-fired power plants (Oakville and Mississauga) in 2011 to save seats in a provincial election, a move that cost taxpayers an estimated \$1 billion.

<https://taf.ca/ontarios-next-gas-plant-scandal/>

-Quebec:

Failed Past Project (Bécancour): Hydro-Québec previously paid over \$1-billion in compensation to "mothballed" gas plant in Bécancour, which was mothballed. It was found it cheaper to pay TransCanada not to produce power rather than shut it down and resell it on the ...8) <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/UOcJO5nnzz>

Hon. **Timothy Halman** n. Julie Dabrusin
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It is unacceptable that these options, not properly explored, have been dismissed in the EA's.

7) Backup Requirements: Vice-Presidents at NSP have explained to me and others in meetings of our CLEAN POWER NOW group, over the last decade, that maybe, and only maybe, there is the need of significant backup for only 5-7 days a year. Hardly justification for spending \$2 billion dollars when you have multiple system options on those days, which can be predicted several days in advance.

8) What NSP presently does as low wind days approach:

- Determine how much they can procure from Hydro Quebec, or any extra that can be had from Newfoundland, PEI and New Brunswick.

- Notify the Interruptible Power Rate customers that they may have to shut down, and then about 100-150MW is then available.

- In the future keep a coal plant which is already paid off, available for those few days a year.9) The cost of the gas for 40 years:

Think about the cost of the gas for the next 40 years. Is

anybody able to come up with any idea of what the cost on the world market of this gas is going to be? Or its availability? And what about the cost to public health and environment?

10) Power Rates will go up a huge amount: Nova Scotia ratepayers, are going to be paying off through their power bills the \$2 billion cost of building these proposed, unnecessary gas plants, and in addition, the cost of the gas. The amount that our electricity bills will go up because of the cost of gas cannot be estimated. Building these gas plants, is a huge mistake with costs that will harm Nova Scotia for many years.

11) Independent System Operator – Independent or the Premier's Yes Men?

- Nova Scotia has a new government agency called the Independent Energy System Operator.

-Why suddenly is their first major undertaking two 300 MW gas fired power plants? Where is the evidence that this is needed, and the best option? And how did the IESO decide this? The need, and the process that has gone on here, has certainly not been justified in the EAs.

- What is the purpose of the Independent Energy System Operator in Nova Scotia? Nova Scotia Power is operating the energy system properly, and was planning their decarbonization to meet the 2030 deadline.

-There is a significant financial cost to setting up and running the IESO as a new arm of government. How do these costs compare to the status quo that we've had, relative to the cost on our bills as ratepayers?

-There might be some rationale why Ontario and Alberta have IESOs, but those jurisdictions have massive and complex power needs, we don't.

-Is the IESO just the Premier's front for control of our electric power system?

-You don't decarbonize by building gas plants, but you sure can make your friends wealthy building these plants. This looks like classic Pork Barrel politics.

12) These 2 Proposed Gas Projects Are A Two Billion Dollar PORK BARREL: The options are very bad here, so let's discuss them.

- In his first term, Premier Houston decided that we needed an Independent Energy System Operator, which came into being after a study was done for the Province/Premier (*4). Rob Batherson, the former President of the Conservative Party of Canada, and former President of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia, was paid \$100,000 to assist with administrative duties for this study (*5).

- Did the Premier want to have an Independent Energy System Operator, so that he could more closely control electricity procurement in Nova Scotia. This report is written to say what the Premier wanted.

-The next step in this process once the IESO was being set up, at significant public cost, was to appoint the IESO Board of Directors, chosen by the Premier. The Directors are certainly a group of qualified professional people, management executives, but none of them represent, experience in renewables, and what is the best mix of power sources for decarbonizing the grid in Nova Scotia.

-In 2025, having been re-elected, Premier Houston appointed himself as the Minister of Energy.-The next step the Premier takes as the Minister of Energy, is that the IESO calls for a party to build and own these \$2 billion for these proposed gas plants, that are to be huge construction

projects located as close as possible to the Premier's home riding.

-It is shocking to see shortly after this that the IESO releases EAs for these two gas plants. They were obviously commissioned secretly months before. Were these tendered contracts? Is their cost known? Where are similar studies examining other renewable power supply options instead of just these gas plants? Not done.

-The Premier is also very public about the fact that he fantasizes that Nova Scotia will be a major gas producing province through fracking. Fracking is strongly opposed by the Nova Scotia public. That public opposition led to a legislative ban against fracking in 2014. Premier Houston removed that ban on fracking in 2025 without public consultation or public support.

-Will the Premier soon proclaim his fantasy that Nova Scotia fracked gas will be used for these gas plants. In any case the gas, local or not, gas would be provided at world market prices.

-These gas plants by desire, rather than legitimate process or need, are similar to when John Buchanan was Premier. Buchanan had built coal fired power plants that were not needed, and we have a legacy of having the dirtiest electricity in Canada on a per capita basis.

-The difference between the Buchanan days and now, is that Premier Houston has organized this process in a more sophisticated manner than 30 - 40 years ago, to try to avoid these proposed gas plants being seen for what they really are, a two billion dollar pork barrel of construction projects, as near to the Premier's home riding as possible.

-Look up the definition of Pork Barrel in Canada, and this fits the description perfectly.

13) The Failures of Building Gas Plants: Both Quebec and Ontario built gas fired electricity plants in the last 30 years, and in both provinces these have been huge mistakes, a massive costly liability, not needed or even used. Now it seems that Eastern Canadians are about to be the next fools stepping up for gas plants, that are not needed. (*7)

-If these proposed gas plants are built, Nova Scotians for up to two more generations, will be saddled with major polluting electrical energy, and be a laggard in Canada for getting off fossil fuels. This will lock Nova Scotia into long-term economic and environmental harm.

-The mindset that gas is the next step for clean energy, is a direct step backwards from decarbonization.

14) A Failure of Decision Making:

-The problem with all this, is that none of it is in step with best policy decisions, and best practices, that are taking place in many jurisdictions, that are already adopting high levels of renewables, decarbonization, and battery backup. If we even need an IESO, this new organization should search the world, hiring the best experts, for what are the best options for Nova Scotia's energy system planning and decarbonization.

-The Premier's decision to spend what will be billions to provide infrastructure for offshore wind, will leave our communities stuck in the same rut we have been in for years, lacking proper funds for infrastructure that we need, from good roads to public transportation, schools to recreation facilities, to funds for public service, public safety or health care. One more stupid mega project idea, that drains money away from where it is most needed. 15) Why Fix What Is Not Broken?

-The cost to Nova Scotia electricity consumers for this new power, should have been part of these environmental assessments for these proposed gas plants. This is a very big issue related to proposing to build these gas plants. How can such proposed projects as these be justified? They would add billions of dollars of costs to our power bills, and an unknown long term future cost for the fuel, will certainly cause significant increases in our power bills.

-Reducing Nova Scotia's carbon footprint from electricity by 80% by 2030 does not mean that NSP turns off 100% of the coal plants. Operating an existing, paid for coal fired power plant that would need to operate somewhere between five and thirty days a year makes the need to construct two 300 MW gas plants at a likely cost of \$2 billion dollars look like what it is - ridiculous.

-Importing some amount of power from Quebec through system planning, on an ongoing basis, also eliminates the need to build two 300 MW gas plants.

-Construction of 150 MW of battery storage is already being undertaken with assistance from the Federal Infrastructure Bank. Why not simply add another 150 megawatts, or 300 megawatts, or more? 600MW of batteries, would cost less than these two proposed billion dollars each gas plants, and be cheaper to run.

This not a happy situation. It's actually a sad situation to live in a province where system planning has suddenly become so politically biased, so as to not even be able to clearly examine best alternatives, and make the right decisions that are best for the price of electricity in Nova Scotia. Here comes our mega project that will be like Newfoundland's Muskrat Falls fiasco, to Nova Scotia's economy.

16) Biased Decision Making: The proposed construction of these billion dollars each gas plants, has the same biased assumptions that led to how we got the Maritime Link, and Newfoundland and Labrador's Muskrat Falls. For example;

-If there had been an unbiased analysis, Newfoundland would have instead built wind projects across the province over 2 decades instead of Muskrat Falls, at a fraction of the cost.

-When NSP decided on the Maritime Link versus Hydro Quebec power almost 13 years ago, Nova Scotia did a biased comparative study in 2013, by studying 300MW from Newfoundland versus 500 MW from Quebec. You couldn't bring 500MW from Quebec but you could have brought 350MW. (*8). While the Maritime Link today may be a good asset for power in the region, the original study was biased and led to a decision that was not the best cost option for

Nova Scotia.

-Biased decision making and biased studies, have led to a history of bad decision making, that has plagued Nova Scotia for generations. It is time to put an end to the idiotic mega-project mentality, that proposes gas plants for 2030.

-The bias is clear, the policies are clear, and these gas plant projects should be rejected at the outset.

Spending \$2 billion dollars to lock us into gas plants is as regressive as it gets. Nova Scotia can be a leader in its transition to renewables, but not unless we decarbonize. As Ministers you should be saying NO to building two 1 billion dollar 300 MW fossil fuel gas

plants in Nova Scotia. There are cheaper, better, available options.

I would be pleased to speak with you at your request.

Sincerely

References

- 1) Nov 21, 2024 meeting with _____ | Director, Energy and Risk Management | Nova Scotia Power
- 2) <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/8EVH8GIEXU3> <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/TdNiHwEBmw>
- 4) Clean Electricity Solutions Task Force
The task force of two was comprised of Alison Scofield, a former Nova Scotia deputy minister of Energy and former member of the National Energy Board, and John MacIsaac, a former senior vice-president of Nalcor Energy in Newfoundland and Labrador from 2016-2019.
- 5) Additionally, Rob Batherson, a Conservative Party operative, was extended a non-publicized \$100,000 contract to assist Scofield and MacIsaac with "administrative" duties.
<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/economy/energy/task-force-recommends-sweeping-reforms-of-nova-scotia-power-and-uarb/>
- 7) Ontario Gas Plant Failures & Controversies
-Ontario:
• The 2011/2013 Scandal (\$1B+ Cost): The Liberal government cancelled two gas-fired power plants (Oakville and Mississauga) in 2011 to save seats in a provincial election, a move that cost taxpayers an estimated \$1 billion.
<https://taf.ca/ontarios-next-gas-plant-scandal/>
-Quebec:
Failed Past Project (Bécancour): Hydro-Québec previously paid over \$1-billion in compensation to TransCanada Corp. for a "hardly-used" gas plant in Bécancour, which was mothballed.
Jan 14, 2016 — Hydro-Québec has found it cheaper to pay TransCanada not to produce power rather than to pay for electricity from Bécancour and resell it on the ...
8) <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/UOcJO5nnzz>

January 25, 2026

FEB 03 2026

Environmental Assessment Branch
Department of Environment and Climate Change
NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The proposed power plant project for Salt Springs has been on my mind since I first became aware of it. The prospect of having such a plant in such close proximity to our home and other homes in the area causes me great concern.

This proposed power plant has the potential to alter our natural environment and all that encompasses - waterways and water tables, flora and fauna; our community; our rural lifestyle; our physical, mental and emotional health and more. Water security; air quality; noise and light pollution are but a few more areas subject to potential negative outcomes. Construction traffic; traffic associated with the day to day activities of such a facility, increased traffic as others come to explore the activity and the area also come to mind. Possible industrialization. Reliance and involvement of American product, financing, and companies in the current political situation, seems akin to courting disaster.

We very consciously made the choice to live in Brookland and raise our children in this rural area because it was free from development. It offered a wonderful environment. We can go outside and breathe clean air. One can walk and not encounter a vehicle or another human being. It is dark at night. The night sky is like no other. We have no need to lock our doors.

Such things may sound trivial, but they are integral to our life as we know it... as we love it...crave it...covet it.

I have given the environmental assessment *first reading* and will revisit it.

It is interesting, but I wish it were more readily available for those of us who do not have internet access. I feel confident that others who have the means to conduct research on the proposal will present scientific documentation to support and substantiate the concerns local citizens are grappling with.

If I were bold enough to ask for anything, I would ask that the location for this power plant be reconsidered. There are land bases in Nova Scotia where the power plant could be constructed without interfering with the life and vibrancy of communities. I realize one consideration was the existing pipeline and power line, but I can recall when neither existed, so it would seem that both could be constructed elsewhere to meet the demand.

Thanks for listening.

Brookland, NS B0K 1R0

P.S. Thanks ever so much for using the correct spelling of Salt Springs.

It has been noted, especially by older folk, of which I am one!!

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

0471a15d

Submission Date

04/02/2026 11:50

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

As an environmental impact statement this one is gravely defective for lack of honest consideration of the full range of societal and environmental costs of these gas plants, as well as for inadequate consideration of alternatives, such as those referenced in the submission by _____ of Black River Hydro.

Please deny this application. Spending roughly a billion dollars, committing us to burning fossil fuel for 20-30 or more years is FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE. There are cheaper and more environmentally appropriate alternatives. \$200 million is currently being spent for 150MW battery backup in Nova Scotia. Even without likely economies of scale the same \$1 billion should get at least 750MW of battery backup instead of the 300MW of this gas turbine. Further the new transmission line from NB to NS should be available by 2028, likely making this gas plant superfluous after only a year or two of operation.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

Please note:

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Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

73595064

Submission Date

04/02/2026 14:41

Submission status

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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

I am opposed to this initiative and think it should not be approved.

This project seems to lock in the province to be using fossil fuels and producing greenhouse gasses for decades to come. I am not convinced that the proposal has considered alternatives, notably battery storage or purchase of electricity from green sources outside the province. Even using the coal-fired plants a bit longer would seem preferable to making a long-term commitment to burn methane for power.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

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Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

4978bee1

Submission Date

05/02/2026 08:31

Submission status

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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

We need to decarbonize. Gas is not the next step in that process, and will not help us have clean energy. This plant will produce greenhouse gases and pollution from major fossil fuel use, which will then negatively affect public health and environmental health for decades. This plant cannot be part of this province's transition to using more clean energy, and the people living near it, as well as others farther away who will also experience the negative effects, should not be sacrificed for the illusion that gas-fired plants will help transition away from using fossil fuels.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Halifax

Postal Code

B3L 3K7

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done. These EAs do not provide any real project alternatives section in their report, citing renewables as insufficient.

NS is ideally located for a wide range of alternative energy sources. (BioMass is not a green alternative energy source). The huge cost to build and operate the Marshdale and Saltspring Gas Plants are neither wanted or necessary.

A 300 MW of battery storage is going to cost around \$300-400 million compared with the price tag which is upward to \$2 Billion. Quite economical compared to each 300 MW gas fired power plant costing \$1 billion just to construct plus the additional costs of the gas, and ongoing operating and maintenance of these gas plants.

It would therefore be more cost effective and responsible to build grid scale batteries that are long lasting, and are almost always charged up at the lowest cost price from renewables. These battery storage units are already being distributed around the province to reduce transmission losses and these batteries can be charged up in off-peak times.

By doubling the battery storage capacity to 600 MW of battery storage the cost would roughly be \$1 billion dollars, half of the proposed 2 gas plants and may be sufficient, based on wind and solar science, to cover any power needs. The failure to examine what sizing is actually needed in NS, in lieu of embracing the build of these gas plants, is an inexcusable failure of these EAs.

Nova Scotia electricity consumers are already being saddled with ever rising bills. Was this even a consideration when the EAs for these proposed gas plants was done? This is a very big issue relative to proposing to build these gas plants. How can such proposed projects as these be justified? They would add billions of dollars of costs to our power bills, and then there is the unknown long term future cost for the fuel, which will certainly cause significant increases in our power bills.

The reduction of Nova Scotia's carbon footprint from electricity by 80% by 2030 does not mean that NSP has to turn off 100% of the coal plants. Operating an existing, paid for coal fired power plant that might be needed to operate for short periods of time annually makes the need to construct two 300 MW gas plants at a likely cost of \$2 billion dollars absurd.

I sincerely believe that spending \$2 billion dollars to lock us into gas plants is extremely regressive. Nova Scotia can and should be a leader in our transition towards renewables. It can only happen if we decarbonize and stop supporting fossil fuels.

As Ministers, in this time of global climate crisis and water bankruptcy, it is your responsibility to act
You should be saying **NO** to building two 1
tia as there are cheaper, better, available

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

db6096d6

Submission Date

05/02/2026 12:59

Submission status

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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

We should be investing in wind energy, as being pushed by our current Premier as opposed too gas power generation facilities.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Wolfville

Postal Code

B4P 2R1

Attachment(s):

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Fw: Gas

From Higgins, Jeremy W <Jeremy.Higgins@novascotia.ca>
Date Fri 2026-02-06 7:50 AM
To Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

For salt springs

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Marshdale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca <Marshdale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca>; altSprings@iaac-aeic.gc.ca <altSprings@iaac-aeic.gc.ca>; ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca <ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Gas

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Hello representatives,

Please consider the following information before approving any Gas development.

We deserve to go in the right direction, away from fossil fuels, towards a better future that doesn't

Unacceptable EAs - Dismiss the two 300 MW gas plant proposals for Nova Scotia:

The Environmental Assessments for two proposed 300MW gas plants lack independent non-biased scrutiny. They fail completely, to do in a professional manner, the requirement to examine project alternatives. Instead, these EAs only adopt the biased position of the proponent, which wrongly states that there are no viable alternatives to building these two gas plants. These EA's simply promote the need for the construction of these two massive gas burning, and polluting, electrical generating factories. It is embarrassing that these two environmental assessments, probably costing a half million dollars or more, have failed to look at project alternatives in a competent manner.

The capital cost of these plants is not stated, although it is likely \$1 billion dollars each. It is not just the capital cost of the gas plants, but the long-term fuel and operating and maintenance costs, over 40 years, that need to be examined in these EAs. Not examining the alternatives properly in the EAs, is a total failure in these EAs to seek such approvals.

Oil and gas industry lobbyists have influenced governments in this region to think that gas plants are now needed. To now see that such biased project ideas have already proceeded to have EAs completed, on behalf of the Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator, and at public cost is unacceptable. These EAs, and these proposed plants, should be summarily dismissed.

There is nothing smart or reasonable about building gas plants that are not needed. These plants will be a major user of fossil fuels, and producer of related greenhouse gases and pollution that will degrade air quality, water quality and public and environmental health for 40 or more years. This is the poorest decision making one could imagine for Nova Scotia's energy future.

These EAs do not even provide a real project alternatives section. What little there is, less than 2 pages, relies on repeating general comments provided by the proponent, and do not even examine properly the alternatives that the proponent claims to have look at. The couple of vague negative references to alternatives in the EAs, cannot be found to exist either in their Appendix, or even an internet search.

The Alternatives Are Obvious- They Are Available Now:

1) Existing Coal Fired Power: For an 80% reduction in carbon from electrical generating sources in Nova Scotia, there is no need to turn off all the coal fired power plants. One 150 MW coal fired power plant can provide significant backup on the few days a year when power from wind, solar, hydro plants, and battery back up are insufficient. This is known. In a meeting and tour of part of the Nova Scotia Power management facility in February 2025(*1), I was shown, and then discussed the fact that

Nova Scotia Power has learned how to run their coal fired power plants to be fast acting, even if they need to start up from 0 kw, to then quickly be backing up wind power. This last coal plant can be retired as soon as other back up options are in place, as described below.

2) Weather Forecasting:

- Nova Scotia is in a very fortunate position, because we have very good winds for generating power on land.
- Predicting available wind power and solar is more or less an exact science. Nova Scotia Power has years of experience in how to fill in around wind power from other sources on days where there is not sufficient wind.

3) Hydro Quebec: The proponent rejects using power from Hydro Quebec, because they claim they cannot contract for firm power. This is the wrong question to ask, and displays a bias that is ignorant of operations management, intentionally so.

- On June 13th, 2018, at a meeting with senior New Brunswick Government officials, our Clean Power Now group were advised that 300MW or under could be booked for space on New Brunswick power lines to import power from Quebec, over existing transmission lines.
- With the installation of a 345kv line underway from Nova Scotia into New Brunswick, it is likely that 600MW could be booked as firm power from Quebec.
- In the autumn 2018, we met in Ottawa with the NRCAN Minister's head policy advisors, to request that they convene a meeting of all parties to make such a deal happen, but no steps were taken to do this.
- Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Power, and Quebec Hydro have never convened a meeting to come to a contract offer, to provide part of Nova Scotia's needs with firm power. There is an inherent bias in Nova Scotia, and also at Nova Scotia Power, against Hydro Quebec. NSP doesn't want to be a secondary player to Hydro Quebec. NSP's parent EMERA considers themselves as a competitor to Hydro Quebec.
- Over the last 15 years has NSP or Nova Scotia ever asked Hydro Quebec to bid for firm contracts when they become available? Can Nova Scotia get one of these firm contracts instead of Hydro Quebec renewing contracts with U.S. utilities? This discussion simply hasn't happened, nor is it a future option being discussed or planned. It should be.
- The question that needs to be asked is: how much power and at what cost over existing lines as of 2030 can be delivered to Nova Scotia, as firm power, or/and also on occasion as non-firm power?
- Nova Scotia Power already regularly buys some amount of power from Hydro Quebec.
- When power is needed to support the Nova Scotia grid, if our wind and solar and hydro are not able to provide the proper amount that we need, then whoever the system operator is, contacts Hydro Quebec, likely a few days in advance of needing some power, to request how much power Hydro Quebec can sell to Nova Scotia.
- This is an active relationship. For example, on any given particular day for the subsequent 36 hours or three days, or five days, Hydro Quebec would indicate how much power they have available and at what price, so both utilities would quickly know if that that amount of power could be moved through New Brunswick and into Nova Scotia.

The failure to understand or consider the dynamic nature of this existing relationship, as part of the alternative to these proposals for gas plants that are not needed, is a fundamental failure of these EAs.

4) Battery Storage: The EAs say that battery backup (likely 300MW by 2030) is being built, but is not appropriate or enough, but they do not indicate why such a judgement on this is being made, or prove that this is valid.

- More battery storage could be built, and at a cheaper cost, compared to two 300 MW gas plants. (*2)

-Contrary to information in these EAs, if you look up the reference that batteries are not sufficient in these EAs, you find that the Federal government infrastructure bank is giving \$138 million to one of the First Nation communities in Nova Scotia to partner to construct 150 MW of battery storage, to provide fast acting grid backup, and to be online by 2030. This EA reference is exactly the opposite of what these EAs lead the reader to believe in these EAs. (*3)

-If you want to have 300 MW of battery storage it is going to cost around \$300-400 million. Quite economical compared to each 300 MW gas fired power plant costing \$1 billion just to construct. Then, there are the additional costs of the gas, and ongoing operating and maintenance of these gas plants.

-Grid scale batteries are long lasting, and almost always charged up at the lowest cost price from renewables.

-These battery storage units are already being distributed around the province to reduce transmission losses. These batteries can be charged up in off-peak times.

-600 MW of battery storage costing no more than \$1 billion dollars, may be sufficient, based on wind and solar science, to cover any power needs. What sizing we actually need, to not build these gas plants, is not examined, an inexcusable failure of these EAs.

5) Battery Backup: Both EAs in the project alternatives section, identical in both, refer to a report that we cannot reference, that grid scale batteries won't work for fast acting backup, which is nonsense. Does such a report even exist?

6) Better Options: The cost and price risk to ratepayers is less with battery backup, and other sources of backup already discussed, including one 150MW coal plant- already paid for.

- use 300MW of more or battery backup – when built.

-The cost of power from Hydro Quebec, through New Brunswick is not examined.

--organize the grid to accept power from EVs, with a program to get people to buy EVs with a 50% subsidy, and a clause for 10 years, that requires these cars be available for grid supply, 50,000 cars x 80KW battery is 4,000,000 KWH.

-how much is available from solar, can there be 100MW+ of solar available.

It is unacceptable that these options, not properly explored, have been dismissed in the EA's.

7) Backup Requirements: Vice-Presidents at NSP have explained to me and others in meetings of our CLEAN POWER NOW group, over the last decade, that maybe, and only maybe, there is the need of significant backup for only 5-7 days a year. Hardly justification for spending \$2 billion dollars when you have multiple system options on those days, which can be predicted several days in advance.

😎 What NSP presently does as low wind days approach:

- Determine how much they can procure from Hydro Quebec, or any extra that can be had from Newfoundland, PEI and New Brunswick.

- Notify the Interruptible Power Rate customers that they may have to shut down, and then about 100-150MW is then available.

- In the future keep a coal plant which is already paid off, available for those few days a year.

9) The cost of the gas for 40 years: Think about the cost of the gas for the next 40 years. Is anybody able to come up with any idea of what the cost on the world market of this gas is going to be? Or its availability? And what about the cost to public health and environment?

10) Power Rates will go up a huge amount: Nova Scotia ratepayers, are going to be paying off through their power bills the \$2 billion cost of building these proposed, unnecessary gas plants, and in addition, the cost of the gas. The amount that our electricity bills will go up because of the cost of gas cannot be estimated. Building these gas plants, is a huge mistake with costs that will harm Nova Scotia for many years.

11) Independent System Operator – Independent or the Premier's Yes Men?

- Nova Scotia has a new government agency called the Independent Energy System Operator.
- Why suddenly is their first major undertaking two 300 MW gas fired power plants? Where is the evidence that this is needed, and the best option? And how did the IESO decide this? The need, and the process that has gone on here, has certainly not been justified in the EAs.
- What is the purpose of the Independent Energy System Operator in Nova Scotia? Nova Scotia Power is operating the energy system properly, and was planning their decarbonization to meet the 2030 deadline.
- There is a significant financial cost to setting up and running the IESO as a new arm of government. How do these costs compare to the status quo that we've had, relative to the cost on our bills as ratepayers?
- There might be some rationale why Ontario and Alberta have IESOs, but those jurisdictions have massive and complex power needs, we don't.
- Is the IESO just the Premier's front for control of our electric power system?
- You don't decarbonize by building gas plants, but you sure can make your friends wealthy building these plants. This looks like classic Pork Barrel politics.

12) These 2 Proposed Gas Projects Are A Two Billion Dollar PORK BARREL: The optics are very bad here, so let's discuss them.

- In his first term, Premier Houston decided that we needed an Independent Energy System Operator, which came into being after a study was done for the Province/Premier (*4). Rob Batherson, the former President of the Conservative Party of Canada, and former President of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia, was paid \$100,000 to assist with administrative duties for this study (*5).
- Did the Premier want to have an Independent Energy System Operator, so that he could more closely control electricity procurement in Nova Scotia. This report is written to say what the Premier wanted.
- The next step in this process once the IESO was being set up, at significant public cost, was to appoint the IESO Board of Directors, chosen by the Premier. The Directors are certainly a group of qualified professional people, management executives, but none of them represent, experience in renewables, and what is the best mix of power sources for decarbonizing the grid in Nova Scotia.
- In 2025, having been re-elected, Premier Houston appointed himself as the Minister of Energy.
- The next step the Premier takes as the Minister of Energy, is that the IESO calls for a party to build and own these \$2 billion for these proposed gas plants, that are to be huge construction projects located as close as possible to the Premier's home riding.
- It is shocking to see shortly after this that the IESO releases EAs for these two gas plants. They were obviously commissioned secretly months before. Were these tendered contracts? Is their cost known? Where are similar studies examining other renewable power supply options instead of just these gas plants? Not done.
- The Premier is also very public about the fact that he fantasizes that Nova Scotia will be a major gas producing province through fracking. Fracking is strongly opposed by the Nova Scotia public. That public opposition led to a legislative ban against fracking in 2014. Premier Houston removed that ban on fracking in 2025 without public consultation or public support.
- Will the Premier soon proclaim his fantasy that Nova Scotia fracked gas will be used for these gas plants. In any case the gas, local or not, gas would be provided at world market prices.
- These gas plants by desire, rather than legitimate process or need, are similar to when John Buchanan was Premier. Buchanan had built coal fired power plants that were not needed, and we have a legacy of having the dirtiest electricity in Canada on a per capita basis.
- The difference between the Buchanan days and now, is that Premier Houston has organized this process in a more sophisticated manner than 30 - 40 years ago, to try to avoid these proposed gas plants being seen for what they really are, a two billion dollar pork barrel of construction projects, as near to the Premier's home riding as possible.

-Look up the definition of Pork Barrel in Canada, and this fits the description perfectly.

13) The Failures of Building Gas Plants: Both Quebec and Ontario built gas fired electricity plants in the last 30 years, and in both provinces these have been huge mistakes, a massive costly liability, not needed or even used. Now it seems that Eastern Canadians are about to be the next fools stepping up for gas plants, that are not needed. (*7)

-If these proposed gas plants are built, Nova Scotians for up to two more generations, will be saddled with major polluting electrical energy, and be a laggard in Canada for getting off fossil fuels. This will lock Nova Scotia into long-term economic and environmental harm.

-The mindset that gas is the next step for clean energy, is a direct step backwards from decarbonization.

14) A Failure of Decision Making:

-The problem with all this, is that none of it is in step with best policy decisions, and best practices, that are taking place in many jurisdictions, that are already adopting high levels of renewables, decarbonization, and battery backup. If we even need an IESO, this new organization should search the world, hiring the best experts, for what are the best options for Nova Scotia's energy system planning and decarbonization.

-The Premier's decision to spend what will be billions to provide infrastructure for offshore wind, will leave our communities stuck in the same rut we have been in for years, lacking proper funds for infrastructure that we need, from good roads to public transportation, schools to recreation facilities, to funds for public service, public safety or health care. One more stupid mega project idea, that drains money away from where it is most needed.

15) Why Fix What Is Not Broken?

-The cost to Nova Scotia electricity consumers for this new power, should have been part of these environmental assessments for these proposed gas plants. This is a very big issue relative to proposing to build these gas plants. How can such proposed projects as these be justified? They would add billions of dollars of costs to our power bills, and an unknown long term future cost for the fuel, will certainly cause significant increases in our power bills.

-Reducing Nova Scotia's carbon footprint from electricity by 80% by 2030 does not mean that NSP turns off 100% of the coal plants. Operating an existing, paid for coal fired power plant that would need to operate somewhere between five and thirty days a year makes the need to construct two 300 MW gas plants at a likely cost of \$2 billion dollars look like what it is- ridiculous.

-Importing some amount of power from Quebec through system planning, on an ongoing basis, also eliminates the need to build two 300 MW gas plants.

-Construction of 150 MW of battery storage is already being undertaken with assistance from the Federal Infrastructure Bank. Why not simply add another 150 megawatts, or 300 megawatts, or more? 600Mw of batteries, would cost less than these two proposed billion dollars each gas plants, and be cheaper to run.

This not a happy situation. It's actually a sad situation to live in a province where system planning has suddenly become so politically biased, so as to not even be able to clearly examine best alternatives, and make the right decisions that are best for the price of electricity in Nova Scotia. Here comes our mega project that will be like Newfoundland's Muskrat Falls fiasco, to Nova Scotia's economy.

16) Biased Decision Making: The proposed construction of these billion dollars each gas plants, has the same biased assumptions that led to how we got the Maritime Link, and Newfoundland and Labrador's Muskrat Falls. For example;

-If there had been an unbiased analysis, Newfoundland would have instead built wind projects across the province over 2 decades instead of Muskrat Falls, at a fraction of the cost.

-When NSP decided on the Maritime Link versus Hydro Quebec power almost 13 years ago, Nova Scotia did a biased comparative study in 2013, by studying 300MW from Newfoundland versus 500 MW from Quebec. You couldn't bring 500MW from Quebec but you could have brought 350MW. (*8). While the Maritime Link today may be a good asset for power in the region, the original study was biased and led to a decision that was not the best cost option for Nova Scotians.

-Biased decision making and biased studies, have led to a history of bad decision making, that has plagued Nova Scotia for generations. It is time to put an end to the idiotic mega-project mentality, that proposes gas plants for 2030.

-The bias is clear, the politics are clear, and these gas plant projects should be rejected at the outset.

Spending \$2 billion dollars to lock us into gas plants is as regressive as it gets. Nova Scotia can be a leader in its transition to renewables, but not unless we decarbonize.

As Ministers you should be saying NO to building two 1 billion dollar 300 MW fossil fuel gas plants in Nova Scotia. There are cheaper, better, available options.

I would be pleased to speak with you at your request.

Sincerely

Fw: new fuel plants

From Higgins, Jeremy W <Jeremy.Higgins@novascotia.ca>

Date Fri 2026-02-06 7:50 AM

To Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

For salt springs

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:33 PM
... @gmail.com>

To: Marshdale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca <Marshdale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca>; SaltSprings@iaac-aeic.gc.ca <SaltSprings@iaac-aeic.gc.ca>; ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca <ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

Subject: new fuel plants

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As a registered voter in NS (Richmond County) I strongly feel the environmental assessments for the proposed

Marshdale and SaltSpring gas plants In Nova Scotia should be summarily dismissed, and the projects cancelled.

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

26cc2a59

Submission Date

06/02/2026 15:41

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

Table 9.3 in the Environmental Assessment Registration Document & Initial Project Description document contains some inaccurate information and assumptions on the potential impacts to surface water and fish and fish habitat from the project.

The project will release surface water runoff and treated process water into a tributary of the Six Mile Brook which outlets in the West River of Pictou approximately 1.5km below the confluence with Six Mile Brook. The project will also draw down groundwater in the area which could impact baseflow to these water courses which could have impacts to water levels and result in an increase in water temperature in the rivers.

As outlined in the document "The ACCDC database identified three priority fish species and one priority aquatic invertebrate species within 5 km of the Project Area (Appendix E):

- Atlantic salmon - Gaspe - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population (*Salmo salar* pop. 12;

COSEWIC Special Concern, S1)

- Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*; S3B)
- Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*; S3)
- Eastern pearlshell (*Margaritifera margaritifera*; S2)

The Atlantic Salmon (Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population, also known as Designatable Unit 12) is of high ecological, cultural, and economic significance in Canada. Assessed as a species of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 2010 (with ongoing status re-evaluations, including a 2025 separation into a specific Gaspé Peninsula population), this group represents a distinct, genetically significant component of the species' biodiversity in Canada. Spawning grounds in the West River of Pictou (part of the Northumberland Strait watershed) are critical, serving as one of the key "index rivers" used to monitor the health of this population.

Atlantic Salmon (including alevin, fry, parr and smolts) and Brook Trout are very sensitive to changes in the water temperature and quality. Under current conditions, especially during hot dry summers such as the summer of 2025, there are times where elevated water temperatures throughout the West River of Pictou occur that are over the threshold for Atlantic Salmon (including alevin, fry, parr and smolts) and Brook Trout. This project could impact water quality and temperature and make these periods of elevated water temperature longer which could cause significant harm to the cold-water fish species in these rivers.

Given the regional importance of the downstream rivers to this nationally recognized Atlantic Salmon population the magnitude of effect for a "Change in Surface Water Quality", "Change in Surface Water Quantity" and "Thermal" in Table 9.3 should be reassessed to be of medium or high magnitude of effects.

The report also states "Elevated temperature is not expected in treated process water" without providing any details. Given the sensitivity of downstream cold-water fisheries to temperature, it seems as though this EA is misrepresenting potential negative impacts on these importance fisheries.

The proponent should proceed with a Request for Review to Fisheries and Oceans Canada so DFO biologists can determine if this project requires a formal Fisheries Act authorization or a Species at Risk Act (SARA) permit.

The watercourses adjacent to this proposed facility support a sport fishery that supports the local economy and is an important part of the local outdoors culture. It is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia government and DFO to make sure a project like this is completed in a fashion that does not impact these sensitive and highly valuable fisheries and the spawning habitat they need to sustain themselves.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

B3K 5K4

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

No documents to display.

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

9922fef4

Submission Date

06/02/2026 17:21

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

I strongly oppose the proposed Salt Springs Natural Gas Power Generation Facility. I will be inheriting significant land in the area that would be affected by this project, and this development would reduce land value and restrict future use through industrialization, noise/light, traffic, and perceived pollution risk.

A 30-year gas facility is a very poor long-term choice that exposes Nova Scotia to fuel price volatility and emissions lock-in, and it is not an efficient or fair use of rural land when cleaner and more future-proof options exist. The assessment must show why alternatives efficiency/DSM, renewables plus storage, and grid upgrades are not sufficient.

Finally, this process must include strong conflict-of-interest safeguards and transparent decision-making to protect public trust.

I request that the project be denied, or at minimum escalated to a higher level of environmental review that includes enforceable operational limits and full evaluation of property value and land-use impacts.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

No documents to display.

IESO NS Natural Gas Power Plant Site

@hotmail.ca>

Date Sat 2026-02-07 10:19 AM

To Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca <sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca>; Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; info@marcomacleod.com <info@marcomacleod.com>

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February 6, 2026

Hon Mr. Fraser, et al:

We are writing to you to express our deep concerns for the proposed "**Independent Electrical System Operator Nova Scotia, Natural Gas Power Plant**" **Construction Site** being proposed in Salt Springs, Pictou County, NS.

"Suddenly", our Community is being thrown into upheaval, with the announcement by our Provincial and Municipal Governments, that a Natural Gas Power Plant will be constructed in our community, inflicting: noise pollution, light pollution, air pollution, ground pollution, large amounts of water consumption, possible water pollution, and decreasing property values.

Our community is made up of seniors and young couples who chose to raise families in a peaceful rural Pictou County environment.

Almost daily, (South of us), we hear of "imposed Government acts and/or enforcement."

Have we reached the same leadership conditions?

Whatever happened to involving, inviting the public, asking for their input and discussion on: "Proposed Possible Development" not "Here it is, we are Constructing this in your Community!"

Everyone has concerns on, how the use of "Fossil Fuels", is affecting our Planet and Climate.

Trying to do our part, we have installed "free standing solar panels" and replaced our home "oil" heating system with a much cleaner propane system with Mini split heat pumps.

Our "elected" leadership is working hard to eliminate the use of fossil fuels and replacing electrical production with wind, solar and/or hydro.

So we question, how constructing a "300 MW Natural Gas Plant", operating with the use of natural gas (purchased from the US) and diesel fuel, to produce electricity is still not using fossil fuels? (And then

selling this electricity to Ontario or Maine)
All Canada In, right!

Is there not better locations for this construction, like the existing Trenton Coal Fired Generation Plant, (which would have infrastructure already in place) or the "defunct" Abercrombie Paper Mill?

Who is going to finance this? Our public?

r concerns, regarding this construction?

Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

e2e26521

Submission Date

07/02/2026 11:13

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

PUBLIC COMMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Fast-Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Date: February 7, 2026

To: Environmental Assessment Branch, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Province of Nova Scotia

Executive Summary

I am a Registered Nurse and a seventh-generation resident of Salt Springs, living within 1 kilometre of the proposed facility. I submit these comments to raise four critical concerns.

First, significant deficiencies in public consultation may not meet the standards for meaningful participation under environmental assessment law.

Second, the absence of a health impact assessment despite documented health risks to vulnerable populations.

Third, inadequate justification for site selection and assessment of alternatives, particularly given the disproportionate burden on a small rural community.

Fourth, concerns about compatibility with Nova Scotia's legislated climate commitments and net-zero targets.

Section 1: Public Engagement Deficiencies

1.1 Inadequate Consultation Process

The Environmental Assessment Registration Document was released on December 15, 2025—one week before Christmas—with the comment period spanning the holiday season. This timing significantly reduced public input. The IESO cancelled both scheduled community meetings: first, due to snow conditions; and second, without providing a reason. The meeting scheduled for February 5th at the West River Fire Hall was cancelled at the last minute by the IESO. The only public meeting the IESO attended was held without adequate advance notice, and they failed to answer basic questions about the Power Plant or provide any pertinent details. The environmental assessment (EA) documents were unavailable to the public at that time, and the IESO refused to answer basic questions, stating that they “didn’t know” because “they were not sure what company would be completing the project”. To safety, health, and environmental questions, they stated, “we can’t answer that at this time” and “we are not sure yet”. This was the IESO's only public community engagement appearance.

Direct Notification Failure: I received no direct mail notification despite living within 1 kilometre of the proposed site. Neighbours within 2-5 kilometres also received no notice. Many residents learned of this proposal in January 2026. Residents 2 kilometres from the site learned of the project on January 29, 2026—just 11 days before the comment deadline. Others living within 3 kilometres of the site were still unaware of the project in February—this demonstrates ineffective notice.

Digital Divide: IESO relied primarily on online portals, digital notices, and social media. Pictou County has one of Nova Scotia's most senior populations. Many seniors lack internet access, computer literacy, or access to review a 290-page technical document. This systematically excludes residents without internet access, those with limited formal education, and those with accessibility barriers, making the process discriminatory. There is no process to assist seniors in creating comments, and no accessibility accommodations are in place to assist those with differing abilities in accessing the material and creating comments for the EA process.

Indigenous Consultation: Engagement with Mi'kmaw communities primarily consisted of emails and voicemails during the holidays and fiscal year-end, when Indigenous governments are at their busiest with financial reporting. Given that this project is proposed on unceded Mi'kmaw territory and may affect fishing rights and traditional territories, this raises serious concerns about fulfilling the duty to consult.

1.2 Industry Standard Comparison

For comparable projects, proponents typically provide direct mail to all residents within 5 km, hold multiple in-person public information sessions, attend public meetings, provide plain-language project summaries, extend comment periods (60-90 days, avoiding holidays), and provide accessible printed materials. IESO provided none of these.

1.3 Recommendations

I recommend that the Minister require:

- Directly addressed mail notification to all residents within 5 km
- Minimum five in-person public information sessions with unbiased technical experts
- Plain-language summary documents
- Meetings in person and live-streamed for full accessibility
- 90-day comment period not overlapping major holidays
- Community liaison with accessible printed materials (we were denied a printed copy)
- Extension of the current deadline by at least 90 days

Section 2: Absence of Health Impact Assessment

2.1 Critical Omission

This EA contains no health impact assessment for a facility that will emit nitrogen oxides,

fine particulate matter (PM2.5), sulphur oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and benzene—a known carcinogen—within 1 kilometre of residential homes, near an elementary school, and near vulnerable populations.

2.2 Respiratory Health

Research on fuel-fired power plants shows significantly higher rates of asthma hospitalizations, acute respiratory infections, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among nearby residents. Analyses indicate that pollutants from gas-fired plants contribute to thousands of excess deaths annually, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, thousands of new childhood asthma cases, and billions in health costs in places where these plants are situated.

Children exposed to even low levels of PM2.5 face a substantially higher risk of early childhood asthma. Long-term exposure reduces lung function development and causes permanent damage.

Application to Salt Springs: This facility will directly increase pediatric asthma incidence, emergency department visits, COPD progression among elderly residents, and healthcare costs.

2.3 Cardiovascular Disease

Air pollution affects cardiovascular health through systemic inflammation, direct tissue toxicity, accelerated atherosclerosis, elevated blood pressure, and increased blood clotting. Research shows that each incremental increase in PM2.5 exposure is associated with a substantially higher risk of heart attack, ischemic heart disease mortality, and cardiovascular death. Effects occur even at concentrations below current air quality guidelines.

Application to Salt Springs: Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces have higher rates of cardiovascular disease than the rest of Canada. Pictou County's aging population faces disproportionate harm. Any increase in PM2.5 and NOx leads to more heart attacks, higher stroke incidence, increased cardiovascular mortality, and strain on rural healthcare resources.

2.4 Cancer Risk

Gas power plant emissions contain multiple carcinogens. Research demonstrates that chronic exposure to benzene increases cancer risk even at low levels. Long-term PM2.5 exposure significantly increases lung cancer incidence and mortality. Studies show exposure to PM2.5 and nitrogen dioxide associates with increased colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer risks, even at concentrations below current guidelines.

Application to Salt Springs: Thirty to fifty years of continuous carcinogen emissions will result in chronic cumulative exposure and elevated cancer risk across multiple organ sites.

2.5 Maternal and Infant Health

Natural gas pollutants pose serious risks to pregnant individuals and developing fetuses. Air pollution is strongly associated with an increased risk of gestational hypertension and preeclampsia—major contributors to maternal and infant mortality. Research consistently links PM2.5, NOx, and VOCs to low birth weight, which predicts infant mortality and later adult disease. Studies of women living near gas plants found significantly increased odds of preterm delivery—the leading cause of newborn death.

Application to Salt Springs: Nova Scotia faces challenges accessing maternity care in rural areas. Pictou County women already have limited prenatal care options and barriers to specialized services. Exposing pregnant women to these pollutants in an area with inadequate maternity care is unacceptable.

2.6 Vulnerable Populations

Pictou County has one of Nova Scotia's highest proportions of residents aged 65+ who face pre-existing conditions, reduced physiological resilience, and fixed incomes that limit their ability to implement protective measures. Children face developing organs, faster breathing rates, and lifetime cumulative exposure. Rural residents experience worse baseline health outcomes, physician shortages, long distances to emergency and specialized care, lower median incomes, and designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area. Research shows that healthcare barriers exacerbate pollution-related health impacts.

2.7 Property Devaluation

Research shows that property values near industrial facilities decline significantly. This devaluation traps residents—especially elderly homeowners on fixed incomes—in homes they cannot sell at fair value. Loss of housing equity deprives seniors of financial resources for healthcare costs or home modifications. This economic burden creates chronic financial stress, which is independently associated with cardiovascular disease, depression, and reduced life expectancy.

2.8 Cumulative Environmental Burden

Salt Springs and Pictou County have already borne decades of industrial pollution from Northern Pulp and Boat Harbour—documented elevated pollution levels, environmental racism affecting Pictou Landing First Nation, and ongoing remediation. This EA evaluates the facility in isolation, failing to account for pre-existing pollution exposure, the combined effects of multiple sources, and the community's baseline health status. A community already burdened cannot absorb additional emissions without significant consequences.

2.9 Water Security

This plant will require water equivalent to 750 rural households. Salt Springs residents rely on private wells with no alternative source. Extracting large volumes from aquifers can significantly degrade local well water quality. Contamination pathways include process wastewater discharges, fuel storage spills, stormwater runoff, and well-construction failures. Groundwater contamination is effectively permanent remediation is prohibitively expensive and often impossible. This extraction will also affect brook water levels, affecting fish habitat and traditional Indigenous food sources.

2.10 Healthcare System Capacity

Nova Scotia faces severe healthcare workforce shortages, particularly in rural areas: shortages of primary care physicians, limited specialist access concentrated in Halifax, emergency department overcrowding, and long diagnostic wait times. Pictou County residents face transportation barriers, time costs, and difficulties with care coordination. Pictou County faces significant maternity care challenges: limited obstetricians, distance to comprehensive services, no local certified midwives, and limited access to paediatric specialists. Women in maternity care deserts have higher rates of conditions, increased pregnancy complications, and higher mortality risk.

Adding pollution exposure that increases the burden on respiratory, cardiovascular, cancer, and maternal-infant health, where healthcare capacity is already inadequate, is particularly harmful.

2.11 Social Cost and Environmental Justice

Analyses of comparable facilities indicate that the social cost of carbon ranges from billions to tens of billions of dollars over the operational life. Health-related damages, including mortality, hospitalizations, cancer cases, and maternal-infant outcomes, total tens of millions annually. Local residents bear costs through illness and lost work. The healthcare system bears costs through emergency visits and hospitalizations. Taxpayers bear costs through publicly funded healthcare. The proponent externalizes these costs. This project focuses on environmental health risks for a small, vulnerable, rural population already burdened by industrial pollution; worsens social determinants through property devaluation, water insecurity, and healthcare barriers; and excludes affected residents through inadequate consultation.

2.12 Recommendations

I recommend that the Minister require:

- Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment, including baseline health data, cumulative risk assessment that accounts for the Northern Pulp legacy, vulnerable population assessment, healthcare capacity analysis, property value impact assessment, water security assessment, and social cost calculation
- Independent public health review with epidemiologist evaluation and peer review
- Alternative location analysis identifying sites with less human and environmental impact

3.1 Absence of Site Selection Justification

The EA fails to demonstrate why this location was selected or what alternative sites were considered. The justification is limited to proximity to existing pipeline and transmission infrastructure. This narrow rationale ignores residential proximity, rural community character, environmental justice, and availability of alternative sites that would not impose concentrated burdens on a small rural population.

3.2 Disproportionate Burden on a Rural Community

Salt Springs is a small, rural residential community. Residents have built multi-generational lives here, with the reasonable expectation that this area would remain residential and agricultural. Siting this facility here imposes disproportionate burdens: Scale of Impact: A facility connected to the provincial grid concentrates all environmental, health, and economic burdens on approximately 200-300 nearby households.

Rural Vulnerability Amplified: Salt Springs residents have no municipal water supply if wells are contaminated, limited access to healthcare to address pollution-related illness, lower median incomes, reduced capacity to relocate or install protective measures, an aging population with higher baseline health vulnerability, and property values that decline more severely in rural areas where industrial proximity contradicts community character.

Violation of Rural Character: This community has historically been residential and agricultural. Introducing heavy industrial infrastructure fundamentally transforms community character and violates the reasonable expectation that rural residential areas will remain free from industrial development.

Compounded Injustice: Salt Springs has already endured decades of industrial pollution from Northern Pulp. Siting another major pollution source here compounds the historical environmental injustice.

3.3 Failure to Assess Alternative Locations

The EA does not disclose which alternative locations were identified and evaluated, what criteria were used to compare potential sites, whether locations with existing industrial zoning were considered, whether sites farther from residential areas were evaluated, whether locations with municipal water supply were assessed, or how residential proximity, well water dependence, and population health were weighted in site selection. Industry-standard practice requires a comprehensive site-selection analysis that compares multiple locations across environmental, social, economic, and technical criteria. This EA provides no such analysis.

3.4 Alternative Site Characteristics

Alternative locations exist that would achieve the same energy goals while avoiding concentrated harm:

Existing Industrial Zones: Nova Scotia has established industrial areas with existing buffer zones where industrial operations are expected, residential proximity is limited, municipal water supply is available, and land use is already designated for industrial purposes.

Previously Disturbed Sites: Locations with existing industrial infrastructure would avoid introducing new pollution into clean residential areas, eliminate the need to transform rural residential character, and concentrate industrial activities rather than dispersing them into new areas.

Non-Residential Areas: Locations that are significantly distant from homes, schools, and communities would eliminate direct health impacts on vulnerable populations, avoid property devaluation, reduce the risk of well-water contamination, and protect rural residential quality of life.

The EA provides no evidence that such alternatives were evaluated or that they were rejected in favour of a site within 1 kilometre of residential homes.

3.5 Unjust Distribution of Costs and Benefits

The proponent selected this location to minimize capital costs by locating near pipeline and transmission infrastructure. This decision externalizes enormous costs onto Salt Springs residents, who receive no corresponding benefits.

Costs Imposed: Health impacts from 30-50 years of exposure to air pollutants; property devaluation, trapping residents in declining home values; loss of well-water security and

the risk of permanent aquifer contamination; destruction of rural residential character; and psychological stress from living near an industrial pollution source.

Benefits Received: Electricity serves the provincial grid, not local needs. Operational employment is estimated at 10-15 jobs. Construction employment is temporary. No community benefit agreement has been disclosed.

Economic gains accrue to the proponent and distant ratepayers, while health, environmental, and economic costs are concentrated entirely on Salt Springs.

3.6 Rural Communities Warrant Greater Protection

Rural communities face compounding vulnerabilities that warrant protection in site selection decisions.

Limited Political Voice: Small populations have less political representation and influence. Salt Springs cannot mobilize the same level of organized opposition as urban neighbourhoods.

Infrastructure Dependence: Rural residents rely on private wells. Industrial contamination risks are catastrophic because no alternative water supply exists.

Healthcare Access Barriers: Rural communities face severe healthcare workforce shortages. Adding pollution exposure to settings where healthcare access is already inadequate compounds the harm.

Economic Vulnerability: Rural median incomes are lower than in urban areas. Property values represent a larger share of total wealth. The capacity to relocate or absorb financial losses is more limited.

Expectation of Environmental Quality: Rural residents accept limited services and longer travel distances in exchange for environmental quality, clean air and water, and freedom from industrial development. Violating this fundamental expectation undermines the basis on which rural residents have built their lives.

3.7 Alternative Energy Solutions

Beyond alternative locations, the EA inadequately evaluates alternative energy technologies:

Clean Energy Portfolios: Combining solar, wind, battery storage, energy efficiency, and demand flexibility can meet the same grid needs. Utility-scale solar costs are dramatically lower than those of fossil fuel alternatives. Battery storage costs have fallen by 89% since 2010. These alternatives avoid all local health and environmental impacts.

Distributed Generation: Smaller-scale renewable installations distributed across the province eliminate the need for large centralized facilities while providing grid resilience and avoiding concentrated environmental impacts.

Demand Management: Energy efficiency programs and demand response can reduce peak electricity needs. The EA provides insufficient analysis of whether improved demand management could obviate this project.

3.8 Economic Risks

This facility faces significant economic risks: volatile gas prices expose ratepayers to unpredictable fuel costs, stranded asset risk as renewable costs continue to decline and climate policies tighten, potential carbon pricing that could render the facility uneconomical, and difficulty securing financing as investors divest from fossil fuels.

The economic analysis does not account for true costs because it externalizes health and climate damages. Health damages alone cost tens of millions over the facility's lifetime.

Climate damages add billions in social costs. When these externalized costs are internalized, renewable alternatives become overwhelmingly economically superior.

3.9 Recommendations

I recommend the Minister require:

- Comprehensive Site Selection Analysis documenting all alternative locations considered, the evaluation criteria applied, and the comparative assessment, with particular attention to why a rural residential community was selected over existing industrial zones
- Environmental Justice Analysis assessing whether this site selection disproportionately burdens a small rural community and violates the principles of fair distribution of environmental risks
- Alternative Site Assessment evaluating locations with existing industrial zoning,

established buffer zones, municipal water supply, and minimal residential proximity

- Rigorous Clean Energy Portfolio Alternative Evaluation to determine whether renewable energy combinations can achieve equivalent grid reliability at comparable or lower cost
- Full Lifecycle Cost Accounting that internalizes health and environmental damages, property devaluation, and risks of well water contamination
- Assessment of Distributed Generation and Demand Management Alternatives

Section 4: Climate Compatibility Concerns

4.1 Provincial Climate Law

Nova Scotia's Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act requires 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050. This gas plant may be inconsistent with these binding legal obligations.

4.2 Fossil Fuel Lock-In

IESO proposes operations beginning in 2030, with an operational lifespan of 30-50 years. This facility would burn fossil fuels until 2060-2080, locking in fossil fuel dependence, creating stranded asset risk, committing ratepayers to long-term fossil fuel costs, and occupying land and grid capacity that could support renewable generation.

4.3 Annual Emissions

This facility will emit 325,594 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent annually—equivalent to approximately 29,700 U.S. households per year.

4.4 Misleading Characterization

IESO characterizes this project as supporting the clean energy transition. Natural gas is a non-renewable fossil fuel and a significant greenhouse gas source, incompatible with net-zero targets. Characterizing fossil fuel combustion as "clean" or "transitional" while proposing 50-year operations is misleading.

4.5 Upstream Methane Emissions

Beyond direct combustion emissions, natural gas infrastructure contributes substantial methane leakage during extraction, pipeline transport, and processing. Methane is 84 times more potent than CO₂ over 20 years. These upstream emissions significantly contribute to climate impacts yet are excluded from the assessment.

4.6 Inadequate Alternatives Assessment

The EA inadequately assesses alternatives. Battery storage is dismissed without rigorous analysis. Demand management receives insufficient consideration. Additional renewable generation receives limited evaluation. The EA presents gas generation as inevitable without conducting a genuine evaluation of non-fossil alternatives.

4.7 Recommendations

I recommend the Minister:

- Assess whether this EA is compatible with provincial climate law
- Require rigorous alternatives assessment evaluating non-fossil options, including battery storage, demand management, and additional renewable generation
- Apply a climate test to determine whether this project advances or undermines Nova Scotia's climate goals

Conclusion

Primary Concerns:

Public Consultation: The timing and methods did not provide an adequate opportunity for meaningful participation by affected residents, particularly vulnerable populations.

Indigenous engagement is lacking.

Health Impact Assessment: The absence of a health impact assessment that considers all social determinants of health means decision-makers lack information to understand the potential health consequences for children, older residents, pregnant individuals, and others near the facility.

Site Selection and Alternatives: The EA fails to justify why this small, rural residential community was selected to bear these burdens, what alternative locations were considered, and why clean energy alternatives were not pursued.

Climate Compatibility: The proposal's alignment with Nova Scotia's legislated climate

commitments requires evaluation.

Recommended Actions:

1. Enhanced Consultation: Extended comment period, direct-mail notification within 5 km, multiple in-person sessions, and plain-language, accessible materials. IESO is required to attend scheduled meetings. External experts who are unbiased and available to disseminate knowledge to community members in a fair and accessible process.
2. Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment: Baseline community health data, vulnerable population risk assessment, cumulative impact assessment of the Northern Pulp legacy, property value impacts, and water security analysis. Un-biased health experts available to provide peer-reviewed analysis with no conflict of interest.
3. Complete Site Selection and Alternatives Analysis: Comprehensive evaluation of alternative locations, including existing industrial zones, environmental justice analysis, rigorous Clean Energy Portfolio assessment, full lifecycle cost accounting with internalized health and climate damages, and distributed generation and demand management alternatives
4. Climate Compatibility Analysis: Assessment of whether this project advances or undermines provincial climate goals

Final Statement

As a seventh-generation resident of Salt Springs and a healthcare professional, I believe these concerns warrant careful consideration.

Salt Springs is a small rural community that has long served as a residential and agricultural area. We have built our lives here with the reasonable expectation that this area would remain free from industrial development. We have already borne decades of industrial pollution from Northern Pulp and Boat Harbour.

The fundamental question remains unanswered: Why must this small rural community bear concentrated burdens—health risks, property devaluation, risks of water contamination, and loss of rural character—when alternative locations with industrial zoning, established buffers, and municipal water supply exist across Nova Scotia, and when renewable energy technologies are now cost-competitive and avoid all local health impacts?

The scientific evidence on health impacts from similar facilities is clear. Alternative sites exist. Renewable energy is economically viable. Nova Scotia has made binding climate commitments.

A small rural community should not be sacrificed for the economic convenience of a proponent seeking to minimize capital costs. Environmental justice requires a fair distribution of risks and benefits—not the concentration of all burdens on a vulnerable population while benefits flow elsewhere.

Salt Springs residents deserve meaningful participation in decisions that will affect us, our children, and our grandchildren for generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Salt Springs, Six Mile Brook

Postal Code

B0K 1P0

Attachment(s):

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Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

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Submission Date

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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMENT:

Proposed 300 MW Natural Gas-Fired Power Generation Facility, Salt Springs, Pictou County, Nova Scotia

DATE: February 1, 2026

RE: OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED NATURAL GAS POWER PLANT IN SALT SPRINGS

I am writing as a seventh-generation resident of Six Mile Brook, Salt Springs, in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, living in Mi'kmaw territory. I am deeply opposed to the proposed 300-megawatt natural gas power plant and submit this comment to highlight critical deficiencies in the Environmental Assessment and to demand comprehensive answers to questions that have not been adequately addressed.

This EA is fundamentally incomplete and fails to protect the health, safety, economic security, and quality of life of Salt Springs residents. The assessment makes unsupported

assumptions, omits critical health impact analysis, provides no meaningful safeguards or compensation mechanisms, and fails to demonstrate that alternatives were seriously considered.

1. OPERATIONAL ASSUMPTIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The EA assumes the plant will operate 25% of the time, yet the emissions data, water-consumption calculations, and environmental impact projections are based solely on this limited operational scenario.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- Will there be legally binding conditions imposed on the private company limiting its operation to 25% capacity? If not, why should we trust projections based on this assumption?
- If the plant operates beyond 25% capacity—which is economically likely given the profit motive of a private corporation—will another impact assessment be required to reflect actual emissions and environmental impacts?
- What enforcement mechanisms will ensure compliance with operational limits?
- What penalties will apply if the company exceeds projected operational levels?
- Who will monitor actual operational hours, emissions, and environmental impacts on an ongoing basis?

2. WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND PROTECTION

The plant will require substantial water and will generate pollution that threatens local groundwater and private wells that families depend on for drinking, cooking, and daily living.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What specific, legally enforceable safeguards will be in place for ongoing water testing in local private wells?
- Who will pay for baseline water quality testing prior to construction and for ongoing monitoring throughout the plant's operational life?
- What threshold levels will trigger remediation or compensation?
- If wells become contaminated or water supplies are compromised, who will pay for the extension of municipal water services to affected homes?
- Will affected residents bear increased tax burdens to fund infrastructure necessitated by corporate pollution?
- What happens if a municipal water extension is not feasible—will residents be forced to relocate or be forced to accept sub-par or “quick-fixes” to access clean water?

3. DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NOISE, LIGHT, AND VISUAL IMPACTS

The EA provides insufficient detail on how the facility will be designed to minimize noise, light, and visual disruption to our rural community.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What specific building designs, noise barriers, and operational standards will minimize noise pollution affecting nearby homes?
- What lighting standards will be enforced to prevent light pollution in a rural area where dark skies are valued and enjoyed?
- What aesthetic standards will be required to minimize visual impact on the rural landscape?
- Who will enforce these standards, and what recourse do residents have if impacts exceed projections?

4. COMPENSATION MECHANISMS FOR PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC LOSSES

The presence of this plant will inevitably devalue properties, reduce livability, and may force residents to relocate. The EA provides no compensation framework.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What compensation mechanisms will be implemented for homeowners whose properties are devalued due to proximity to the plant?
- If residents lose access to clean water, who compensates them for the loss of well

water and the cost of alternatives?

- In the event of emergency evacuations or plant-related disasters, who bears the cost of temporary relocation, permanent relocation, or property losses?
- Will a compensation fund be established prior to construction, and who will administer it?
- What recourse do residents have if the company declares bankruptcy or abandons the facility?

5. HEALTH IMPACTS: PHYSICAL AND MENTAL

The EA entirely fails to address health impacts on residents who will be exposed to emissions, noise, and environmental contamination over years and decades.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What are the health impacts of prolonged exposure to emissions from this plant, particularly on vulnerable populations, including children, elderly residents, and those with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions?
- What monitoring will be in place for ground-level air quality in residential areas, not just at the facility perimeter?
- How will cumulative health impacts be tracked over time?
- What about the mental health consequences—*anxiety, stress, loss of sense of safety*—related to living near a polluting industrial facility?

Residents will be afraid to eat vegetables from our gardens, afraid to let children play outside, and unable to enjoy the outdoor activities that define life in this community. We will lose our trust in the safety of our own environment. Hiking, fishing, hunting, and other outdoor activities that connect us to this land will be tainted by fear of contamination.

We teach our children to honour the environment, to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and to protect clean water and the climate. How do we reconcile these values with permitting a large for-profit corporation to pollute our local environment while we expect residents to recycle and advocate for climate protection?

6. IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY CHARACTER, LIVABILITY, AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

This plant will fundamentally alter the character of Salt Springs and drive away future generations.

Young families and potential grandchildren will no longer want to settle here or invest in summer homes because of the plant. Living an active, healthy lifestyle will now mean driving to another community to find clean air we can trust won't pose health risks. This area is known for walking, hiking, and other outdoor activities—that will no longer be the case with a power plant emitting greenhouse gases and noxious pollutants.

This plant will cause stigma in this area, further reducing our equity within the greater region, reducing property values, and diminishing livability. This is no longer "country living" as we know it—it will be like living in a Walmart parking lot.

Privately owned residential land will be deemed unfit or less desirable for residential use, becoming "low-value" land that attracts additional industrial development—a snowball effect that destroys the surrounding community.

7. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The EA provides no detail on emergency response planning, training, or financial responsibility in the event of accidents or disasters.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What kind of emergency evacuation plans are in place in the event of an incident at the plant?
- Will residents be evacuated or relocated, and who will bear the cost?
- Will local fire departments and emergency responders be trained to respond to emergencies specific to this type of facility?
- Who will pay for the additional training, equipment, and ongoing preparedness costs?
- What safety measures will be in place to protect residents in the event of fires,

explosions, gas leaks, or other disasters?

- What disasters are possible with this kind of infrastructure, and what is the risk assessment for each?

8. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The EA fails to demonstrate that meaningful alternatives were considered or that this site was chosen for any reason other than the proponent's convenience.

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What other sites that would be less impactful on residential communities were evaluated?
- What renewable energy alternatives were considered instead of fossil fuel generation?
- Why was this specific location chosen when it is in close proximity to homes, private wells, and a rural residential community? If it is merely for the proponent's and the private corporation's convenience, this is insufficient to justify the cost to local residents.
- What other solutions to grid reliability and energy needs were discussed before defaulting to a natural gas plant?

Pictou County invested significantly in building, controlling, and owning its own internet infrastructure (fibre) to provide residents with reliable, reasonably priced service. Does this not apply to our power generation as well? Community-owned renewable energy would keep both the infrastructure and the economic benefits local, rather than extracting profits while leaving pollution behind.

9. LACK OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY

This plant offers virtually no benefit to residents while imposing significant costs and harms.

The plant is centralized and automated, offering only 10-15 jobs during operation. It will not lower utility bills for customers. It will do nothing to improve grid infrastructure or reduce power outages. It will not lower taxes in the area. All benefits will accrue to the private corporations operating this facility for profit.

The poison remains in the area—the profits do not.

10. INADEQUATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND PUBLIC PROCESS

There is no competent or informed government representation. Our MLA, Marco MacLeod, had no information about the plant and admitted he had done no research on the issues his constituents may face. He is not attending the upcoming community meeting and is not even in the county to represent his constituents during this essential EA process.

This lack of representation leaves residents to fight this battle alone, without the advocacy and support we deserve from elected officials.

11. UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT EXCEEDANCES AND CONTINGENCIES

QUESTIONS DEMANDING ANSWERS:

- What happens if pollution levels—noise, light, air quality, water contamination—exceed what was projected in the EA?
- What recourse do residents have?
- What enforcement mechanisms exist to shut down operations or require remediation?
- Will residents be compensated if impacts are worse than predicted?

CONCLUSION

This Environmental Assessment is inadequate, incomplete, and fails to protect the residents of Salt Springs. It is based on unsupported operational assumptions, omits critical health impact analysis, provides no compensation or enforcement mechanisms, and demonstrates no serious consideration of alternatives or alternative sites.

We are not opposed to energy infrastructure—we are opposed to dirty, polluting, for-profit infrastructure imposed on a residential community without adequate safeguards,

without community benefit, and without our consent.

There must be other options. Renewable energy, community-owned infrastructure, and sites that do not harm residential communities are all viable alternatives that have not been adequately explored.

I urge the provincial and federal governments to reject this proposal and to require a comprehensive reassessment that:

- Addresses all health impacts with credible, peer-reviewed analysis
- Includes legally binding operational limits and enforcement mechanisms
- Provides a fair compensation framework for affected residents
- Demonstrates serious consideration of renewable alternatives and alternative sites
- Includes meaningful community consultation and consent

The residents of Salt Springs deserve better than to be sacrificed for corporate profit.

Respectfully submitted,

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

Attachment(s):

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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

Why Does Pictou County Have Such Low Self-Esteem?

Sixteen years ago, when my husband and I bought an old house off the internet near Salt Springs; everyone we knew in Toronto told us it was a terrible idea. The warnings came from every direction. Even the bank agent who handled our Toronto mortgage refused to approve the new one and actually yelled at us for considering Nova Scotia. People had all kinds of strange, outdated ideas about this province.

All we knew was that we wanted to devote our time to our own small business. And we're proud to say that over the past sixteen years, the vast majority of our clientele has come not only from outside Nova Scotia, but from outside Canada entirely. A large portion of our income has never taken anything from Nova Scotia. We don't extract, pollute, or damage the natural beauty of this place we consider paradise.

Yet every time we turn around, there's a new industrial extraction or pollution threat; always in the name of "jobs." It seems to me that what Nova Scotia, and Pictou County in particular, really needs is more remote workers like us: people who realize how valuable this place is.

Do you remember when MoneySense Magazine declared New Glasgow the "Worst place to live in Canada"? The irony is that the quality of life here, in so many ways, is far superior to what my husband and I have experienced in other parts of Canada, the U.S. or overseas. This is the place. We've even joked that we must have died, gone to heaven, and ended up here.

together and separately we've lived, worked and travelled in multiple countries. When we arrived, we found a paradise unlike anything we'd seen before. Nowhere have we found a higher quality of life. Nova Scotia is majestic in countless ways.

We were astonished that all the negative things we'd heard were completely untrue. By taking a chance, we found our paradise.

But then; what's that horrendous stench? Oh, the pulp mill. That mill was the only depressing thing we encountered here, and it was bad. The smell; like a mix of vomit and a dirty diaper; blanketed Pictou and surrounding areas. We've attended outdoor events like the Lobster Carnival on days when that debilitating, soul-crushing odour permeated everything. I remember looking around and wondering how people had lived with it for so long, and why they still had to. The attitude seemed to be: "This is just industry... because... jobs?" As if Pictou County must trade clean air and cancer-causing pollutants for employment.

Now, after 60 years of pollution, we the people are on the hook for a half Billion dollar cleanup, as a minimum.

That same amount would pay over 10,000 decent salaries in today's dollars; far more than the mill ever did in it's entire lifetime; without the terrible health burdens on families and our medical system.

But this Nova Scotia government doesn't want to learn the lesson.

They are determined to "expand natural resource development", a nice, friendly, greenwashing way of saying fracking methane and unearthing uranium.

I don't mean to be insensitive. I understand that in the past, survival here was harder. I'm not condemning Nova Scotia's coal-mining history. But progress exists for a reason. Just because your community was once a mining town doesn't mean your children have no other opportunities.

I had never even heard of Alberta oil patch jobs until we moved here. It seems that many people in Nova Scotia believe that's the only kind of job available to them. But things are changing. There are more opportunities now than there used to be, and my husband and I are living proof of that.

We don't plan to leave; but now our own water supply is under threat as yet another extractive industry arrives to abuse, deplete, and destroy the land. As an appointed citizen member of the Municipality of Pictou County's Planning Advisory Committee, I'm sorry to say I don't have much faith in the Municipality's ability to protect residents from this, especially when the provincial government appears determined to push it through. And let's be honest: calling methane gas "green energy" is pure greenwashing.

Replacing coal with methane is not a practical solution to meeting our climate targets, it's just another plunder.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

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Please note:

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Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

6b069397

Submission Date

07/02/2026 23:29

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

My favourites thing about the community are how peaceful it is. There are many farms, trails and even a provincial park. The company proposing this project is pushing the idea of it being more environmentally friendly and "good for the community". However, based on what I have seen it does nothing for the community in which it will impact the most. The idea that this is better for the environment compared to coal or other power plants already established is not a lie, but to say it is good for the environment is. Natural gas power plants do offer some benefits as coal is becoming more and more limited, but natural gas is not renewable either, and it does have its own environmental impacts. The proposed site for this plant puts much of the community in a high-risk zone for varying pollutant exposer, which the company has openly outlined in their own plans. Yet they do not seem to care. They also plan to tap into the community's spring water, water that fills our wells and enables us to live. This water is not unlimited, during the drought this summer that was well established. The water usage from this plant will make clean water unreliable.

Effecting not only daily living but making the properties almost unsellable. This was seen in Thorburn, the mining in the area made it so to this day residents cannot drink the tap water. Not only does will this Power Plant effect residence access to clean water, but also clean air. I have family members with varying health conditions, should they become more ill, or others become ill in general does this plant plan to pay for medical expenses or emotional damages. The increase in traffic alone will increase pollutants in the area. These factors will depreciate property values, properties people have spent their entire lives maintaining, making it impossible for people to leave or to leave anything to help their families after they pass. This was all witnessed by the pulp mill in Pictou, the mining in Thorburn, this story has repeated itself over and over, communities being destroyed by large companies who claim to care. The farms in the community, the elementary school, air pollutants with proven health risks now in their backyard. Even jobs will make no positive impact, 10-15 long term positions in exchange for the destruction of community. Jobs that won't even go to community members. Do not approve this project as it is, the location and proposed water usage will destroy this community.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Postal Code

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Environmental Assessment - Project Comments

Submission ID

68826cad

Submission Date

07/02/2026 17:28

Submission status

SUBMITTED



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Select a Project:

Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Facility - Salt Springs

Comments:

Please find attached our comments regarding the above noted project.

Name:

Email:

City/Town