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to IRAC and have your
say in PEI's energy
future**



Submit your comment to IRAC

Maritime Electric is seeking approval to purchase a 100 MW diesel combustion turbine for \$371 million, which it plans to recover from ratepayers.

Quick Facts:

Maritime Electric is proposing this purchase to address increasing energy demand in PEI.

Demand *is* rising, and action *is* needed, but diesel combustion turbines are not the right solution. Diesel turbines are expensive to install and operate; they pollute the air, require significant water resources for cooling, and divert funds from better long-term investments.

The number one recommended alternative for PEI is a Battery Energy Storage System. 100 MW of BESS can provide the same power and reliability to the province, with significantly lower installation and operating costs **(capital costs of \$240 Million compared to \$371 Million).**

BESS has **the same installation timeline**, has **proven reliable in Atlantic climates**, and **supports further integration of low-cost renewable energy**, keeping power rates lower and reducing the cost of electricity over the long term. BESS is also a trusted technology. It's already in use in Nova Scotia, Summerside, and the PEI Energy Corporation is moving ahead with expressions of interest to install a 50 MW BESS system. **Rejecting diesel and exploring BESS options is the top recommendation of IRAC's own experts.**

The proposed diesel plant will spew **thousands of tonnes of CO2-equivalent pollutants** into a densely populated part of Charlottetown, risking long-term health impacts for residents.

If approved, the combustion turbines will be purchased from a US-based company, ProEnergy, and will be powered with imported oil. **This means hundreds of millions of Island dollars leaving the local and Canadian economy.** BESS would likely be purchased by a Canadian company and support the integration of local renewable energy.

Points that matter

There are a lot of reasons why a diesel power plant is a concerning proposal. The contributions to climate change, potential long-term impacts on public health, disruption to the waterfront, and cost are all important, but are not all relevant to this hearing.

The scope of the commission regarding this proposal is

“to ensure that ratepayers receive safe and reliable service, and that the rates for electric service are reasonable, publicly justifiable and non-discriminatory.”

Focusing on these points will have the greatest impact on the commission's decision.

Will this project deliver *safe and reliable service*?

- A combustion turbine is not the safest or most reliable option. The infrastructure comes with a one-year warranty, but a 50-year lifespan, and the turbines are not new; they are used. With infrequent, intense use, these used turbines are at risk of damage and breaking. Pro-energy, the manufacturer, is based in Missouri, so if a part breaks during a storm, the island goes unpowered, and residents are on the hook to pay to fix it.

Will this project help make/keep rates *reasonable*?

- No. The high costs of fuel and installation, along with an explicit request to recover costs from ratepayers, make this not only unreasonable but also outright irresponsible.

Are the rate increases associated with this project *publicly justifiable*?

- No. IRAC's own energy experts have demonstrated that there is a more effective, equally reliable option that is better for the environment. Passing an extra \$120 million onto ratepayers' shoulders without any additional benefit is far from justifiable.

Are the rate increases associated with this project *non-discriminatory*?

- Associated rate increases do not impact everyone equally. By tying PEI's energy to fossil fuels, we are tying rates to an unstable, expensive and highly reactive market. This means that electricity from a combustion turbine will continue to grow more expensive, and these costs will impact the 24,000 Island residents who already experience energy poverty the hardest.

Craft your comment

Comments do not need to be long or full of industry jargon. A lengthy essay or a short paragraph, both contribute value.

Comments *do* need to be respectful. Accusations and venting, while sometimes fun, detract from our cause.

Comments should also focus as much as possible on the scope of the commission's responsibility. Focusing on unnecessary costs without additional reliability is effective because cost is the most important factor in this decision.

Personal stories are also welcome and effective. If you or someone you know is experiencing energy poverty (paying more than 6% of income for electricity or rationing electricity use to save on costs), talking about the real personal impact of unnecessarily high rate increases creates a powerful image.

The most important thing to communicate is that you are concerned about tying the island's energy to expensive, polluting technology while cheaper, more sustainable alternatives are ignored. You do not need to be an expert for your voice to matter.

Comments must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2026.

Comments are made public on IRAC's website.

Comments can be submitted to:

Email: **electricityinquiries@irac.pe.ca**

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