July 30, 2025

Erin Norton
Project Manager
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
200-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3N4
Sent via email: centrevillage@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Subject: Centre Village Renewables Integration and Grid Security (RIGS) Project Unanswered Questions for the Proponent

Dear Ms. Norton,

As previously noted, the IAAC-led informational sessions on our project were well attended and had several questions that were not addressed due to the length of the sessions. Thank you for compiling the unanswered questions; we counted 32 of them that you provided.

It is our goal to respond to all questions in the most transparent way possible regarding the Centre Village Renewables Integration and Grid Security (RIGS) Project. To that end, please find enclosed:

1. The original list of unanswered questions that the IAAC provided and,
2. Our list of responses to all the unanswered questions. Please note,
   a. We have provided 36 responses as some of the original questions had multiple, separate questions we felt were important to address
   b. We re-grouped the questions by topic, since a number of questions were very similar
   c. We provided the session date and number for each question since similar questions were asked across the sessions

Thank you again for allowing us the time to answer questions during the sessions and for this opportunity to follow up.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

John MacIsaac,
President, PROENERGY Canada

RIGS Energy Atlantic Project
Email: info@RIGSEnergyAtlantic.ca

Public Information Sessions – Unanswered questions for the proponent

July 21, 2025 – Evening English Session

- Although it maybe outside the scope of this session, as it is focusing on the Centre Village project, one thing I am interested in is the original discussion of Scouduc site for this project. Was there a particular reason for rejection of that site in favour of the Centre Village site.
- What happens to everyone's well water and farming agriculture ?
- Can the proponent describe the level of emissions? What is in the effluent?
- Why would we hire a US company to build and manage our power infrastructure?
- How are any bird deaths acceptable when they are so reduced in numbers already?
- The negative effects of fracking on health are well known low birth weight babies and higher incidence of pre-term births, leukemia, cardiovascular disease, neurological impacts, respiratory diseases and asthma, to name a few. Why is a project being considered that will continue the suffering of people in communities near fracked wells?
- How much will the project cost and how long will it take to build?
- In light of the federal governments focus on strengthening Canada's autonomy what foreign investments or contracts are involved in this project?
- Why was no consideration taken to buy green hydro power from Quebec?
- Was the Atlantic Wildlife Institute, Birds Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service consulted?
- Was that baseline assessment /constraints only done within the geographic area denoted on the plan, or were they also applied to what will happen in adjacent areas?
- Can ProEnergy indicate where the major components of the project are manufactured. I.e. in the USA?
- Where is the fracked water coming from?
- What happens when the tourism drops due to bird migration, wetland tourism etc Our municipalities businesses will also suffer. What happens when farmers land and OUR land becomes contaminated? Will we be compensated for 25 years?
- I needed to drill a test well to get a mortgage. How could you have gotten this far in the process without determining or researching if there is enough water for your project? How does this make sense?
- What will be transported and carried on route 940 to the site?
    - I have a question about what is being transported via route 940. The roadway is UNFIT!!!!
- Why a USA company?

July 22, 2025 – Afternoon English Session

- Hydrogen gas requires specific piping and infrastructure. How can a natural gas plant be converted to gas?
- Re birds: you said a mitigation could be to use already disturbed land. Does that exist in that location?
- The Initial Project Description includes many calculations of potential impacts, which I believe are based on the predicted operating hours discussed on p21 of the description. How realistic are those predicted operating hours? It's difficult to believe that such a complex and expensive project would really only be in use 4-23 hours per month in low-demand periods and 105-217 hours per month in mid-winter. Am I misunderstanding that number? What is to stop the proponents from running it much more often in order to increase the return on their investment?
- Agriculture areas were indicated nearby this site and there are neighbouring aquaculture businesses in Cap Pele- what consultation has been done with regards to our local food producers?
- What does “Grid Support Mode” involve?
- The project description document states that diesel will be used as a backup to gas. How often is this expected to occur?
- What are the diesel storage tank sizes at the proposed project site?.
- Can you speak to the potential impacts on the water table at the proposed site? And how the construction of this project might impact the local wetlands in the area.
- How have you worked with the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Tantramar over the past two years on this project?
- I believe that one of the earlier speakers said that decisions about effluent discharge had not been made yet. How and when will that be done, and how and when would people have an opportunity to comment on it?
- When/where can the public find out about the financial and economic parts of this proposal? *[note, named NB Power personnel was removed]* the question about whether this is worth the money and I have the question, for sure. The latest data on utility scale costs shows that gas peaker plants are absolutely more expensive to build and operate than utility scale wind or solar with power storage.
- Are there environmental concerns about "cycled up well water"? Even if these are contaminants that are present in well water, that doesn't mean that high concentrations are okay downstream. Fertilizer can help plants grow, but too much fertilizer will kill them.
- I think NB Power mentioned this is necessary to avoid reopening coal mines? Did I misunderstand? Can someone clarify what would happen if this project does NOT go forward.

July 22, 2025 – Evening French Session

- Which impurities would be in higher concentrationsThis was answered in part, proponent indicated it would like to provide a written response with more detail
- How much will the power NB Power buys from this plant cost?

Thank you for your questions and for participating in the recent virtual information session presented by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada regarding the Renewables Integration and Grid Security (RIGS) project.

Below, you will find responses to questions that were not answered during the session. Note that we grouped like questions together, since a few questions and responses were similar.

If you have further questions, please contact the RIGS Energy Atlantic project team at info@RIGSEnergyAtlantic.ca or visit www.RIGSEnergyAtlantic.ca.

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1. Can the proponent describe the level of emissions? [July 21, Session #1]

The RIGS facility will help decrease greenhouse gas emissions by supporting the transition away from coal and oil and enabling broader use of renewable sources like wind and solar. Eighty-five per cent of the time the facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output that occur when the wind isn't blowing, or the sun isn't shining.

The facility will operate with fuel 7% of the time, generating electricity on short notice during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter). For the periods when it is operating with fuel, the RIGS facility will use advanced catalyst technology to reduce nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide emissions over what traditional gas-fired generation would produce by 90% and 95%, respectively. At similar operating facilities, this equates to 27 tonnes of nitrous oxide per year versus 270 tonnes, and 19 tonnes of carbon monoxide per year versus 380 tonnes.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project describes over 900,000 tonnes/year of carbon dioxide (CO2) in table 23.5 on page 65, and this represents an extreme stress case of operation. The plant is being modeled to operate at one-fifth of those hours with eight units and would therefore produce closer to 100,000 tonnes/year of CO2.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

2. What is in the effluent? [July 21, Session #1]

The only thing that will be discharged by the RIGS facility is water. When the facility is operational, water will be taken from a groundwater well at site and purified through a reverse osmosis process for the main use of reducing nitrous oxide levels. The constituents of the discharge effluent will be the same as what is in the well water, only at higher concentrations. Based on local well samples, the constituents will primarily be sodium and calcium. The exact constituents will not be known until the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study is complete. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete the WSSA study as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government. No oily water or process water will be discharged.

It is important to note that water use is only required when the plant is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

3. Which impurities would be in higher concentrations? This was answered in part, proponent indicated it would like to provide a written response with more detail. [July 22, Session #3]

When the RIGS facility is operational, water will be taken from a groundwater well at site and purified through a reverse osmosis process for the main use of reducing nitrous oxide levels. The constituents of the discharge effluent will be the same as what is in the well water, only at higher concentrations. Based on local well samples, the constituents will primarily be sodium and calcium. No oily water or process water will be discharged.

The exact constituents in the water discharged by the facility will not be known until the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study is complete. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete the WSSA study as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

It is important to note that water use is only required when the plant is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

4. **Are there environmental concerns about "cycled up well water"? Even if these are contaminants that are present in well water, that doesn't mean that high concentrations are okay downstream. Fertilizer can help plants grow, but too much fertilizer will kill them. [July 22, Session #2]**

When the RIGS facility is operational, water will be taken from a groundwater well at site and purified through a reverse osmosis process for the main use of reducing nitrous oxide levels. The constituents of the discharge effluent will be the same as what is in the well water, only at higher concentrations. Based on local well samples, the constituents will primarily be sodium and calcium. The amount of constituents, once learned from the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study, will drive how the discharge is handled so as to have no impact downstream. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete the WSSA study as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

It is important to note that water use is only required when the plant is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

5. **I believe that one of the earlier speakers said that decisions about effluent discharge had not been made yet. How and when will that be done, and how and when would people have an opportunity to comment on it? [July 22, Session #2]**

When the RIGS facility is operational, water will be taken from a groundwater well at site and purified through a reverse osmosis process for the main use of reducing nitrous oxide levels. The constituents of the discharge effluent will be the same as what is in the well water, only at higher concentrations. Based on local well samples, the constituents will primarily be sodium and calcium. The amount of constituents, once learned from the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study, will drive how the discharge is handled so as to reduce impact downstream. A team of experts working on behalf of the project will complete the WSSA study as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government. Effluent discharge will be considered as part of the New Brunswick EIA process and subsequent permitting processes.

It is important to note that water use is only required when the plant is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

6. What happens to everyone's well water and farming agriculture? [July 21, Session #1]

When the RIGS facility is operational, water will be taken from a groundwater well at site and purified through a reverse osmosis process for the main use of reducing nitrous oxide levels. The constituents of the discharge effluent will be the same as what is in the well water, only at higher concentrations. Based on local well samples, the constituents will primarily be sodium and calcium. The amount of constituents, once learned from the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study, will drive how the discharge is handled so as to have no impact downstream.

Aquifer production and draw rates will be studied as part of the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) permitting. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete these studies as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

It is important to note that water use is only required when the plant is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output that occur.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

7. What happens when farmers land and OUR land becomes contaminated? Will we be compensated for 25 years? [July 21, Session #2]

The anticipated effects of the RIGS project are described in the Initial Project Description [link: https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/162387], along with planned mitigation measures. Substantive effects to neighbouring properties are not anticipated.

It is important to note that 85 per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output that occur.

Approximately 7% of the time, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter). This is the only time when the facility uses any fuel.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

8. I needed to drill a test well to get a mortgage. How could you have gotten this far in the process without determining or researching if there is enough water for your project? How does this make sense? [July 21, Session #1]

It is important to note that water use is only required when the RIGS facility is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Aquifer production and draw rates will be studied as part of a Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study at the site. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete this study as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output that occur.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

9. Can you speak to the potential impacts on the water table at the proposed site? [July 22, Session #2]

It is important to note that water use is only required when the RIGS facility is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

Aquifer production and draw rates will be studied as part of a Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study. The results of this study will determine how much water can be removed from the aquifer without affecting existing wells or watercourses. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete this study as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

Eighty-five per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output that occur.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

10. Can you speak to how the construction of this project might impact the local wetlands in the area. [July 22, Session #2]

Our planned project site carries a very small footprint relative to the generating capabilities of the site. The footprint required for this technology is a small fraction of the land area required for nearly all other generation types, including renewables, batteries and other natural gas units. Construction of the project will result in the loss of wetland area on the 15-acre project site. We will act under permit from the Province of New Brunswick, which typically requires wetland compensation to offset any lost or altered habitat.

11. Was that baseline assessment /constraints only done within the geographic area denoted on the plan, or were they also applied to what will happen in adjacent areas? [July 21, Session #1]

The spatial extent of potential environmental effects are considered as part of the federal and provincial assessment processes for the RIGS project. Field studies are primarily limited to the Project Area, but if effects were to be anticipated further afield, that would be considered and assessed as part of the assessment process.

12. How are any bird deaths acceptable when they are so reduced in numbers already? [July 21, Session #1]

Migratory birds are protected from harm by the Migratory Birds Convention Act. The RIGS project will comply with the provisions of this act and will not harass or disrupt birds or their nests. Additionally, while injury or death to birds may occur as a result of collision with stationary infrastructure, the potential for this will be reduced through the implementation of mitigation such as downward lighting. Of note is that bird deaths are far less likely with stationary infrastructure such as what will be in place at the RIGS facility as compared to rotating infrastructure, such as with wind turbines. The need for bird markers and/or deterrents to reduce bird collisions and/or nesting on infrastructure will be considered during the design of the project.

13. Re birds: you said a mitigation could be to use already disturbed land. Does that exist in that location? [July 22, Session #2]

Some clearing will be required for access to the site to complete a Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government. This access will be planned to be co-located with required access for project development to reduce the need for additional clearing.

14. What happens when the tourism drops due to bird migration, wetland tourism etc Our municipalities businesses will also suffer. [July 21, Session #1]

Any negative impact to the surrounding community will be minimized by the small footprint (approximately 15 acres) of the RIGS facility and the fact that all federal and provincial regulations will be followed, including those specific to migratory birds and wetlands.

The project will benefit area businesses by investing $240 million CAD locally during construction and over 100 local craft personnel will be employed during the construction phase. In addition, the plant will have eight to 10 full-time, local employees and will spend upwards of $4 million CAD locally for operations and maintenance.

15. The negative effects of fracking on health are well known low birth weight babies and higher incidence of pre-term births, leukemia, cardiovascular disease, neurological impacts, respiratory diseases and asthma, to name a few. Why is a project being considered that will continue the suffering of people in communities near fracked wells? [July 21, Session #1]

Natural gas for the RIGS project will be delivered by the Maritimes & Northeast gas transmission pipeline, which has been running through the Centre Village area since 2000. The pipeline carries natural gas from North American sources and from LNG imports to Saint John, New Brunswick.

It is important to note that 85 per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output that occur.

Approximately 7% of the time, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter). This is the only time when the facility uses any fuel.

When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

16. Where is the fracked water coming from? [July 21, Session #1]

No fracked water is used for the RIGS project.

When the Renewables Integration and Grid Security (RIGS) facility is operational, water will be taken from a groundwater well at site and purified through a reverse osmosis process for the main use of reducing nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide levels at the plant. The constituents of the discharge effluent will be the same as what is in the well water, only at higher concentrations. Based on local well samples, the constituents will primarily be sodium and calcium. The amount of constituents, once learned from the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) study, will drive how the discharge is handled so as to have no impact downstream.

Aquifer production and draw rates will be studied as part of the Water Supply Source Assessment (WSSA) permitting. A team of experts working on behalf of the RIGS project will complete these studies as soon as possible after bird nesting season. In keeping with New Brunswick's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, the EIA for the project needed to be registered in order to obtain a permit to complete a WSSA study from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government. The

water draw will be minimized by having a 4,500 cubic meter storage tank on site.

It is important to note that water use is only required when the plant is generating electricity, which is expected to be approximately 7% of the time. This is also the only time when the facility uses any fuel. When operating in this mode, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter).

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When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

17. Was the Atlantic Wildlife Institute, Birds Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service consulted? [July 21, Session #1]

We received direct correspondence from the Atlantic Wildlife Institute (AWI) and have responded to their leadership team. In follow-up, we recently met in person with AWI leadership and their team to actively listen and receive their input regarding project impacts.

Engagement with rightsholders, stakeholders and the public is an essential component of the RIGS project and will continue to be a core aspect of the project proponent's efforts from the project development phase through commercial operations. Many meetings and discussions have already taken place, and there will be many more to come in the days ahead as the project progresses. The project team looks forward to continuing conversations with and answering questions from groups and individuals with an interest in the planned project site and facility. Anyone wishing to connect with the team directly can reach out to us at info@RIGSEnergyAtlantic.ca.

We also invite all interested individuals to meet the project team and learn more about the project by attending one of the following Public Open Houses:

Tuesday, August 12 from 4 to 8 p.m.
The Music Barn,
18 Station Rd, Tantramar, NB

or

Wednesday, August 13 from 4 to 8 p.m.
Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre
182 Main St, Tantramar, NB

18. How have you worked with the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Tantramar over the past two years on this project? [July 22, Session #2]

We recently met with the CAO and the Deputy Mayor to actively listen, receive their input, and speak to community-based questions and input.

Engagement with rightsholders, stakeholders and the public is an essential component of the RIGS project, and will continue to be a core aspect of the project proponent's efforts from the project development phase through commercial operations. Many meetings and discussions have already taken place, and there will be many more to come in the days ahead as the project progresses. The project team looks forward to continuing conversations with and answering questions from groups and individuals with an interest in the planned project site and facility. Anyone wishing to connect with the team directly can reach out to us at info@RIGSEnergyAtlantic.ca.

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19. Agriculture areas were indicated nearby this site and there are neighbouring aquaculture businesses in Cap Pele- what consultation has been done with regards to our local food producers? [July 22, Session #2]

Engagement with rightsholders, stakeholders and the public is an essential component of the RIGS project and will continue to be a core aspect of the project proponent's efforts from the project development phase through commercial operations. Many meetings and discussions have already taken place, and there will be many more to come in the days ahead as the project progresses. The project team looks forward to continuing conversations with and answering questions from groups and individuals with an interest in the planned project site and facility. Anyone wishing to connect with the team directly can reach out to us at info@RIGSEnergyAtlantic.ca.

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Wednesday, August 13 from 4 to 8 p.m.
Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre
182 Main St, Tantramar, NB

20. Although it maybe outside the scope of this session, as it is focusing on the Centre Village project, one thing I am interested in is the original discussion of Scoudouc site for this project. Was there a particular reason for rejection of that site in favour of the Centre Village site. [July 21, Session #1]

There are three main reasons the Centre Village site was selected for the RIGS facility:

1. Environmental constraints were assessed for all potential locations considered for the RIGS facility. A team of experts found that Centre Village:

- is the location that will have the least impact on wetlands, birds and rare plants
- has no fish habitat present
- has no medium or high archaeological potential

2. The RIGS facility needs easy access to transmission lines to get electricity to homes. A transmission corridor is already located in Centre Village next to the planned site. This means the facility will be able to receive large volumes of energy from renewables and balance its output in a way that protects the grid. Also, in winter, the RIGS facility can generate electricity directly to the grid on short notice when demand is high.

3. The RIGS facility also needs easy access to natural gas. The Maritimes & Northeast natural gas transmission pipeline already runs through the area, next to the planned site. This makes it possible to access natural gas to generate electricity when necessary at the RIGS facility without building a new pipeline.

21. How much will the project cost and how long will it take to build? [July 21, Session #1]

The cost of the project is commercially sensitive information.

The RIGS project timeline is:

- 2025: Project development, Environmental Impact Assessment and Financing
- 2025 through 2026: Permitting and Detailed Engineering
- 2027 through 2028: Construction
- 2028: Commercial Operations
- From project development through commercial operations: Engagement with rightsholders, stakeholders and the public

Construction at the site will be conducted over a two-year period.

22. Why was no consideration taken to buy green hydro power from Quebec? [July 21, Session #1]

The following response was provided by NB Power:

While green hydro from Quebec is an attractive prospect, our neighbouring provinces are facing similar, unprecedented increases in electricity demand driven by population growth and the accelerating shift towards electrification. This necessitates that they prioritize meeting their own peak demands, limiting their export capacity to other jurisdictions.

23. How much will the power NB Power buys from this plant cost? [July 22, Session #3]

The following response was provided by NB Power:

We are unable to comment on the specifics of power purchase agreements, as the details are commercially sensitive and subject to confidentiality provisions. These agreements are negotiated to secure the best possible terms for NB Power and our customers.

24. When/where can the public find out about the financial and economic parts of this proposal? [NB Power representative] named the question about whether this is worth the money and I have the question, for sure. The latest data on utility scale costs shows that gas peaker plants are absolutely more expensive to build and operate than utility scale wind or solar with power storage. [July 22, Session #2]

The following response was provided by NB Power:

These agreements are commercially sensitive and subject to confidentiality provisions.

Combustion turbines and synchronous condensers are a lower cost option than wind or batteries and while most batteries can provide two to four hours of backup, this solution will be able to operate much longer during cold snaps regularly experienced in winter.

This facility will help us manage and integrate more wind and solar power into our electricity system, making our energy supply greener and more flexible. They are a mature and predictable technology and provide needed reliability with limited capital investment.

25. I think NB Power mentioned this is necessary to avoid reopening coal mines? Did I misunderstand? Can someone clarify what would happen if this project does NOT go forward. [July 22, Session #2]

The following response was provided by NB Power:

Reopening coal mines is not an option, in fact, in 2016, the Government of Canada announced its commitment to phase out coal-fired electricity across the country by 2030. As part of our strategic plan, we are committed to transitioning to a cost-effective, clean, and secure energy supply, modernizing the grid and electrifying and growing our load.

26. What will be transported and carried on route 940 to the site? [July 21, Session #1]

During construction, there will be typical construction vehicle traffic and workers going to and from the project site. There will also be equipment deliveries to the site such as turbines, generators, transformers and materials for construction.

It is anticipated that a transportation plan including a road use agreement will be in place to return the road to like or better-than-like condition after construction is complete. Also, the road will be maintained, as required, during construction. After the construction phase, there will be very minimal traffic to the site for deliveries, as the primary fuel, natural gas, will be delivered by the Maritimes & Northeast gas transmission pipeline, which has been running through the Centre Village area since 2000.

27. I have a question about what is being transported via route 940. The roadway is UNFIT!!!! [July 21, Session #1]

During construction, there will be typical construction vehicle traffic and workers going to and from the project site. There will also be equipment deliveries to the site such as turbines, generators, transformers and materials for construction.

It is anticipated that a transportation plan including a road use agreement will be in place to return the road to like or better-than-like condition after construction is complete. Also, the road will be maintained, as required, during construction. After the construction phase, there will be very minimal traffic to the site for deliveries, as the primary fuel, natural gas, will be delivered by the Maritimes & Northeast gas transmission pipeline, which has been running through the Centre Village area since 2000.

28. In light of the federal governments focus on strengthening Canada's autonomy what foreign investments or contracts are involved in this project? [July 21, Session #1]

The turbines and auxiliary packages for the RIGS project are manufactured by PROENERGY, a proven industry leader, in the United States. Other significant equipment required for the project, including generators and transformers, are sourced from countries in the European Union.

This project will have significant local benefits. There are plans to spend locally $240 million CAD for equipment and material. Over 100 local craft personnel will be employed during the construction phase. In addition, the plant will have eight to 10 full-time, local employees and will spend upwards of $4 million CAD locally for operations and maintenance.

Of note, PROENERGY has had a Canadian division in place for more than 10 years, and this division will own the project.

29. Can ProEnergy indicate where the major components of the project are manufactured. I.e. in the USA? [July 21, Session #1]

The turbines and auxiliary packages for the turbines for the RIGS project are manufactured by PROENERGY, a proven industry leader, in the United States. Other significant equipment required for the project, including generators and transformers, are sourced from countries in the European Union.

This project will have significant local benefits. There are plans to spend locally $240 million CAD for equipment and material. Over 100 local craft personnel will be employed during the construction phase. In addition, the plant will have eight to 10 full-time, local employees and will spend upwards of $4 million CAD locally for operations and maintenance.

Of note, PROENERGY has had a Canadian division in place for more than 10 years, and this division will own the project.

30. Why would we hire a US company to build and manage our power infrastructure? [July 21, Session #1]

The following response was provided by NB Power:

There were five submissions from a mix of Canadian and U.S. companies. PROENERGY was selected as the successful bidder after a rigorous and transparent Request for Expressions of Interest process. They emerged as the top choice, when evaluated against competitive pricing, a demonstrated ability to meet critical project timelines, and a strong track record of experience with similar facilities. A significant benefit of this partnership is PROENERGY's commitment to utilizing local contractors and local labour, ensuring economic benefits for New Brunswickers.

This additional response is provided by PROENERGY:

PROENERGY is a proven industry leader specializing in grid-firming technology and with operational experience on every continent. Founded in 2002, the company's sole focus is aeroderivative gas turbines. PROENERGY has built seven power-generation facilities producing nearly 2,500 MW in the past four years.

Of note, PROENERGY has had a Canadian division in place for more than 10 years, and this division will own the project.

This project will have significant local benefits. There are plans to spend locally $240 million CAD for equipment and material. Over 100 local craft personnel will be employed during the construction phase. In addition, the plant will have eight to 10 full-time, local employees and will spend upwards of $4 million CAD locally for operations and maintenance.

31. Why a USA company? [July 21, Session #1]

The following response was provided by NB Power:

There were five submissions from a mix of Canadian and U.S. companies. PROENERGY was selected as the successful bidder after a rigorous and transparent Request for Expressions of Interest process. They emerged as the top choice, when evaluated against competitive pricing, a demonstrated ability to meet critical project timelines, and a strong track record of experience with similar facilities. A significant benefit of this partnership is PROENERGY's commitment to utilizing local contractors and local labour, ensuring economic benefits for New Brunswickers.

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Of note, PROENERGY has had a Canadian division in place for more than 10 years, and this division will own the project.

This project will have significant local benefits. There are plans to spend locally $240 million CAD for equipment and material. Over 100 local craft personnel will be employed during the construction phase. In addition, the plant will have eight to 10 full-time, local employees and will spend upwards of $4 million CAD locally for operations and maintenance.

32. Hydrogen gas requires specific piping and infrastructure. How can a natural gas plant be converted to gas? [July 22, Session #2]

The project proponent is not anticipating the use of hydrogen as a primary fuel during its 25-year agreement with NB Power. If hydrogen does become available at any time, it is very likely to be blended with natural gas in small quantities so that no infrastructure upgrades/changes would be needed.

33. The Initial Project Description includes many calculations of potential impacts, which I believe are based on the predicted operating hours discussed on p21 of the description. How realistic are those predicted operating hours? It's difficult to believe that such a complex and expensive project would really only be in use 4-23 hours per month in low-demand periods and 105-217 hours per month in mid-winter. Am I misunderstanding that number? What is to stop the proponents from running it much more often in order to increase the return on their investment? [July 22, Session #2]

The operating hours shown in the Initial Project Description submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada are correct and are not misunderstood.

- 85 per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.
- 7% of the time, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter). This is the only time the facility uses any fuel.
- When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

  These predicted operating hours are realistic and based on operating models used by NB Power. NB Power, not the proponent, will determine when to operate the plant, and it will be one part of their strategy to help maximize the use and growth of renewables in their generating portfolio.

34. What does “Grid Support Mode” involve? [July 22, Session #2]

"Grid Support Mode", or synchronous condensing operation, allows the plant's generators to act as voltage and reactive power regulators, enhancing the stability and reliability of New Brunswick's electricity grid without actively generating electricity.

- 85% of the time the RIGS facility will operate in this mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.

  To get a bit technical, when operating in this mode, a generator is essentially a motor running without a mechanical load. The generator's shaft spins freely, not driven by a turbine. It is synchronized to the electrical grid, meaning its rotor speed is precisely linked to the frequency of the grid. By adjusting the DC excitation current to the rotor windings, the synchronous condenser can be made to generate reactive power (when over-excited) or absorb reactive power (when under-excited). This allows for dynamic and continuous voltage control and reactive power compensation.
- 7% of the time, the facility will be producing energy during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter). This is the only time the facility uses any fuel.

- When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

35. The project description document states that diesel will be used as a backup to gas. How often is this expected to occur? [July 22, Session #2]

Due to the cost of diesel versus natural gas, it is anticipated that operation on diesel will be rare, less than one-week total per year, and would typically only take place if there was an outage affecting the natural gas fuel supply.

- It is worth noting that the facility will be used to produce electricity 7% of the time, during periods of high demand (such as on extremely cold days in winter). This is the only time the facility uses any fuel.
- 85 per cent of the time the RIGS facility will operate in what is known as 'synchronous condensing' mode, not using any fuel. When operating in this way, the facility enables greater use of renewables by absorbing sudden changes in wind or solar energy output.
- When it is not operating in synchronous condensing mode without fuel (85% of the time) or generating electricity with fuel (7% of the time), the facility will be on standby (8% of the time).

36. What are the diesel storage tank sizes at the proposed project site? [July 22, Session #2]

There will be two tanks for diesel storage, with each able to hold approximately 5.7 million litres (1.5 million gallons). Due to the cost of diesel versus natural gas, it is anticipated that operation on diesel will be rare, less than one-week total per year, and would typically only take place if there was an outage affecting the natural gas fuel supply.