

2026/06/09

Division of Family Medicine  
Sackville Memorial Hospital

Hon. Susan Holt, Premier of New Brunswick  
Hon. John Dornan, MD, Minister of Health of New Brunswick  
Hon. René Legacy, Deputy Premier of New Brunswick, Minister of Energy  
Hon. Megan Mitton, MLA for Tantramar  
Yves Léger, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Health for New Brunswick

Dear Members of Legislative Assembly and Dr Léger

We, the undersigned staff physicians of Sackville Memorial Hospital wish to register our deep concern and trepidation relating to the proposed Tantramar Gas Plant planned for the Centre Village area of Tantramar.

The proposed plant will burn diesel and natural gas to produce electricity. Inevitably this will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, the chief known cause of climate change. The plant will also contribute to particulate and gaseous air pollution.

In addition, the plant will require tremendous amounts of water for cooling and fine mist spraying of airborne emissions, depriving the Tantramar area of water when water is already at historically low levels, with extensive drought conditions in 2025 and more expected in 2026.

The Tantramar area is a sensitive area ecologically with extensive near-sea-level marshes that are already the subject of higher risks of flooding due to more intense weather systems caused by climate change. This risk will increase dramatically with sea-level rise and the consequent potential breaching of the extensive dyke system. Recall that the marshes are a “breadbasket” region with extensive agriculture. To contemplate contributing to this developing disaster is unconscionable for NB Power and New Brunswick in general.

In terms of particulate and noxious gas emissions – these are demonstrated to worsen cardiopulmonary conditions and represent an immediate threat to the citizens of Tantramar and beyond.

The Gas Plant is being promoted as an interim, “greener” option than continuing to burn fossil fuels at the present rate. However, committing to burning natural gas and diesel for

decades, moves away from Canada's stated goals of reducing the production of greenhouse gases. It is farcical to promote a fossil fuel burning facility as somehow "green".

The gas plant will need fuel. That raises the spectre of using natural gas supplied via fracking, another harmful procedure with its own host of environmental problems.

The Gas Plant is being promoted as a means of supplying electricity solely at peak usage times and when the wind and sun fail. However, we feel this is a slippery slope – one would almost expect the Gas Plant, when built, to come online for more than just this – why would NB Power leave it idling when baseline power requirements are growing ever higher and higher?

The Gas Plant Is touted as an economical source of electricity, but this ignores the present reality of fossil fuels being more expensive during global conflict and the clear downwards trend of costs related to provably sustainable electricity sources such as wind and solar. With ongoing research and development, the costs of renewable technologies are expected to drop even further.

It seems beyond comprehension that a plant of this nature is contemplated, and further ironic that recent news has also suggested the possibility of a gigantic solar energy farm in the same area.

We would like to go on record as advocating that the Tantramar Gas Plant project be terminated, and that NB Power and the Government of New Brunswick do their homework and promote sustainable options for power generation in this province.

Urgently and sincerely submitted,

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