PUB Presentation

Hello. I'm Pat Wally, chair of Seniors for Climate Manitoba and am here representing our members and speaking for the seniors that make up almost 20% of Manitoba's population.

Seniors for Climate is a network of seniors across the country that was formed in 2024. Our mission is to bring seniors together to demand our governments build a better Canada, free from the devastation caused by burning fossil fuels, where everyone benefits from affordable, healthy solutions to the climate crisis.

Manitoba seniors were all aghast when they heard that Manitoba Hydro was planning to spend $3 Billion on acquiring gas turbines to produce electricity near Brandon.

How could a crown corporation That is so proud about how carbon neutral it is, propose to go against the newly release commitment of the province to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Especially since there are viable options available.

We recognize the importance of meeting peak electricity demand. We also know that increased electrification will increase the need for more electricity . However, Hydro's proposed solution is wrong for a number of reasons.

Seniors who have decades of experience always look for value whenever we make a major expenditure. A purchase needs to function properly, for the long term, be reliable and need few regular inputs.

Generators are supposed to have a 80 year lifespan, the province wants to be net zero in 24 Years. Generators are expensive to purchase and install and

require the continuing purchase of fuel. The time line until they are functional is long as reports say generators are in short supplier so are taking 3-7 years to deliver.

If they were the only option they might make sense, but they are not. The IRP failed in researching current information on alternatives. The costs and technology for solar, wind and battery storage have changed dramatically in the last year, making them the least expensive option for generating electricity. They were not adequately researched for the IRP and solar was totally excluded.

New peak electricity according to the IRP is needed shortly. Major installations of solar, wind and long term battery storage have been up and running within 2 years in other provinces, at a much lower cost than generators. Hydro could be providing electricity years before generators would even be ready.

Inputs – Canada does have natural gas available and reasonably free of geopolitical shock caused price inflation. However there will be the ongoing cost to purchase fuel. The sun and wind are free. There will be regular maintenance for both options.

Reliability is also important as the latest report of generators failure has shown. Accessibility for everyone in the province is also important. Renewables could be built in numerous locations throughout the province so that electricity is produced closer to users. This could help when extreme weather disrupts power in one area as other areas are still functioning and could provide power. The IRP does not include any mention of remote areas that are currently using diesel generation. Providing support to establish other options would reduce the amount of diesel burned.

Another factor in value is to purchase something that is near the front of current technology not something that will soon be obsolete. Fossil Fuels will still have their uses but their use as fuel may not outlive even us.

The IRP does include a small amount of wind and battery storage, but not nearly enough for our future needs. Instead of the $3 Billion generators we could spend the funds to build much larger capacity with a combination of

Solar, Wind and battery storage to make sure Manitoba is preparing itself for the future so that our grandchildren and future generations will have secure, reliable electricity.

A recent Environics report has found the 70% of Canadians prefer that we become a renewable Energy Superpower not a fossil fuel one. Manitoba needs to be a leader not be left holding stranded assets.

Please do not grant Hydro the right to precede with this Major acquisition. To be net-zero by 2050 we need to be reducing our use of FF not adding to the use and the pollution it causes. The future needs our support now because Later is Too Late.