

Protecting Tantramar

Why the RIGS Diesel/Gas Plant is the Wrong Choice

What's being proposed?

A U.S.-based developer wants to build a 500-megawatt gas and diesel power plant known as the [*Renewables Integration Grid Security Plant \(RIGS\)*](#) in Centre Village, Tantramar. To make space, wetlands and forests would be cleared. The facility would store millions of litres of diesel, pump roughly 7 million litres of groundwater daily, and lock N.B. Power into a long-term fossil fuel contract.

This project risks our health, water, environment, and economy at a time when New Brunswick has cleaner, safer, and more affordable options.



This is a costly and **risky deal** for New Brunswick families!

Because the plant would be privately owned, New Brunswickers could end up paying for it whether the power is needed or not, while profits flow outside the province. **This deal leaves New Brunswickers carrying the financial risks while a private company benefits.**



Gas-fired generation is among the **most expensive forms of electricity**, especially during peak demand.



The volatility of gas prices means ratepayers could face **unpredictable and rising power bills**.

Better, reliable, and affordable solutions are here:

New Brunswick does not need a new gas plant to keep the lights on.

Proven clean options are already more reliable and cost-effective:

- **Battery storage:** Modern grid batteries ([like Tesla Megapacks used by Saint John Energy](#)) deliver 4-12 hours of steady power. A 300 MW / 1,200 MWh system could meet peak demand across the province - fast to build and fully dispatchable on demand.
- **Virtual power plants (VPPs):** Networks of homes, businesses, and EVs pool energy to act like a power plant. [Alberta](#) and [California](#) VPPs already provide hundreds of MWs of reliable backup.
- **Vehicle-to-grid (V2G):** Electric school buses and cars can push power back during peaks. [BC Hydro](#) just launched a V2G program showing how fleets can stabilize the grid affordably.



Publicly owned clean power keeps costs stable and ensures benefits stay in New Brunswick! Not in private hands.



Every \$1 invested in efficiency avoids \$2-3 in new generation costs, permanently lowering peak demand.



Why We Need to Say No!

- **Health concerns:** Burning gas and diesel produce [air pollution linked to asthma, heart disease, and lung problems](#). Health Canada indicates that air pollution is responsible for at least 17,400 premature deaths annually in Canada, and doctors in Canada warn that new fossil fuel projects increase health burdens and compound climate-driven risks like wildfires and heatwaves. Children, seniors, and those with existing health conditions are most vulnerable.
- **Water under pressure:** The facility could withdraw around [7 million litres of groundwater](#) each day! That's enough to lower neighbours' wells, dry wetlands, and shrink streams. Wastewater discharge and potential diesel spills would further threaten drinking water.
- **Bad for our climate and resilience:** This project would lock New Brunswick into fossil fuel dependence for decades, with inefficient turbines that could emit up to [900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases](#) every year. That trajectory runs directly against provincial and federal commitments to achieve a carbon-neutral electricity grid by 2035.
- **Nature, land, and Indigenous rights:** The [proposed site on the Chignecto Isthmus](#), a critical wildlife corridor linking New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, supports forests, wetlands, and at-risk species like the Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Common Nighthawk, but clearing 14 hectares and introducing constant light, noise, and traffic [would fragment habitats, displace wildlife, and eliminate wetlands](#) that safeguard against floods, droughts, and carbon loss. The Mi'kmaq, as rights-holders, [have raised concerns](#) about large-scale industrial projects threatening land and water. Proceeding without free, prior, and informed consent risks violating their inherent and treaty rights affirmed in UNDRIP and Canadian law.

Take Action - Say No!

This proposal would lock New Brunswick into decades of costly, polluting fossil fuel dependence, **so we must say NO** to the RIGS Centre Village gas and diesel plant and **say YES to clean, safe, and affordable renewable energy** that protects our families, lands, and waters while moving the province forward.



Sign the
petition
against the
plant.



Sign the
petition to
Stop Fossil Fuel
Investments at
NB Lung.



Pledge to
support
renewables in
Atlantic Canada
at Sierra Club.



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