

Randy Delorey Hedges on Atlantic Loop Project

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Larry Hughes

Re: Randy Delorey Hedges on Atlantic Loop Project (ANS, 21 Jan 2021)

In late 2019, the Government of Nova Scotia passed *An Act to Achieve Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity*. The principal objective of the Act is to reduce the province's greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, subsection 7 (b) of the Act states that, "by 2030, [emissions will be] at least 53% below the levels that were emitted in 2005".

In late summer 2020, Nova Scotia Power released its 25-year Integrated Resource Plan for 2021 to 2045, which contains 27 scenarios describing the sources of power (i.e., coal, natural gas, wind, and imports), the volume of power supplied by each source, and the total emissions. The most aggressive scenarios have Nova Scotia Power's emissions declining from about seven megatonnes in 2018 to about half-a-megatonne in 2030.

This rapid decline in emissions requires access to zero-emissions sources of electricity and a phase out of coal. The simplest solution is for Nova Scotia Power to increase its use of wind and natural gas and connect to the Atlantic Loop to access power supplied by Hydro Quebec.

By 2030, if Nova Scotia Power has aggressively reduced its emissions and the province's two other major emitters (transportation and buildings) maintain or reduce their emissions, the 53% reduction target will be met.

In the less aggressive of Nova Scotia Power's scenarios, Nova Scotia Power would still be under its federal-provincial emissions cap. However, the province would fall short of the 53% reduction target but still achieve the federal government's 30% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030.

Mr. Delorey is right, Nova Scotia Power could wait until 2040 to phase out coal; however, this would add to the volume of atmospheric carbon emissions, making it increasingly difficult to limit global temperature increases to below 2°C this century.

On the other hand, Mr. Rankin's promise of exceeding the 53% target hinges on the Atlantic Loop. If the Atlantic Loop is unsuccessful, he will need significantly stronger emissions reduction policies in transportation and buildings than he is currently promising.