

Media Release:

Saskatchewan Coalition for Sustainable Development proposes “Saskatchewan Equivalency” to federal Clean Electricity Regulations.

Saskatoon, SK. October 30, 2023 – The Saskatchewan Coalition for Sustainable Development (SCSD) earlier today submitted a proposal to the public comment portal for the draft federal Clean Electricity Regulations. SCSD is proposing a “Saskatchewan Equivalency” that would see absolute emissions from the SK electricity system decline by 87% by 2035 while increasing generation capacity by nearly 55% compared to 2005.

SCSD recognizes that the Clean Electricity Regulations are of critical importance to accelerate the decarbonization of the national electricity grid and constrain further deployment of unabated fossil fuel-based electricity generation. However, SCSD also recognizes that any federal Clean Electricity Regulations are likely to be challenged in court by some provinces. Therefore, the Clean Electricity Regulations must achieve the national objectives without unduly intruding on the constitutional authority of the provinces to design and operate their electrical grids.

SCSD submits that the Clean Electricity Regulations should be modified to provide as much provincial flexibility as possible while achieving the goal of regulating unabated generation and reducing absolute emissions from the electricity sector.

Dangerous climate change is upon us and is made worse by the inexcusable actions by our government and SaskPower to expand unabated fossil-fuel based generation. SCSD believes that the government has a duty to mitigate its emissions. SCSD understands that we need electricity that is affordable, reliable, and clean. Many recent reports published by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), the Alberta Electricity Supply Organization, the Pembina Institute, and academic researchers have demonstrated that there are viable and cost-effective pathways to transition of electricity supply in Saskatchewan and Alberta to near-zero emissions by 2035. The proposed “Saskatchewan equivalency” to the Clean Electricity Regulations would raise the provincial ambition to decarbonize, while acknowledging that Saskatchewan has spent nearly \$3billion dollars on a coal to gas transition in the last 12 years. The proposed Saskatchewan equivalency contains realistic goals that can be achieved without impacting reliability or cost of electricity to customers.

The public comment period for the Clean Electricity Regulations is open until 11:59pm Est on Nov 2, 2023. **SCSD encourages all Saskatchewan residents to contribute to the development of these important regulations.**

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