"The cost to ratepayers of terminating the project"

The clean, green, renewable hydro energy generated would provide considerable carbon credits to offset gov't imposed carbon taxes on fossil fuel use and production. The credits income can also be used to lower hydro grid electricity rates to encourage this clean energy usage: e.g. electric cars, electric heat. Those carbon credits can also be used to reduce taxes on clean energy products, and (in economically logical circumstances) subsidize other green initiatives.

Terminating the project would eliminate the carbon credits from this clean energy and thus add cost to ratepayers.