

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY – OPENING STATEMENT
EFFICIENCY NOVA SCOTIA’S DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Good morning Mr. Chair and board members. Before I begin with HRM’s opening statement I would first like to pause for a moment to note the recent passing of Blair Hamilton from the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. Blair was a leader in advocating for energy efficiency and his gentle hand of influence in Nova Scotia is felt strongly here today. In 1987, Blair and his wife Beth founded the non-profit Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. The VEIC became a global leader in energy efficiency, and is the first DSM administrator to turn load growth negative. That means Blair and his organization were able to save more energy than energy consumption was growing every year. Blair was extremely knowledgeable and kind in sharing his expertise – not only locally but globally. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation is recognized as a best practices organization in energy efficiency – this is a direct result of an individual’s effort, Blair Hamilton. We were very fortunate that Blair had an interest in Nova Scotia’s lift off in DSM four years ago. He was instrumental in achieving a settlement agreement that set the course for all parties here today. On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality we would like to thank Blair, and tell him we miss him.

Thank you Mr. Chair. Today marks another significant turning point in energy efficiency in Nova Scotia. The Halifax Regional Municipality is here strongly to support energy efficiency. Efficiency pays, it not only saves the participants and pays, but it also saves the utility long term costs, it pays our local economy and creates jobs, and it also pays the environment. Today we are going to hear about the various “accounts” that this program costs – but HRM would point out significant benefits aren’t accounted for in the current regulatory modeling, it is unlikely we’ll ever recognize the true life-cycle benefits of energy efficiency within regulations. We are here today to review Efficiency Nova Scotia’s first DSM plan. Over the last three years efficiency investments have exceeded targets – by a wide margin. This is not surprising to HRM. The original IRP set the course that we would all be better off with efficiency – the more the better. The IRP modeled that in the face of growing load, increasing environmental restrictions and aging infrastructure, efficiency was our best bet. The IRP model showed in fact that efficiency was hands down the preferred option – more than renewables, and certainly more than more

fossil powered generation. The only constraint on the effect of DSM in the IRP model was how much efficiency could be delivered.

Without doubt, Efficiency NS has its work cut out for itself. The low hanging fruit of changing light bulbs will be coming to an end – they need to dig deeper. Regardless, these deeper efficiency KWH savings are still at an order of magnitude less than other options – including renewables. Efficiency NS also needs to build the capacity of Nova Scotia to deliver the ambitious goals of energy efficiency as laid out in the IRP. HRM feels that these deeper opportunities and lasting benefits are there. We need to set aggressive targets for Efficiency NS and give them the tools to achieve it – in all sectors of the ratebase. In the face of increasing costs – for a variety of reasons outside of this hearing, energy efficiency is the one tool the consumers have and will need with increasing urgency to combat these increases. Thank you.