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1 **Request IR-1:**

2
3 **With reference to paragraph 1, page 21 of NSPI's evidence,**

4
5 **Does Nova Scotia Power acknowledge that approximately 50% of low income households**
6 **are renters and NS Power's low income homeowner program will provide no benefit to low**
7 **income renters?**

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9 Response IR-1:

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11 NS Power has not reviewed the information on which the above-noted percentage is based. As
12 stated at page 15 of NS Power's Evidence, NS Power has made a commitment to provide up to
13 \$37 million over 10 years to upgrade about 6,600 low-income homes heated with electricity in
14 Nova Scotia. The energy retrofits come at no cost to customers. The program is for single-
15 family homes and does not extend to multi-unit buildings or individual apartments at this time.

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1 **Request IR-2:**

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3 **With reference to paragraph 1, page 21 of NSPI's evidence,**

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5 **Does Nova Scotia Power acknowledge that pursuant to the 2015 Settlement Agreement for**
6 **Efficiency NS that Efficiency NS is now researching Nova Scotia's low income rental**
7 **market and potential designs for programming to provide a similar level of service to low**
8 **income renters with electric heat that now exists through NS Power's contribution to low**
9 **income homeowner programming?**

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11 **Response IR-2:**

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13 **NS Power is not aware of any specific commitments ENS has made with respect to solutions for**
14 **low income renters, other than as stated in E1's Application at Appendix A, pages 9-10.**

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1 **Request IR-3:**

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3 **With reference to paragraph 1, page 21 of NSPI's evidence,**

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5 **Does Nova Scotia Power acknowledge that the cost reductions due to removal of low**
6 **income homeowner programming are likely to be replaced by similar costs of effective**
7 **retrofits for low income renters during the life of the 2016-18 contract?**

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9 Response IR-3:

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11 The referenced paragraph relates to expected cost reductions in E1's programming. Low-income
12 DSM may be offset by NS Power's contribution to low-income programs through Clean Nova
13 Scotia. Please refer to AEC IR-2.

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1 **Request IR-4:**

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3 **With reference to Appendix B, residential lighting and other elements**

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5 **Does NS Power acknowledge that low income renters will experience hardship replacing**
6 **their lights with efficient bulbs due to their higher costs and having a direct install program**
7 **to assist with these and other energy efficient changes in all low income rental households**
8 **will continue to be an important program for enabling low income households to**
9 **participate in energy savings?**

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11 Response IR-4:

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13 NS Power is highly supportive of low income initiatives, facilitating a low income advocacy
14 group and working closely with interested stakeholders, including AEC, in addition to its
15 charitable giving to Clean Nova Scotia.

16
17 NS Power acknowledges that there are challenges for low income customers, which reinforces
18 the importance of the focus on affordability, consistent with the changes in the *Public Utilities*
19 *Act*.

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1 **Request IR-5:**

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3 **With reference to the significant reduction in NS Power's proposed overall budget for**
4 **efficiency programming and its concern with affordability,**

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6 **How does NS Power expect low income programming activities and spending for low**
7 **income renters to be affected if NS Power's substantially lower proposed overall budget**
8 **were approved? What are NS Power's concerns about this aspect of affordability in**
9 **relation to its proposals?**

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11 **Response IR-5:**

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13 NS Power's Evidence is that comparable savings in energy and demand can be achieved by E1 at
14 significantly lower costs. There is no funding currently in rates for DSM programming. New
15 DSM spending in the 2016-2018 contract period puts upward pressure on customer rates. As
16 stated in the Evidence on page 31, line 14, NS Power's proposal provides the best balance
17 between affordability in the short-term and overall cost-effectiveness. This is in the best interest
18 of NS Power customers including low income customers, and would satisfy the requirement of
19 affordability under the *Public Utilities Act*.