2018 **M08604**

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: **THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: **IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION** by **EfficiencyOne (E1)** for Approval of a Supply Agreement for Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities between EfficiencyOne (E1) and Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) and the establishment of a final agreement between the Parties, including approval of E1's 2019 Demand Side Management (DSM) Resource Plan

NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REQUESTS

To:

James Gogan
EfficiencyOne Counsel
The Breton Law Group
jim@bretonlawgroup.com

From:

Board Staff
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

Responses Due: **Wednesday, May 30, 2018**

Copies:

1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)
5 hard copies

Contact Person:

Steve Pronko, P. Eng.
Senior Advisor
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
Tel: (902) 424-4448
Fax: (902) 424-3919
E-mail: steve.pronko@novascotia.ca

Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 9th day of May, 2018

Doreen Friis

Doreen Friis, Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

Regarding the 2017 Annual Progress Report:

Request IR-1:

In Table 1 on page 2, the lifetime energy savings listed in the mid-course adjustment column are significantly different than those in the 2017 results column, even though the first-year energy savings in both categories appear much closer. Please explain the reason for those large variances.

Request IR-2:

Regarding the data tracking system, Dynamic DSM, page 10 states that the system will create efficiencies for program delivery, research, and marketing purposes. Please quantify the efficiencies that have been achieved and are still anticipated.

Request IR-3:

On page 11, it is noted that delays were experienced with implementing Dynamic DSM due to vendor development issues, and that E1 engaged with the vendor to mitigate risks.

a) Please elaborate on the development issues.
b) Please explain the risks that were mitigated.
c) How were DSM programs impacted by this delay?

Request IR-4:

Regarding the residential sector results, please explain the changes in program measure distribution that resulted in a higher demand-to-energy ratio.

Request IR-5:

Referencing Table 4 on page 12, please elaborate on the municipal class participation in DSM programs. Please identify the municipal utility, programs or measures accessed, the number of participants in each program or measure, and the costs incurred by E1.

Request IR-6:

Regarding appliance retirements, page 14 states that 386 appliances were replaced, and footnote 12 states that costs for replacements in non-electrically heated homes are paid by DSM funds.

a) What was the total cost of the replacements that were funded by electricity ratepayers?
b) What are the amounts of energy and demand reduction achieved by those replacements?
c) Please explain the rationale for requiring electricity ratepayers to cover total cost for those replacements rather than a smaller incentive amount.

Request IR-7:

Regarding the EnerGuide Real Estate Listing pilot that gives homeowners the option to have EnerGuide information included with their home listing on the ViewPoint.ca real estate website,

a) Please explain any DSM costs for this option.
b) What has been the uptake since being launched in Q4 2017?
c) Are there any energy or demand savings associated with this option?

Request IR-8:

Regarding the BNI sector results, please explain the changes in program measure distribution that resulted in a higher demand-to-energy ratio.

Request IR-9:

On page 14, it is stated that 386 appliances were replaced through the Home Warming service for low income homeowners. On page 30, it is stated that 466 low income participants received rebates to replace or retire old inefficient appliances. Please explain any relationship between those two statements.

Request IR-10:

Referencing the HST Rebate section on page 45, please provide the latest status update.

Request IR-11:

Tables 11, 12, and 13 show the planned and actual expenditures by rate class for 2015, 2016, and 2017. In each year, actual expenditures were less than planned. Please explain the status of those surplus amounts.

Regarding the 2019 DSM Resource Plan:

Request IR-12:

On page 9, E1 states that the proposed 2019 DSM investment is less than the amount of DSM cost recovery present in 2019 rates. Please provide both amounts.

Request IR-13:

Page 9 also states that 2019 evaluation activities will be condensed where appropriate in recognition of the maturity level of some program components. Please identify the components which will undergo a condensed evaluation.

Request IR-14:

On page 14, lines 28-29 state that E1's ability to track lifetime energy savings and increased sophistication in doing so has improved over the course of the 2016-2018 DSM Resource Plan.

a) Is this associated with the Dynamic DSM software implementation? Please explain.
b) What has been the impact of this improvement?

Request IR-15:

Page 16 notes that the 2019 DSM Resource Plan includes increased demand reduction through pilots developed by E1 in collaboration with NSPI. Page 21 of Appendix A notes that $1.0 million has been budgeted for this initiative which may include one pilot focused on residential customers and one pilot focused on BNI customers. Potential measures are also noted.

a) Please expand the description of each of those pilots.
b) Please provide the budgeted amounts for each pilot.
c) Please describe any impact on other programs or measures as a result of the spending allocation to the pilots.

Request IR-16:

Regarding the electronic technical reference manual, E1 has stated that it will see several operational benefits through its use in 2019. In particular, two of those benefits are identified as decreased evaluation effort and impact evaluation costs, and decreased administrative burden. Please quantify those cost reductions.

Request IR-17:

Referencing Table 1 of Appendix A, please provide a table showing actual first-year unit costs for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, and the projected unit costs for 2018 and 2019.

Request IR-18:

On page 7 of Appendix A, E1 states that it anticipates an increase in 2019 net incremental energy and peak demand savings when compared to the approved 2016-2018 DSM Resource Plan. On page 19 of its Evidence, E1 states that the proposed 2019 energy and demand savings targets of 127.2 GWh and 20.2 MW are similar to the approved annual averages in the 2016-2018 DSM Resource Plan (135.3 GWh and 20.8 MW).

a) Please indicate the level of anticipated increase in 2019 versus 2016-2018 averages.
b) Please explain why the 2019 targets are less than the 2016-2018 averages if E1 anticipates that 2019 results will be higher than the 2016-2018 averages.

Request IR-19:

Regarding the 2019 Supply Agreement with NSPI, please highlight any material changes between that agreement and the previous 2016-2018 Supply Agreement.

Request IR-20:

Please provide E1's response to the evaluator's recommendations.

Request IR-21:

Please provide E1's response to the verifier's recommendations.