

IN THE MATTER OF *The Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.380, as amended*

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF *An application by EfficiencyOne for Approval of a Supply Agreement for Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities between EfficiencyOne and Nova Scotia Power Inc., the establishment of a final agreement between the parties, and approval of a 2020-2022 Demand Side Management (“DSM”) Resource Plan (M09096)*

CLOSING STATEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE

Madam Chair and Board Members, please accept this closing statement on behalf of the Small Business Advocate (SBA).

As set out in its Opening Statement, the SBA is supportive of the Consensus Agreement entered into between EfficiencyOne (E1) and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI). It addresses many of the issues raised by the SBA’s consultant, John Athas, Principal Consultant with Daymark Energy Advisors, in his evidence and lays the groundwork for more collaboration in future filings. The restructuring of the DSMAG will allow more interaction between stakeholders and both E1 and NSPI and ensure that everyone’s interests are considered.

The SBA supports the investment levels set out at Clause 1 of the Consensus Agreement for the next three years as well as the proposal to defer the issue of lifetime energy savings as a performance target to the DSMAG.

The SBA supports the HST Refund, together with interest, being refunded to customers through the FAM, as set out at clause 6 of the Consensus Agreement.

The SBA does have some concern with the terms of the Settlement Agreement entered into between E1 and Heritage Gas. The concern is focused on the fact that it appears that only Heritage Gas will be allowed to provide input on the terms of reference for the study to be undertaken by E1. This is concerning given that the cost of the study being proposed is going to be paid for by E1 itself. It would be more appropriate for the terms of the reference for the study to be provided to the DSMAG for feedback to ensure a fair and equitable input process. The same should apply with respect to the agreement on the implementation of the study findings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this closing statement.

Dated at Bedford, Nova Scotia this 4th day of July, 2019.



E.A. Nelson Blackburn, Q.C.

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE