2022 **M10473**

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

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

and

IN THE MATTER OF: **AN APPLICATION by by EfficiencyOne ("E1") to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board ("Board') for Approval of a Supply Agreement for Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities between E1 and Nova Scotia Power Inc. ("NS Power"), the establishment of a final agreement between the parties, and approval of a 2023-2025 Demand Side Management ("DSM") Resource Plan**

CLOSING SUBMISSION
OF THE BERWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSION, THE RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION, THE TOWN OF ANTIGONISH, AND THE TOWN OF MAHONE BAY ("MEUs")

July 4, 2022

Please accept the following as the Closing Submission of the MEUs.

On May 20, 2022, the MEUs filed the evidence of Don Regan, superintendent of the Berwick Electric Commission, and Al Dominie, consultant to the MEUs (and formerly the Manager of NS Power's Rates and Regulations Department), which contained three specific recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION #1

At page 17 of its Rebuttal Evidence, E1 stated as follows:

> "The MEUs have recommended that E1 be directed to consider and provide cost benefit information concerning programs targeting the MEUs in the wholesale market in all future DSM plans. Implementation of this recommendation would require that E1 have individual MEU specific avoided costs – something which is presently provided in aggregate only for NS Power.
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> Although this forward looking recommendation falls outside the scope of the present Application, as part of future DSM Plans, E1 is receptive to working with the MEUs and other stakeholders, where necessary, to consider the cost benefit information requested under Recommendation #1. While this activity has not been performed historically, such efforts could leverage existing E1 analyses and data collection activities and produce cost benefit information more meaningful for a given MEU. However, E1 understands its ability to provide this information to be largely dependent upon access to avoided costs for the MEUs."

The MEUs appreciate E1's receptiveness to work with the MEUs to consider the cost benefit information concerning programs targeting the MEUs in the wholesale market. The MEUs agree that such analysis will require that E1 be provided access to the avoided costs for the MEUs, and the MEUs commit to working with E1 as necessary to allow this specific analysis to occur.

RECOMMENDATION #2

At pages 17-18 of its Rebuttal Evidence, E1 stated as follows:

> "The MEUs have recommended that E1 be granted flexibility in its DSM Plan, and specifically within the overall funding levels, to allow for MEU-specific research, pilot programming and program adaptation. From the perspective of the MEUs, this flexibility is critical toward ensuring the delivery of programs and initiatives that meet the needs of MEU customers over the next three years.

> E1 is generally supportive of this proposal and open to working with the MEUs over the course of the next three years. E1 remains committed to working with MEUs to develop and implement cost-effective and collaborative opportunities and strategies that make sense for a given MEU, subject to sufficient resource availability and financial flexibility."

Again, the MEUs appreciate E1's support of its recommendation and E1's openness to working with the MEUs over the course of the next three years in implementing cost-effective and collaborative opportunities and strategies that make sense for a given MEU. The MEUs submit the Board's decision should specifically confirm that E1 has the flexibility and the mandate, within the financial parameters of the Settlement Plan as filed, to ensure cost-effective and collaborative opportunities can be explored and pursued to maximize the benefits of actual DSM spending made in relation to the MEU customers.

RECOMMENDATION #3

At page 18 of its Rebuttal Evidence, E1 stated as follows:

> "The MEUs have recommended that MEUs in the wholesale market be permitted to pay all allocated and Board-approved DSM costs directly to E1, subject to the specific allocations, payment requirements and additional direction in the GRA. This recommendation is premised, in part, on the differences between NS Power and the MEUs in the context of DSM and the proposal by the MEUs to work separately with E1 for program design and delivery.
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> While not opposed to the general concept and reasoning, E1 submits that this recommendation falls outside the scope of the approval of this DSM Plan Application. Consideration of this recommendation would require a full consideration of the applicable statutory and regulatory regime including the Public Utilities Act."

The MEUs appreciate E1's comments that it is not opposed to the general concept and reasoning of its recommendation to pay all allocated and Board-approved DSM costs directly to E1. As the issue of DSM cost allocation and recovery remains to be addressed as part of NS Power's General Rate Application, the MEUs accept E1's view that this recommendation falls outside the scope of the approval of this DSM Plan Application. The MEUs confirm their intent to address this recommendation (including consideration of the applicable statutory and regulatory regime) as part of NS Power's General Rate Application.