

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: The Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.380, as amended
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF: 2023 Load Forecast Report

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: Nova Scotia Power Inc.
From: NS SBA
Responses Due: June 20, 2023
Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)
Contact Person: E.A. Nelson Blackburn, K.C.
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Issued at Bedford, Nova Scotia on this 30th day of May, 2023

1 **Request IR-1:** Please reference Synapse IR-3 parts A-C, and reference Section 4.0, p 16.

- 2 a) Please provide a qualitative description of the changes in any class studied that would
- 3 merit differentiation in regression period between classes.
- 4 b) Please provide any independent variable data that NS Power relied upon to inform the
- 5 decision to begin the regression period in 2013 for all classes (except for Medium
- 6 Industrial).
- 7 c) Were other methods considered to differentiate various periods of demographic or usage
- 8 trend changes, other than omitting historical years prior to 2013, in both the load and/or
- 9 peak forecast?
- 10 d) Please discuss the merits of conducting a 20-year forecast using only 10 years of
- 11 historical data, including any demographic, technological, or market changes that would
- 12 cause the model to fit more poorly if including pre-2013 historical data.

13
14 **Request IR-2:** Please reference Figure 27, E3 EV Mileage Assumptions and Load/Peak
15 Modeling Results.

- 16 a) Figure 27 remains unchanged from the 2022 Load Forecast Report. Please discuss if
- 17 these assumptions were reviewed, what other data they were benchmarked against, and if
- 18 other assumptions were tested on the forecast.

19
20 **Request IR-3:** Please reference Figures 28 and 29.

- 21 a) How does the charging data from the Smart Grid Nova Scotia pilot program match
- 22 against EV charging data assumptions provided by E3, and the assumptions subsequently
- 23 used in the 2023 Load Forecast Report?

24
25 **Request IR-4:** Please Reference Page 44, Lines 3-11.

- 26 a) Please discuss how, if at all, the new protocols developed for proposal in Matter M10872
- 27 for Commercial Net Metering factored into the solar generation load and peak values
- 28 utilized in the 2023 Load Forecast Report.

29
30 **Request IR-5:** Please reference Page 62 and Figure 44.

- 31 a) Please provide a “backcast” of commercial sales utilizing the Commercial SAE model for
- 32 the years 2013-2023.
- 33 b) Please explain the growth in sales in 2023, and the subsequent 2024 decline in sales
- 34 below the 2022 historical level.

35
36 **Request IR-6:** Please reference Figure 47 and Page 65, lines 15-17. Please also reference Figure
37 50, and Page 69, lines 10-11.

- 38 a) NS Power describes the drop in 2024 sales in these classes as related to the shifting sales
- 39 in to the RTR participants. Please describe NS Power’s understanding of any load
- 40 obligations, if any, the Company understands it has under the RTR mechanism, should
- 41 RTR participants be unable to serve projected load.

- 1 b) Please describe how the RTR-served load/generation is forecasted.
2 c) Please provide the total amounts of load per year and per rate class to be served by RTR
3 providers in all years of the forecast period.
4

5 **Request IR-7:** Please reference Figure 51: New Large Industrial Projects.

- 6 a) Has NS Power performed any sensitivity analysis around the actualization of projects?
7 b) Has NS Power performed any historical analysis regarding previous survey results
8 against realized projects? If so, please provide the realization rate and average kWh and
9 kW contributions.
10

11 **Request IR-8:** Please reference Page 38-43, EV Sales Forecast.

- 12 a) Please confirm that the 2023 Load Forecast Report incorporates the level of EV sales
13 growth necessary to achieve federal sales targets, and are not based upon an economic
14 analysis of current or future incentive levels.
15 b) If the answer to Part A is confirmed, please discuss and provide the results of any
16 sensitivity analysis that was performed to examine sales driven by current or future
17 incentive levels.
18 c) If the answer to Part A is confirmed, please discuss narratively how any sales shortfalls of
19 the EV sector will impact the future planning of NS Power as it relates to portfolio
20 planning, the Evergreen IRP proceedings, or rate cases.
21

22 **Request IR-9:** Please reference Page 78, Figure 56:

- 23 a) Please discuss the BNI curtailment figures, including what rates can be curtailed, under
24 what conditions, and if curtailment is voluntary for the BNI class.
25 b) How much of this BNI curtailment is done by programs provided by E1? Please describe
26 all the programs E1 provides that contribute to this curtailment forecast.
27 c) Please discuss in detail and provide data supporting the BNI curtailment forecast.
28

29 **Request IR-10:** Please reference page 88, Lines 4-13.

- 30 a) Please discuss historical annual peaks dating back ten years, to include whether or not
31 those peaks would have been predicted by the regression models run by NS Power.
32 b) Please discuss how the P90, or other such “extreme” scenarios in the NS Power Load
33 Forecast, are incorporated into the system and portfolio planning of NS Power.
34
35