

2023 10-Year System Outlook Report (NSUARB M11221)
NSPI Responses to NSUARB Information Requests

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Request IR-1:

Referencing page 6 of 59 and Figure 6 on page 19 of 59, NS Power stated that the results of the 2022 IRP evergreen scenario CE1-E1-R2 were selected as the basis for the 2023 10-year System Outlook report. Updated results of the IRP evergreen modeling were published on August 8, 2023.

(a) Please update Figure 6 to identify any changes to projects, planned in-service dates, or retirement dates.

(b) Please explain the current status for each of the listed projects; e.g., studies, RFPs, engineering design, permits, siting, property acquisition, procurement, etc.

Response IR-1:

(a) No changes to the Evergreen IRP modeling have occurred since the filing of the 2023 10 Year System Outlook. The resource plan in the 2023 10-Year System Outlook is generally consistent with Evergreen IRP scenario CE1-E1-R2, with modifications to accommodate assessment of solar resource potential and integrate the 2023 Load Forecast Report; this report shows accelerated firm peak demand growth in the 2023-2033 timeframe relative to the load forecast used in the Evergreen IRP modeling.

(b) The updated Evergreen IRP Action Plan and Roadmap¹ includes NS Power's resource development plan to meet 2030 objectives and the current forecasted project timing which includes engagement, the regulatory process, procurement and design/build components. New resources identified in the Evergreen IRP beyond the ECEI projects and Rate Base Procurement wind are at the early identification and study stage. ACE Plan 2024 will include reference to the resource development plan and additional specific projects.

¹ 2030 Resource Development Plan; pg. 20, [Nova Scotia Power Evergreen IRP \(nspower.ca\)](https://www.nspower.ca)

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REDACTED

1 **Request IR-2:**

2
3 **Referencing Figure 2 on page 9 of 59,**

4
5 **(a) Please identify the interruptible loads comprising the 146 MW total amount in 2023.**

6
7 **(b) Please explain the reduction from 155 MW in 2022 to 146 MW in 2023.**

8
9 **Response IR-2:**

10
11 (a) The 146 MW is comprised of [REDACTED] of load from large industrial interruptible customers,
12 [REDACTED] of load from generation replacement load following customers, and [REDACTED] of
13 load from Extra Large Industrial Active Demand Control Tariff (ELIADC).

14
15 (b) The reduction represents the difference between 2022 actual contribution to system peak
16 and 2023 forecast contribution to system peak, which is a reduction of 1 MW of load from
17 large industrial interruptible customers, [REDACTED] of load from Real Time Pricing, and [REDACTED]
18 from ELIADC.

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Request IR-3:

Referencing Figure 3 on page 11 of 59, please confirm that the capacity contribution expected from the Maritime Link NS Base Block will be limited to 145.4 MW and explain the derivation.

Response IR-3:

The Nova Scotia Block includes the provision of 153 MW of nameplate firm capacity, consistent with the terms of the Energy and Capacity Agreement (ECA).

As described in Section 6.3 of the Report, NS Power applies an Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC) factor to certain resource types including wind, solar, and hydro. These factors were calculated as part of the 2019 Planning Reserve Margin and Capacity Value Study (Capacity Study) which informed the 2020 Integrated Resource Plan.

Although the Nova Scotia Block is assigned a 98 percent ELCC in the Capacity Study, NS Power assigned it a 95 percent ELCC consistent in the 2023 10-Year System Outlook Report with other hydro resources. This assumption will continue to be updated over time as more data becomes available. ELCC assignment does not affect the ability of NS Power to receive all NS Block energy, because the NS Block represents only a portion of ML available capacity.

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Request IR-4:

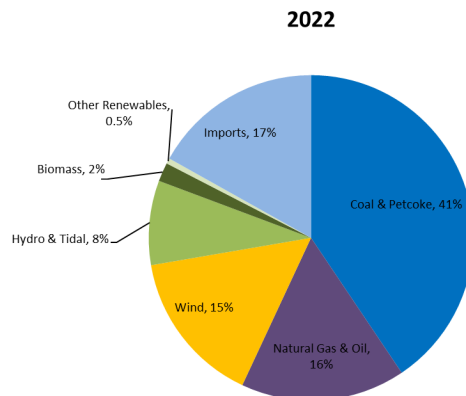
On page 21 of 59, Figure 7 shows the 2022 actual energy mix with 9% Renewable Purchase, 0.5% Other Renewables, and 8% Imports. However, the 2024 forecast shows 0.2% Other Renewables, and 21% Imports, with no Renewable Purchase. Please explain the large increase in Imports and the elimination of Renewable Purchase.

Response IR-4:

The 2022 Actuals (2022A) chart identifies the firm and generation import resources separately: the “Renewable Purchase” reflects commercial energy imported over the Maritime Link, whereas the “Imports” value reflects the Nova Scotia block of imports from ML.

For the forecast values (2024F) chart, the “Imports” category, includes both commercial import energy and Nova Scotia block energy.

The fair comparison then is to compare the total of the “Renewable Purchase” and “Imports” from the 2022 Actuals (17 percent) to the “Import” value in the 2024 Forecast (21 percent). Please refer to updated pie chart below, which combines the “Renewable Purchase” and “Imports” category from the 2022 Actuals into one “Imports” category.



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1 **Request IR-5:**

2
3 **On page 28 of 59, Figure 11 presents forecasted sustaining capital investments by unit in**
4 **graphical form. Please provide this investment information in a table.**

5
6 **Response IR-5:**

7
8 Please refer to Attachment 1. The costs beyond 2030 for Trenton and Point Aconi are related to
9 required post coal phase out environmental work.

REDACTED (CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REMOVED)

Sustaining Capital (2023\$)

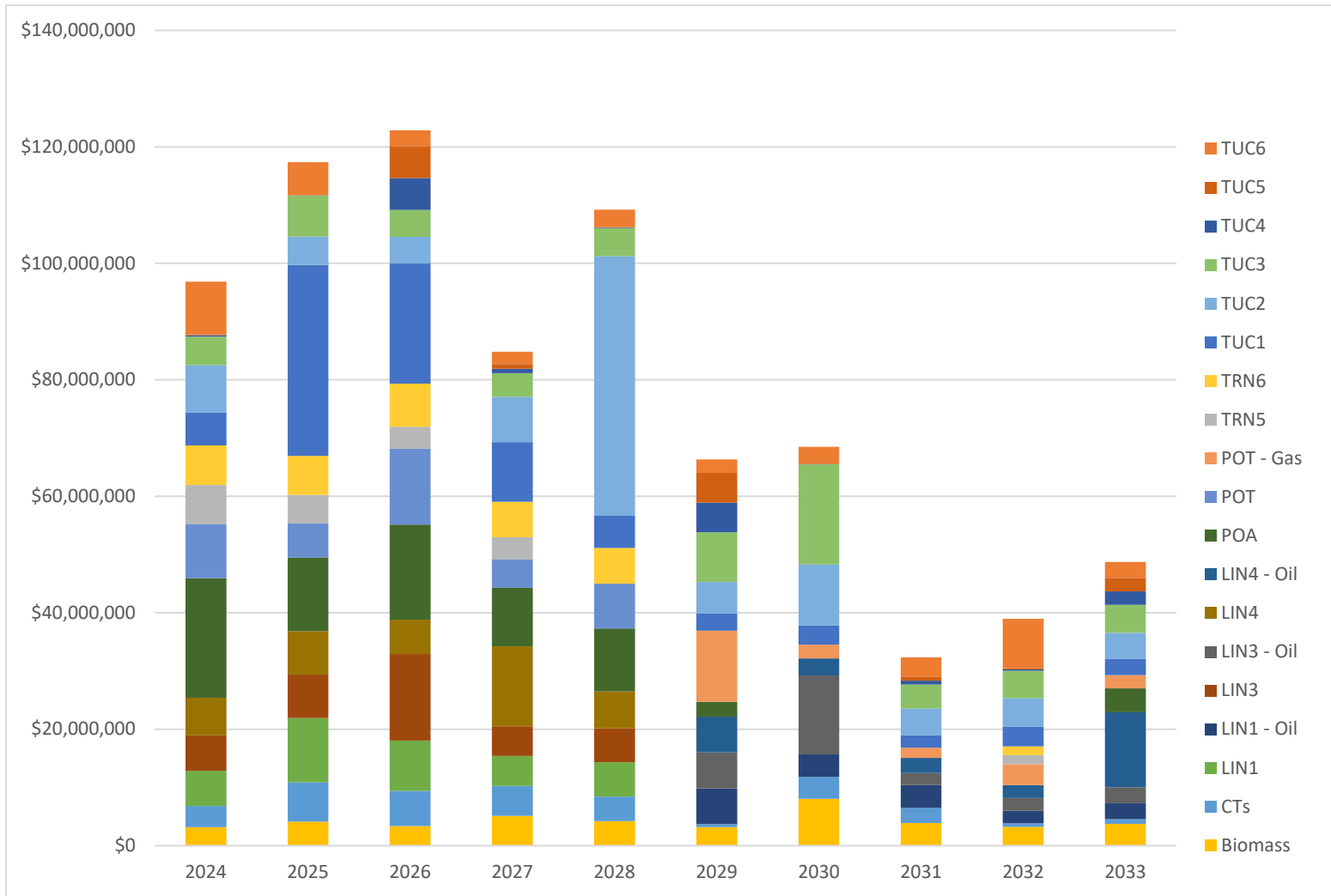
Year	Biomass	CTs	LIN1	LIN1 - Oil	LIN3	LIN3 - Oil	LIN4
2024	\$ 3,192,822	\$ 3,631,745	\$ 6,057,809	\$ -	\$ 6,057,809	\$ -	\$ 6,466,502
2025	\$ 4,125,327	\$ 6,742,700	\$ 11,056,502	\$ -	\$ 7,454,087	\$ -	\$ 7,454,087
2026	\$ 3,378,993	\$ 6,019,849	\$ 8,661,569	\$ -	\$ 14,870,187	\$ -	\$ 5,869,013
2027	\$ 5,129,160	\$ 5,134,075	\$ 5,126,957	\$ -	\$ 5,126,957	\$ -	\$ 13,719,437
2028	\$ 4,246,437	\$ 4,194,513	\$ 5,871,638	\$ -	\$ 5,871,638	\$ -	\$ 6,330,846
2029	\$ 3,192,822	\$ 507,807	\$ -	\$ 6,156,345	\$ -	\$ 6,156,345	\$ -
2030	\$ 8,053,632	\$ 3,778,353	\$ -	\$ 3,860,865	\$ -	\$ 13,528,348	\$ -
2031	\$ 3,903,802	\$ 2,592,840	\$ -	\$ 3,922,922	\$ -	\$ 2,061,218	\$ -
2032	\$ 3,239,365	\$ 599,082	\$ -	\$ 2,185,332	\$ -	\$ 2,185,332	\$ -
2033	\$ 3,751,334	\$ 812,633	\$ -	\$ 2,743,843	\$ -	\$ 2,743,843	\$ -
2034	\$ 3,749,120	\$ 296,388	\$ -	\$ 5,735,478	\$ -	\$ 8,477,493	\$ -
2035	\$ 3,658,248	\$ 5,097,808	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -	\$ 6,615,789	\$ -
2036	\$ 3,378,993	\$ 696,989	\$ -	\$ 7,143,272	\$ -	\$ 4,350,716	\$ -
2037	\$ 5,718,835	\$ 7,843,421	\$ -	\$ 4,288,659	\$ -	\$ 4,835,584	\$ -
2038	\$ 8,762,071	\$ 853,866	\$ -	\$ 16,542,019	\$ -	\$ 5,033,341	\$ -
2039	\$ 3,192,822	\$ 173,401	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -
2040	\$ 4,283,305	\$ 3,746,506	\$ -	\$ 6,150,363	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -
2041	\$ 3,378,993	\$ 313,140	\$ -	\$ 6,826,944	\$ -	\$ 4,350,716	\$ -
2042	\$ 3,239,365	\$ 138,161	\$ -	\$ 4,474,830	\$ -	\$ 4,474,830	\$ -
2043	\$ 4,413,893	\$ 355,929	\$ -	\$ 5,547,421	\$ -	\$ 5,547,421	\$ -
2044	\$ 3,192,822	\$ 431,352	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -	\$ 9,024,418	\$ -
2045	\$ 3,658,248	\$ 102,000	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -	\$ 16,754,916	\$ -
2046	\$ 9,700,462	\$ 2,040,000	\$ -	\$ 5,840,079	\$ -	\$ 4,239,014	\$ -
2047	\$ 5,315,330	\$ 2,040,000	\$ -	\$ 6,336,534	\$ -	\$ 4,586,532	\$ -
2048	\$ 3,751,334	\$ 2,040,000	\$ -	\$ 5,275,524	\$ -	\$ 5,033,341	\$ -
2049	\$ 3,895,136	\$ 2,040,000	\$ -	\$ 5,591,852	\$ -	\$ 5,799,251	\$ -
2050	\$ 3,658,248	\$ 2,040,000	\$ -	\$ 4,661,000	\$ -	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -

REDACTED (CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REMOVED)

10-Year System Outlook Report NSUARB IR-5 Attachment 1 Page 2 of 4

Year	LIN4 - Oil	POA	POT	POT - Gas	TRN5	TRN6	TUC1	TUC2
2024	\$ -	\$ 20,543,583	\$ 9,256,141	\$ -	\$ 6,753,469	\$ 6,794,228	\$ 5,634,344	\$ 8,112,944
2025	\$ -	\$ 12,654,577	\$ 5,845,751	\$ -	\$ 4,908,785	\$ 6,675,806	\$ 32,821,710	\$ 4,862,490
2026	\$ -	\$ 16,325,537	\$ 13,032,589	\$ -	\$ 3,791,762	\$ 7,420,488	\$ 20,612,718	\$ 4,552,206
2027	\$ -	\$ 10,045,876	\$ 4,868,356	\$ -	\$ 3,803,398	\$ 6,098,439	\$ 10,222,692	\$ 7,810,188
2028	\$ -	\$ 10,800,747	\$ 7,674,230	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,163,838	\$ 5,510,231	\$ 44,579,053
2029	\$ 6,156,345	\$ 2,531,917	\$ -	\$ 12,211,832	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,987,179	\$ 5,358,944
2030	\$ 2,930,013	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,368,886	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,325,914	\$ 10,447,602
2031	\$ 2,577,184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,763,832	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,180,440	\$ 4,552,206
2032	\$ 2,185,332	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,613,900	\$ 1,530,000	\$ 1,530,000	\$ 3,346,117	\$ 4,904,344
2033	\$ 12,882,969	\$ 4,080,000	\$ -	\$ 2,252,529	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,863,065	\$ 4,421,292
2034	\$ 8,477,493	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,076,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,634,344	\$ 5,358,944
2035	\$ 6,615,789	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,007,453	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,137,890	\$ 4,862,490
2036	\$ 4,350,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,115,587	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,827,606	\$ 5,405,021
2037	\$ 4,288,659	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,030,059	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,987,592	\$ 11,004,828
2038	\$ 5,647,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,031,391	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,510,231	\$ 5,234,831
2039	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,076,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,220,648	\$ 5,358,944
2040	\$ 5,814,375	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,007,453	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,137,890	\$ 4,862,490
2041	\$ 4,350,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,262,772	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,827,606	\$ 4,552,206
2042	\$ 4,474,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,750,586	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,507,362	\$ 6,231,962
2043	\$ 5,547,421	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,116,255	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,024,311	\$ 12,341,557
2044	\$ 8,477,493	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,116,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,608,509	\$ 5,358,944
2045	\$ 7,230,313	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,007,453	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,702,415	\$ 4,862,490
2046	\$ 4,350,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,331,920	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,137,890	\$ 4,862,490
2047	\$ 4,474,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,008,785	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,178,673	\$ 7,903,273
2048	\$ 15,172,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,100,539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,479,202	\$ 5,203,802
2049	\$ 8,477,493	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,076,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,130,799	\$ 5,855,399
2050	\$ 5,219,511	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,038,886	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,634,344	\$ 6,295,304

Year	TUC3	TUC4	TUC5	TUC6
2024	\$ 4,939,235	\$ 194,772	\$ 194,772	\$ 9,048,356
2025	\$ 7,015,016	\$ 46,672	\$ 46,672	\$ 5,673,543
2026	\$ 4,628,216	\$ 5,487,718	\$ 5,487,718	\$ 2,708,036
2027	\$ 4,039,411	\$ 780,643	\$ 780,643	\$ 2,136,305
2028	\$ 4,815,121	\$ 85,423	\$ 85,423	\$ 3,004,256
2029	\$ 8,581,873	\$ 5,087,476	\$ 5,087,476	\$ 2,322,476
2030	\$ 17,162,303	\$ 80,520	\$ 80,520	\$ 2,880,987
2031	\$ 4,132,496	\$ 672,029	\$ 672,029	\$ 3,342,476
2032	\$ 4,739,662	\$ 210,678	\$ 210,678	\$ 8,488,962
2033	\$ 4,815,121	\$ 2,321,140	\$ 2,321,140	\$ 2,694,817
2034	\$ 4,939,235	\$ 4,329,109	\$ 4,329,109	\$ 2,322,476
2035	\$ 5,001,292	\$ 34,729	\$ 34,729	\$ 5,673,543
2036	\$ 5,205,706	\$ 1,215,553	\$ 1,215,553	\$ 2,670,162
2037	\$ 6,411,112	\$ 32,735	\$ 32,735	\$ 2,136,305
2038	\$ 5,365,921	\$ 2,884,915	\$ 2,884,915	\$ 2,694,817
2039	\$ 7,731,791	\$ 203,749	\$ 203,749	\$ 2,322,476
2040	\$ 5,001,292	\$ 59,914	\$ 59,914	\$ 9,088,014
2041	\$ 9,717,608	\$ 3,559,528	\$ 3,559,528	\$ 3,342,476
2042	\$ 5,253,742	\$ 56,475	\$ 56,475	\$ 2,322,476
2043	\$ 6,466,804	\$ 430,225	\$ 430,225	\$ 2,694,817
2044	\$ 4,939,235	\$ 107,840	\$ 107,840	\$ 2,713,136
2045	\$ 9,385,973	\$ 352,512	\$ 352,512	\$ 5,673,543
2046	\$ 7,347,876	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,950,135
2047	\$ 9,717,608	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 2,411,624
2048	\$ 4,225,582	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 7,644,204
2049	\$ 8,228,245	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,763,965
2050	\$ 6,145,093	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,391,624



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Request IR-6:

Figure 13 on page 31 of 59 states that system upgrades associated with TSR 400 are in progress. Please list each upgrade component, as well as the current status, and the actual or planned in-service dates.

Response IR-6:

Maritime Link Transmission capital work orders included the following four items and were filed as part of the Company's General Rate Application:

1. 67N Onslow Node Swap - Completed
2. Separate L7005 and L8004 - Completed
3. Upgrade L6511 and L7019 thermal ratings - Completed
4. Replace L-6513 and line terminals - Completed except for switch upgrades; completion of the switch upgrades is forecast for Q2 2025 due to equipment delivery timelines.

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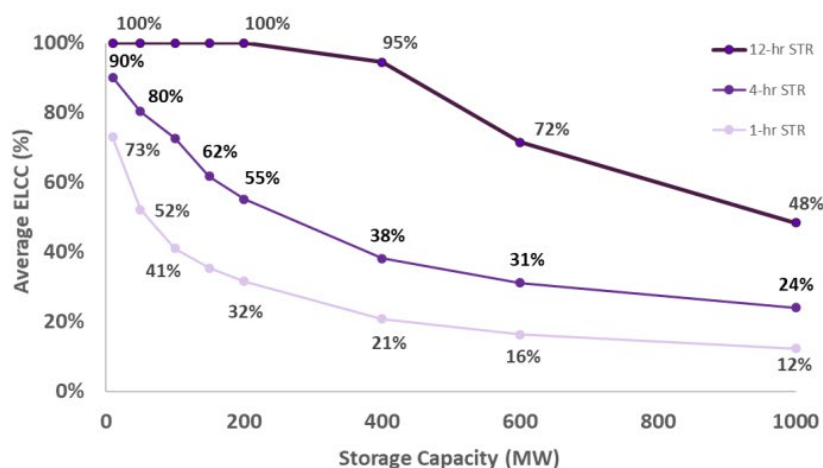
Request IR-7:

On page 44 of 59, NS Power provided ELCC values used in the 10-year System Outlook report for various renewable resources, except for battery storage resources. It appears from Figure 6 that the capacity contribution from the first 30 MW battery resource in 2025/26 is approximately 85%, but the contribution level reduces down to about 38% when the 60 MW battery resource is added in 2030/31, for a total of 200 MW. Please explain how this decline was determined and provide a graphical representation.

Response IR-7:

The ELCC values used are taken from the Planning Reserve Margin and Capacity Value Study (Capacity Study) which informed the 2020 Integrated Resource Plan and the 2023 Evergreen IRP. These results indicate that due to their energy-limited nature, battery storage demonstrates diminishing capacity value as penetration of these resources on the system increases. The following figures from that report reflect the average effective load carrying capacity (ELCC) for battery storage and the marginal ELCC for battery storage, respectively.¹

Figure 32: Average Storage ELCC

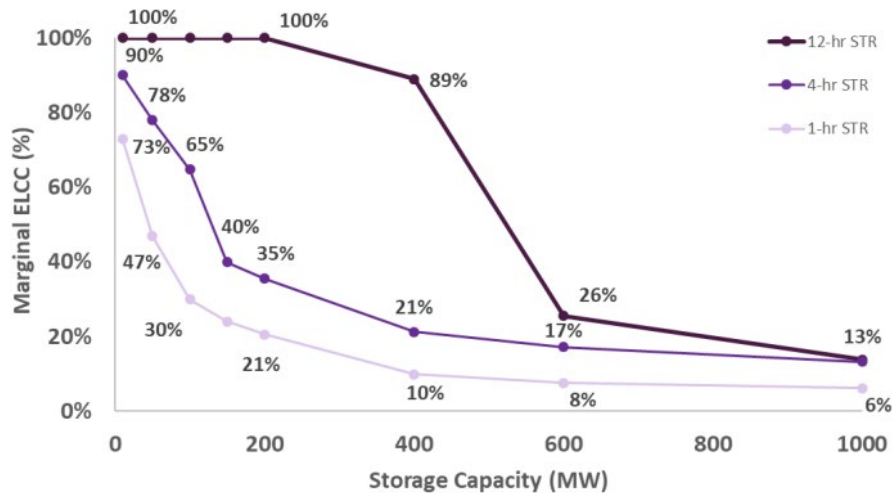


¹ Page 74 of 85, Attachment 17 – Pre-IRP Deliverables: E3 2019 Capacity Study ([20191018-NS-Power-Pre-IRP-Final-Report-updated.pdf \(nspower.ca\)](https://www.nspower.ca/20191018-NS-Power-Pre-IRP-Final-Report-updated.pdf))

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Figure 33: Marginal Storage ELCC



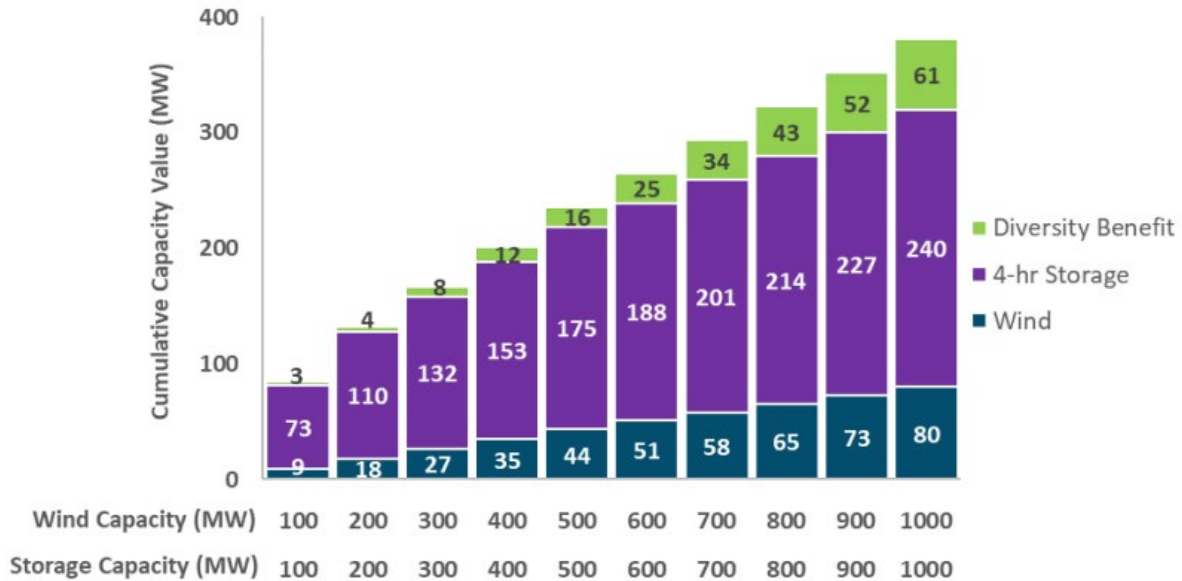
As displayed on the chart, at 200 MW of installed 4-hour battery storage on the Nova Scotia System, the marginal ELCC is 35 percent.

The overall average ELCC of a 200 MW 4-hour battery storage portfolio on the Nova Scotia system is 55 percent, or 110 MW. The addition of a diversity credit of 4 MW for pairings of 200 MW of 4 hours storage and at least 200 MW of wind, per the figure below also from the Capacity Study, leads to the firm contribution of 114 MW for the 200 MW battery portfolio as shown in Figure 5 of the 2023 10-Year System Outlook Report.

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Figure 37: ELCC Diversity Benefit of Wind + Storage



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Request IR-8:

The capacity contribution value stated on page 44 of 59 for hydro resources is 95%.

(a) Please explain how this was derived.

(b) Is it NS Power's experience that each of its hydro resources consistently provide a capacity contribution of 95%? If not, please explain.

(c) What is the capacity contribution value expected from the Maritime Link?

Response IR-8:

(a) The Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC) of 95 percent for hydro is derived based on derating due to long-run average forced outages and hydro system type as described in the 2019 Capacity Value and Planning Reserve Margin Study.

(b) NS Power's experience is that its hydro fleet provides a 95 percent ELCC contribution during periods of peak system demand.

(c) Please refer to NSUARB IR-03.

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Request IR-9:

The capacity contribution levels stated on page 44 of 59 are 18% for existing wind, 10% for new wind, 95% for hydro, and 0% for solar.

(a) Does NS Power anticipate these capacity contributions will be higher for resource combinations of wind plus battery storage, solar plus battery storage, wind plus solar plus battery storage?

(b) Has NS Power undertaken any studies to determine what those ELCC values would be? If so, please provide those values. If not, when will such studies be undertaken?

Response IR-9:

(a) Yes, the 10-Year System Outlook report recognizes the diversity benefit (additional capacity contributions) due to the combination of storage and wind. Please refer to NSUARB IR-07 for details on how this diversity credit was considered in the report.

(b) The 2019 Capacity Value and Planning Reserve Margin Study determined the diversity benefit (additional ELCC) values for combinations of wind and battery storage and solar and battery storage, specific to the Nova Scotia system.¹ The value of the diversity benefit is the additional capacity value obtained by the interactive effects of the combination of energy-limited resources.

Any potential additional diversity benefit from the third-order combination of wind, solar and storage has not been studied. Although NSP acknowledges the potential value of third-order combination of wind, solar and storage diversity benefit, the benefit is not anticipated to have an impact on capacity additions to meet our 2030 targets.

¹ Pages 36 – 38 of 89, Diversity Benefit ELCC Values, Pre-IRP Deliverables ([20191018-NS-Power-Pre-IRP-Final-Report-updated.pdf \(nspower.ca\)](#))

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1 **Request IR-10:**

2
3 **Regarding the Reliability Tie, the Board's letter of February 26, 2016 in Matter M06966**
4 **(2015 10-Year System Outlook Report) stated:**

5
6 **On page 55 of the SO Report, NSPI noted that it continues to proceed with the**
7 **acquisition of a right-of-way to accommodate a second 345 kV circuit between**
8 **Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and that completion by the end of 2015 was**
9 **at 86%. It also noted that Board approval of this Capital Item #29009 (Matter**
10 **M03348) was received on July 21, 2010. In IR-10, it was noted that virtually**
11 **no progress has been made with this project since both the 2013 and 2014 SO**
12 **Reports indicated a project completion of 85%. In its response to IR-10, NSPI**
13 **gave no explanation for this apparent lack of progress in concluding the ROW**
14 **acquisition, but merely said that "more substantial progress is expected in**
15 **2016".**

16
17 **(a) Has the ROW acquisition been completed? If not, please explain.**

18
19 **Response IR-10:**

20
21 The timing for construction of the Reliability Tie project has been adjusted over time, which has
22 influenced the timing for conclusion of the remaining right-of-way (ROW) land acquisition
23 activities. Acquisition of the remaining 15 percent of the ROW of the proposed transmission line
24 will occur in coordination with the construction timetable for the Reliability Tie project.

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Request IR-11:

On page 57 of 59, NS Power stated that “The earliest potential in-service date for the Reliability Tie is currently estimated to be 2027.”

(a) What is the status of any system studies required for this project?

(b) What is the status of any environmental compliance requirements?

(c) What is the status of engineering design required for this project?

(d) What is the status of an intertie agreement with NB Power?

(e) What is the anticipated duration of the construction phase?

(f) When does NS Power expect to file a capital application for Board approval?

Response IR-11:

(a) A Facility Study for TSR 411 is currently underway. It includes the elements of the Reliability Tie. Transmission Planning analysis is ongoing with the next study report anticipated by Q1 2024.

(b) The Company plans to submit a Class 1 Environmental Assessment Application with NS Environment and Climate Change in Q4 2023.

(c) Conceptual engineering has been completed for the project. Detailed design is scheduled to begin Q4 2023.

(d) Negotiations are ongoing with NB Power on an intertie agreement.

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- 1 (e) Construction is currently anticipated to begin in 2025 and conclude in 2027.
2
3 (f) NS Power expects to file a capital application for the Reliability Tie with the NSUARB in
4 Q3 2024.

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Request IR-12:

A July 2022 Government of Canada announcement stated:

With up to \$130 million, we're also investing so that Nova Scotia Power can install batteries to store clean energy at four sites across the province. These batteries will help provide reliable electricity to homes and businesses and support the closure of coal-fired power plants, delivering cleaner air for Nova Scotians. With this investment, Nova Scotia will have one of the largest battery systems in North America.

(a) What is the status of this funding announcement? Has NS Power accessed the \$130 million investment? Please elaborate.

(b) What is the status of these four battery storage projects?

Response IR-12:

(a) The announced Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways (SREP) funding has been conditionally approved, subject to demonstration of all program eligibility requirements, including evidence of regulatory approval or conditional approval. NS Power continues to be engaged with the Government of Canada on this funding.

(b) NS Power plans to file a capital application for its battery energy storage project in Q4 of 2023. The scope of work now includes three battery storage installations, all of which are following the Generator Interconnection Procedures and are presently at the SIS or FAC stage in the interconnection process. They appear as IR 662, 664 and 697 on the Combined T/D Advanced Stage Interconnection Queue on the NS Power OASIS site¹.

¹ [https://www.nspower.ca/docs/default-source/pdf-to-upload/nspi-active-transmission-interconnection-requests\(pdf\).pdf?sfvrsn=17712f59_24](https://www.nspower.ca/docs/default-source/pdf-to-upload/nspi-active-transmission-interconnection-requests(pdf).pdf?sfvrsn=17712f59_24)
