

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

**IN THE MATTER OF: NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED (NS Power) 2023 10-
Year System Outlook Report**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Nova Scotia Power Inc.**
Mark Peachey
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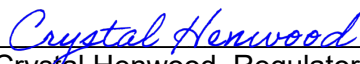
From: **Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board**
Board Staff

Responses Due: **Monday, October 16, 2023**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)
1 hard copy

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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this **22nd** day of **September 2023**.



Crystal Henwood, Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

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.

Request IR-2:

Referencing Figure 2 on page 9 of 59,

a) Please identify the interruptible loads comprising the 146 MW total amount in 2023.

b) Please explain the reduction from 155 MW in 2022 to 146 MW in 2023.

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.

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.

Request IR-5:

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

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.

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.

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?

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?

Request IR-10:

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

On page 55 of the SO Report, NSPI noted that it continues to proceed with the acquisition of a right-of-way to accommodate a second 345 kV circuit between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and that completion by the end of 2015 was at 86%. It also noted that Board approval of this Capital Item #29009 (Matter M03348)

1 was received on July 21, 2010. In IR-10, it was noted that virtually no progress has
2 been made with this project since both the 2013 and 2014 SO Reports indicated a
3 project completion of 85%. In its response to IR-10, NSPI gave no explanation for
4 this apparent lack of progress in concluding the ROW acquisition, but merely said
5 that "more substantial progress is expected in 2016".
6

7 a) Has the ROW acquisition been completed? If not, please explain.
8

9 **Request IR-11:**

10 On page 57 of 59, NS Power stated that "The earliest potential in-service date for the Reliability
11 Tie is currently estimated to be 2027."
12

- 13 a) What is the status of any system studies required for this project?
14 b) What is the status of any environmental compliance requirements?
15 c) What is the status of engineering design required for this project?
16 d) What is the status of an intertie agreement with NB Power?
17 e) What is the anticipated duration of the construction phase?
18 f) When does NS Power expect to file a capital application for Board approval?
19

20 **Request IR-12:**

21 A July 2022 Government of Canada announcement stated:
22

23 With up to \$130 million, we're also investing so that Nova Scotia Power can install
24 batteries to store clean energy at four sites across the province. These batteries
25 will help provide reliable electricity to homes and businesses and support the
26 closure of coal-fired power plants, delivering cleaner air for Nova Scotians. With
27 this investment, Nova Scotia will have one of the largest battery systems in North
28 America.
29

- 30 a) What is the status of this funding announcement? Has NS Power accessed the \$130
31 million investment? Please elaborate.
32 b) What is the status of these four battery storage projects?
33
34