

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: The PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

**IN THE MATTER OF: NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED's 2024 10-Year
System Outlook Report**

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Mark Peachey**
Manager, Capital Filings
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
1223 Lower Water Street
PO Box 910
Halifax, NS B3J 3S8
By email: mark.peachey@nspower.ca

From: The Consumer Advocate

Responses Due: **September 19, 2024**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **David J. Roberts**
Consumer Advocate
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1 **Request IR-1:**

2
3 Re: Exh. N-1, p. 15
4

- 5 a) Please confirm that the 10-year System Outlook does not identify enhanced geothermal
6 system energy projects as an “emerging technology.”
7
- 8 b) Please state whether Nova Scotia Power is aware that Fervo Energy recently demonstrated
9 a successful production-scale enhanced geothermal system project in Nevada and that most
10 of the technology being deployed by Fervo Energy is proven in the oil and gas industry,
11 suggesting a strong potential for it to scale rapidly.
12
- 13 c) Please confirm that the primary evidence cited by NS Power in M11458 to justify its
14 understanding that the potential for grid scale geothermal generation in Nova Scotia is a
15 November 2022 webinar featuring Russell Dmytriw of Net Zero Atlantic in which Mr.
16 Dmytriw says:
17
- 18 Currently when we look around the world [geothermal] electricity plants do not
19 exceed 5.5 km in depth . . . Well, what we’re seeing [in Nova Scotia] is that we’re
20 right on the edge of that ... with improving technologies ... we may actually be in
21 that window.¹
22
- 23 d) Please confirm that all of the evidence cited by NS Power in M11458 as informing its views
24 on enhanced geothermal energy entirely predates the Fervo Energy project launch.
25
- 26 e) Please identify what steps Nova Scotia Power has taken to monitor and investigate Fervo
27 Energy and other companies that are developing enhanced geothermal systems.
28
- 29 f) Please explain whether NS Power agrees that it should give greater consideration to
30 improving geothermal technologies, perhaps similar to or even greater than small modular
31 nuclear reactors and tidal generation, and its reasons for taking its position.
32

33 **Request IR-2:**

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35 Re: Exh. N-1, p. 9
36

- 37 a) Please provide the amount of peak forecast reduction associated with “adoption of hybrid
38 heating scenario,” by year, in Figure 2. If exact numbers are not available, please provide
39 estimates.
40
- 41 b) Please provide a detailed explanation of the work NS Power has completed to advance
42 “adoption of hybrid heating scenario,” (IRP Action Plan Item 4b)
43

¹ Reviewed at: <https://netzeroatlantic.ca/outreach/webinar-series/exploring-nova-scotias-geothermal-opportunities>

- 1 c) Please provide details on participation in any studies in partnership with other
2 organizations, including any available timelines, study scopes, contractors, or other
3 pertinent planning information.
4
5 d) Please provide NS Power's current action plan to achieve the peak forecast reduction
6 referenced in part (a) of this question.
7
8 e) If the response to part (d) of this question partially relies in behavior of or decisions made
9 by retail customers, please provide any documents that describe how NS Power plans to
10 mitigate risk associated with customer behavior or decisions that deviate significantly from
11 NS Power's assumptions.
12

13 **Request IR-3:**

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15 Re: Exh. N-1, p. 57
16

- 17 a) Please explain what steps NS Power has taken to ensure that the civil construction aspects
18 of the Reliability Tie will be complete in time to meet the target in-service date of 2028. In
19 your response, please provide the current risk register or any equivalent document that
20 discusses schedule risks associated with the construction of roads, transmission structure
21 foundations, and other significant civil works associated with the Reliability Tie.
22
23 b) Please provide a list of all high-voltage equipment (including but not limited to
24 transformers and circuit breakers) required for the Reliability Tie and the procurement
25 status of each item. If no such list exists, please identify any such equipment that has been
26 procured for the Reliability Tie.
27
28 c) For any item identified in the response to part (b) that has does not have a firm delivery
29 date consistent with the target in-service date of 2028, please describe NS Power's risk
30 mitigation plan for late delivery.
31

32 **Request IR-4:**

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34 Re: Exh. N-1, p. 19.
35

- 36 a) Please provide an accounting of all costs associated with the five times Ligan Unit 2 was
37 recalled to service.
38
39 b) Please include all available detail in the breakdown of costs as well as a summary of (a)
40 startup costs, (b) non-fuel operating costs, (c) fuel costs during operation, and (d) shutdown
41 costs for each of the five events.
42
43 c) Please include the generation for each of the five events.
44
45
46

Request IR-5:

Re: Exh. N-1, p. 45.

Please state when NS Power intends to revisit its planning reserve margin.

Request IR-6:

Re: Exh. N-1, p. 61.

Please provide the 5-year outage history for the existing 345 kV line connecting Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.