

May 8, 2025

Crystal Henwood, Clerk of the Board
Nova Scotia Energy Board
1601 Lower Water Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M"
Halifax, NS B3J 3S3

Re: M12149 Nova Scotia Power / Bell Aliant Joint Use Agreement

Dear Ms. Henwood:

This proceeding, stemming from M11835, concerns the installation and removal of poles covered by the Joint Use Agreement between Nova Scotia Power (NS Power) and Bell Aliant (Bell). The issues in M11835 involved line extensions in areas where Bell owned the poles. NS Power faced delays due to the need to obtain Bell's permission before proceeding with any work causing unacceptable delays.

Since 2024, NS Power has been working with Bell to resolve communication, process, and delay issues. As of March 2025, NS Power and Bell have reached a proposed solution that they intend to test in accordance with the attached Letter of Intent, making NS Power responsible for all new line extensions, regardless of pole ownership regardless of whether they are located in areas with Bell-owned poles or NS Power-owned poles. This approach effectively eliminates the issues of long delay times and differential pricing. This also means that all line extensions are treated the same from a cost and rebate perspective.

Attached is a signed copy of the Letter of Intent between NS Power and Bell effective March 3, 2025 setting out the test changes in procedures for the poles owned by Bell.

NS Power provides this information to assist the Board in this proceeding and potentially limit its scope to more efficiently address what issues may remain, if any.

Yours truly,



Blake Williams
Senior Director Regulatory Affairs



March 25, 2025

Richard Grisdale
Director, Network Provisioning – GTA/Atlantic
Bell Canada

VIA E-MAIL: richard.grisdale@bell.ca

Dear Richard:

Per Bell Canada's and Nova Scotia Power's existing Joint Use Agreement, both are pole owners in the province of Nova Scotia. The Joint Use Agreement states that, to maintain the joint use ratio, Nova Scotia Power is to own 60% of the mainline joint use poles, and Bell Canada is to own the remaining 40% of the mainline joint use poles. The parties currently partake in a regular reconciliation of the ownership ratios, on a predetermined, recurring interval (the "Pole Reconciliation").

In relation to each party's status as a mainline joint use pole owner, the parties also follow a process for line extensions, when a customer requires additional poles be placed to bring service(s) to their premises. The current process dictates that any customer-requested line extensions are built and owned by the existing owner of the mainline joint use pole line being extended. Nova Scotia Power and Bell Canada have each agreed to test a proposed change in this process, under the current Joint Use Agreement, as outlined below. Each party believes that this change will allow for more effective and efficient build times, as well as an improved customer experience.

The parties agree, effective March 03, 2025, and for a period to be determined in accordance to the terms in this letter, that Nova Scotia Power will build all customer-requested line extensions, regardless of current mainline joint use pole ownership, with each such line extension being owned by Nova Scotia Power. Bell Canada and Nova Scotia Power will perform a Point of Construction Settlement at the end of each quarter, with the purpose being to 1) determine which of the constructed line extensions has resulted in additional joint use poles (as not all new poles will be credit joint use poles as per Section 1, Clause 1.01 of the Joint Use Agreement), and 2) to determine, based on the findings in (1), the number of joint use poles that need to be transferred between parties to address the Joint Use ownership ratio and meet the needs of both companies. A list of

joint-use poles built by Nova Scotia Power, in Bell Canada poling areas, in the given quarter will be provided to Bell Canada. Nova Scotia Power and Bell Canada will then work together to determine the quantity and geographical location of Nova Scotia Power owned joint use poles Bell Canada will purchase to address the settlement of the joint use ratio, based on how many poles Bell Canada would like to purchase. Bell Canada will purchase the poles mutually agreed upon, at their Structural Value, or cost agreed to by both parties. For clarity, this settlement process is separate, and different, from the currently recurring Pole Reconciliation.

Nova Scotia Power and Bell Canada agree to execute a signed agreement no later than the end of, 2025, by or a time frame agreed to by both parties. This agreement will include further detailing of the operational process and purchasing details associated to this new line extension process. The timing of the establishment of the agreement is intended to allow both parties to review and evaluate the process and settlement exercise undertaken in these initial periods, and to ensure an accurate determination of the process is documented. In the event that the definitive agreement is not executed by December 31, 2025, or, if this approach is determined to no longer meet the business needs of a party, either party shall have the opportunity to cease the trial of this new process, upon thirty days notice to the other party, and upon such notice, the parties will revert to the previous process for future line extensions.

If you are in agreement with this letter of intent, please signify agreement by signing in the space provided below and by returning a signed copy to Tressa St. John at tressa.st.john@nspower.ca, by March 28th, 2025

If you have any questions or require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

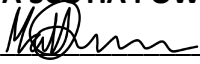
Tressa St. John
Contract Manager, NSPI
T: 902-869-7406, E: tressa.st.john@nspower.ca

CC Matt Drover, Senior Director, Energy Delivery, NSPI
Darrell Lyttle, Joint Use Coordinator, NSPI
Rory MacNeill, Manager, Contractor Oversight, NSPI
Pam Scully-Poirier, Director, Energy Delivery Services, NSPI

Dawn Harling, Sr. Manager Meter Inspection and Planning, NSPI
Richard Grisdale, Director Network Provisioning, Bell
Brad Wells, Senior Manager Access Engineering, Bell
Yves Robichaud, Senior Manager Atlantic Utility Services, Bell
Matt Frizzell, Nova Scotia Utility Manager, Bell
Mathew Cook, Utility Contract Manager, Bell

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NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED

Per:  _____

Name: Matt Drover

Title: Sr. Director, Energy Delivery

Date: April 15, 2025

BELL CANADA

Per:  _____

Name: Richard Grisdale

Title: Director, Network Provisioning

Date: April 8th, 2025