



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

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March 21, 2025

blake.williams@nspower.ca

Blake Williams
Senior Director Regulatory
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
1223 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3S8

Dear Mr. Williams:

M12149 - Nova Scotia Power Inc. - Investigation arising from Joint Use Agreement between NS Power and Bell Aliant

This is to advise the Board has decided to initiate an investigation about the Joint Use Agreement for Utility Poles between NS Power and Bell Aliant dated March 31, 1993.

The investigation follows two complaints where the following issues about the Joint Use Agreement were raised [see M11835 and M11838].

- 1) Whether the Joint Use Agreement is unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly discriminatory because there are different rebate schemes depending on whether an area is serviced by joint-use poles owned by NS Power or Bell Aliant.
- 2) Whether the provision of electric service connections and the disconnection and removal of service connections are being delayed or impacted by the processes used under the Joint Use Agreement.

Because the scope of these issues goes beyond individual complaints, the Board found an investigation under s. 19 of the *Public Utilities Act* was warranted.

The Board will proceed with a Paper Hearing. The Board has filed the Joint Use Agreement as Exhibit 1 in this proceeding. In order to frame the investigation, Board Staff will issue Information Requests first. Nova Scotia Power will have the opportunity to add any additional evidence the company wants the Board to consider.

The process after that will be typical of a full paper hearing process.

Please find attached the following documents:

- 1) Hearing Order, and
- 2) Notice of Paper Hearing.

Yours very truly,



Crystal Henwood
Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

- c. William Mahody, K.C., Board Counsel
Mollie Morris, NS Power
Bell Aliant
Clarence Felderhof
Seneca Shores
Electricity Mandate List