

December 17, 2025

Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board
Nova Scotia Energy Board
1601 Lower Water Street, 3rd Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 3S3

Re: M12177 – Distributed Energy Resource Integration Roadmap

Dear Ms. Henwood:

Nova Scotia Power Inc (NS Power, Company) provided its last update to the Nova Scotia Energy Board (NSEB, Board) regarding the above noted matter on September 26, 2025. In that update, NS Power noted that it expected “that a final DERIR will be ready for submission to the NSEB before year-end 2025.”¹ By way of this letter, NS Power provides an update on progress regarding the Distributed Energy Resource Integration Roadmap (DERIR).

More work with stakeholders and consultant Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors (Dunsky) will be required prior to the submission of a DERIR to the NSEB. Accordingly, the Company now anticipates that the DERIR will be submitted for the Board’s review in Q1 2026.

Notwithstanding the anticipated date change, work between Dunsky and stakeholders on the DERIR has been steady and meaningful. In its September 26, 2025 update, NS Power noted that the DERIR framework, jurisdictional scan, and engagement plan had been completed, and stakeholder consultation had begun to inform future work.

The Company’s September 26, 2025 update provided an outlook on that future work to be completed prior to end of year 2025, including the following:

- A second multi-stakeholder engagement workshop in Fall 2025. This workshop will recap “what we heard” at the first workshop to confirm that stakeholder feedback was accurately captured, review additional research findings, and gather input on the proposed short-list of initiatives to include in the DERIR.
- One-on-one stakeholder engagement as required.²

¹ NS Power Letter, Re: M12177 – Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration Roadmap Report Update, September 26, 2025, p.7.

² Ibid, p.3.

The September 26, 2025 update also provided the following:

Work on the DERIR and engagement with stakeholders will now shift to discussion of specifics such as the potential suite of initiatives under the DERIR, as illustrated in the figure below:



Since the September 26, 2025 update, Dunsky has defined three DERIR pillars (Plan, Enable and Integrate); identified 20 strategies with several initiatives under each based on the jurisdictional scan, what was heard from stakeholders, and internal knowledge; and qualitatively assessed each strategy based on four criteria (strategic fit, value, cost and risk). After qualitatively assessing each strategy against the four criteria, Dunsky ranked and prioritized them based on their relevance for Nova Scotia, categorizing them as follows:

- **“Pursue”** now. High impact, ready to move forward, required as first step.
- **“Prepare”** next. Sequence based on dependencies or other factors.
- **“Nurture”** patiently. Long-term, develop slowly, revisit when conditions change.

Dunsky facilitated a second multi-stakeholder engagement workshop that was held on October 31, 2025. In addition, one-on-one discussions and in-depth interviews with stakeholder groups were completed, to further gather stakeholder feedback and address issues raised. Based on the feedback received, it has become clear that more detail on DERIR initiatives is required to support meaningful input and engagement that is critical in shaping the DERIR.

Accordingly, Dunsky has proposed to develop additional detail and conduct additional stakeholder engagement. To that end, a third workshop will be held in mid-January following the General Rate Application (M12451) hearing. Ahead of this workshop, Dunsky will provide written materials for review, including the following:

³ Ibid, p.6.

- Definitions of strategies and initiatives.
- Qualitative assessment criteria, including what informed the initiative categorization of “Pursue,” “Prepare,” and “Nurture”.
- Proposed sequencing of initiatives, expanding on what was shared at the last workshop.

Providing this information in advance of the January workshop will facilitate a productive and focused session, with the goal of finalizing the DERIR.

Given feedback received to date and the evolution of the DERIR over the last several months, it is anticipated that the DERIR will be initiative-focused leading to a directional report provided to the NSEB. The DERIR will establish suggested initiatives and timing, but is not intended to describe how, by whom, or with what resources the initiatives would be executed. The main purposes of the DERIR are to align stakeholders around shared goals, priorities and timelines, clarify the path forward, and be a communication tool to coordinate efforts and monitor progress.

Following the submission and consideration of the DERIR, it is anticipated that further work will be pursued regarding DER integration implementation planning, with the expectation being that it will focus on how, by whom, and with what resources the initiatives under the DERIR are carried out. To that end, continued stakeholder engagement and deeper study and analysis are expected, and will likely result in directional planning describing potential actions, timelines, roles, budget and resource requirements.

Accordingly, completion and submission of the DERIR is now expected by March 31, 2026, with further work on DER integration implementation planning to begin thereafter. There have been no objections from stakeholders regarding this approach. NS Power supports this approach and believes it is necessary to fulsomely address the complexity of DER integration and achieve general stakeholder support on Nova Scotia’s collective path forward.

Yours truly,



Blake Williams
Senior Director, Regulatory