

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: *The Public Utilities Act*

– and –

IN THE MATTER OF: **a review of the 2025 EVERGREEN IRP ACTION PLAN AND
ROADMAP UPDATE of NOVA SCOTIA INCORPORATED**

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Mark Peachey**
Manager, Regulatory System Planning & Innovation
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
1223 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2W5

From: The Consumer Advocate

Responses Due: **July 15, 2025**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **David J. Roberts**
Consumer Advocate
Pink Larkin
1463 South Park Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3S9
Tel: (902) 423-7777
Email: droberts@pinklarkin.com

1 **Request IR-1:**

2
3 RE: Action Plan Item 1b

4
5 (a) Please explain the potential benefits and limitations associated with Stage 2. Please
6 consider the following examples but do not limit the response to these examples.
7

- 8 • Quantified available capacity and maximum capacity to access New Brunswick, New
9 England, and Québec energy exports and imports
10 • New projects (or trends in generation investment) that may be available for supply
11 projects
12 • New loads (or trends in loads) that may constrain availability of supply
13

14 (b) On what timeframe would NS Power view Stage 2 as ideally proceeding and what are the
15 practical constraints to achieving that timeframe?
16

17 **Request IR-2:**

18
19 RE: Action Plan Item 2b

20
21 Please provide a description of data that NS Power monitors, or anticipates monitoring, to
22 understand trends in electrification impacts. If available, please provide those data. For example,
23 number and size of interconnection requests, upgrade requests; number and size of overloaded
24 facilities identified for mitigation, etc.
25

26 **Request IR-3:**

27
28 RE: Roadmap Item 2

29
30 (a) Please provide a summary of NS Power's seasonal fuel price forecast through 2030.
31

32 (b) Please provide a discussion of the current operational practices with respect to dispatch of
33 natural gas, HFO, and LFO, including consideration of average fuel prices, marginal (spot
34 market) prices, and relative dispatch of the different fuels.
35

36 (c) What considerations does the IRP make for sustaining capital investment in infrastructure
37 supporting thermal units using the fuels referenced in part (b)?
38

39 **Request IR-4:**

40
41 RE: Roadmap Item 8

42
43 Regarding the additional data needed for further assessment of the potential for geothermal
44 generation,
45

1 (a) Please confirm that the discussions with geothermal developers indicated that they would
2 be looking to Nova Scotia (or some other entity with an interest in Nova Scotia) to produce
3 the data. In other words, developers are not likely to prospect for opportunities absent
4 further investment on behalf of Nova Scotia by some entity.

5
6 (b) Is NS Power aware of any government agency or any other entity that is not in the energy
7 business (e.g., a utility, developer, etc.) that would be a good candidate to fund the work
8 referenced in part (a)?

9
10 (c) Has or will NS Power recommend to any potential funder that this work be undertaken? If
11 so, how and on what timeline? If not, why not?

12
13 **Request IR-5:**

14
15 RE: Action Plan Item 3

16
17 (a) Please provide an update on the status of the fast-acting generation capacity.

18
19 (b) What is the role of the NSIESO in planning and procuring the fast-acting generation
20 resources?

21
22 (c) Is the fast-acting generation capacity delayed from NS Power's original schedule? If so, is
23 this due in any respect to the process of "standing up" the NSIESO?

24
25 (d) It has been reported that contracts for new gas-fueled combustion turbines involve longer-
26 than-typical delivery periods.

27
28 i. What is NS Power's assessment of the market?

29 ii. Does NS Power have access to pricing and delivery schedules that are better than
30 the typical generation equipment market participant?

31 iii. Have these changes, if confirmed by NS Power, been included in any updated
32 modeling by NS Power? If so, please provide that information.

33
34 (e) Is NS Power re-evaluating the relative investment (units, capacity, or dollars) in batteries
35 (BESS) vs fast-acting generation to any extent? If so, please provide a summary and any
36 analysis that has been completed? If not, please explain briefly given the context provided
37 by the responses to the previous parts of this question.

38
39 **Request IR-6:**

40
41 Please provide an update on the status of dynamic line ratings and other grid-enhancing
42 technologies. In your response, please indicate what role these technologies may play (and at what
43 level of materiality) to achieving IRP action plan objectives.

1 **Request IR-7:**

2
3 The Consumer Advocate would be interested in an update on the relative rate impact comparison
4 (2020 IRP Report, Figure 52). For example, a comparison of the most relevant scenario reported
5 in the 2020 IRP to NS Power's current forecast – recognizing that the components of the resource
6 plan have shifted in type and schedule to some extent, and that there have been significant policy
7 changes in the intervening years. It would be of interest to understand whether those changes are
8 likely to result in significant changes in "pressure on rates."

9
10 Understanding that NS Power may not be able to produce such an analysis in a timely response to
11 this information request, please explain:

- 12
13 (a) Whether NS Power agrees that such an analysis would be useful and appropriate;
14
15 (b) How long NS Power believes such an analysis would take to complete and submit for
16 review; and
17
18 (c) Whether NS Power requires Board direction to initiate such an analysis and, if not, how it
19 will commit to completing and submitting such an analysis (including possible stakeholder
20 engagement after further scoping).