

2025

M12247

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: The Public Utilities Act

IN THE MATTER OF: An Application by Nova Scotia Power Incorporated 2025
Evergreen IRP Action Plan and Roadmap Update

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: Nova Scotia Power Incorporated ("NSPI")

From: The Industrial Group

Responses Due: July 15, 2025

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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 24th day of June 2025.

Request IR-1:

Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update – Clean Electricity Regulations – Impacts on
NSP Long Term Strategy, p. 16.

(a) What is the "current policy" referenced here?

(b) NSPI notes it anticipates "incremental system costs" associated with meeting the new CER targets. Please confirm when these additional costs are anticipated, the types or categories of costs, and provide an order of magnitude for each category of costs.

1 **Request IR-2:**

2 **Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update, Item 1: Regional Integration, p.18-20.**

3 (a) With the Reliability Tie being integrated into the system, please provide an
4 update on how wind curtailment is being modelled within the Evergreen
5 IRP and whether it is still considered to be the lowest cost option?

6 (b) Please provide an update on the work NSPI is currently doing with respect
7 to trying to reduce renewable curtailment in its system planning?

8 **Request IR-3:**

9 **Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update - Electrification Impacts – T&D System, p. 22.**

10 (a) What percentage of each of the transmission and distribution systems have
11 been modeled as described on this page?

12 (b) Has NSPI observed any patterns regarding feeder peaks (morning,
13 afternoon, summer) by geography or any other basis? Please discuss, with
14 specific examples.

15 (c) How will NSPI use the data being collected and studied in the near term,
16 medium term and long term?

17 **Request IR-4:**

18 **Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update - Provincial Green Choice Program, p. 26.**

19 (a) Is 625 MW of wind capacity under contract with NSPI, i.e. have PPAs been
20 executed for each of these projects? If not, what remains outstanding?

21 (b) Please provide a status update respecting each project, its interconnection
22 approvals and expected commercial operation date.

23 **Request IR-5:**

24 **Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update - Thermal and CT Investment, pp. 27 – 32.**

25 (a) Please explain how decreased sustaining capital values for the diesel CTs
26 “confirms the Evergreen modeling approach to assume ongoing operation
27 of the diesel CT fleet.”

1 (b) Please explain the approximate \$7.3 million sustaining capital investment
2 in VJ-1 in 2022 and nil in 2023.

3 (c) Why has the total sustaining capital for the CTs varied so significantly
4 between 2021 to 2024?

5 (d) Please explain "failed starts".

6 (e) It appears that Burnside 3 had the highest total failed starts each
7 year. Please confirm, discuss the reasons for this, the significance and if
8 NSPI is taking steps to address this.

9 **Request IR-6:**

10 **Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update - Hydrogen, p. 33.**

11 (a) Please discuss the general structure of the hydrogen tariff under
12 development.

13 (b) With whom is NSPI working to develop this tariff and cost structure?

14 (c) What are the pre-requisites before applying for approval of such a
15 tariff? Please list each and provide an estimated date of completion of
16 each pre-requisite.

17 (d) Does NSPI require overseas committed industrial buyers before applying
18 for approval? If so, what is NSPI's understanding of the status of this?

19 (e) When does NSPI expect to file an application with the NSEB for approval?

20 (f) Please file a copy of NSPI's power purchase agreement and power sales
21 agreement with EverWind as prescribed by Regulation and identify any
22 provisions in those agreements which may impact or influence the tariff
23 being developed.

24

1 **Request IR-7:**

2 **Reference:** Article in [allnovascotia.com](https://www.allnovascotia.com), July 20, 2025, “New Clean Tech Offers
3 Hydrogen on Demand”.

4 **Preamble:** This article discusses HyVera Distributed Energy’s zero-emission process
5 using pellets to power fuel cells or electricity generation of 5-10 MW.

6 (a) Is NSPI investigating and conducting any feasibility studies regarding the
7 cost and feasibility of this technology? Please discuss.

8 (b) If not, will it be evaluated in future?

9 **Request IR-8:**

10 **Reference:** CBC Article, June 5, 2025, “Mining, Energy Companies say Hydro Storage
11 Project could be Template for NS Mines” [https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/mining-energy-companies-say-hydro-storage-project-could-be-template-for-n-s-mines-1.7553746)
12 [scotia/mining-energy-companies-say-hydro-storage-project-could-be-template-for-n-s-](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/mining-energy-companies-say-hydro-storage-project-could-be-template-for-n-s-mines-1.7553746)
13 [mines-1.7553746](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/mining-energy-companies-say-hydro-storage-project-could-be-template-for-n-s-mines-1.7553746)

14 **Reference:** St. Barbara October 22, 2024 ASX Release, “Update on Investigation of
15 Renewable Energy Opportunity at Touquoy Gold Mine”
16 [https://stbarbaragold.ca/files/documents/2024.10.22-Update-on-Touquoy-Mine-](https://stbarbaragold.ca/files/documents/2024.10.22-Update-on-Touquoy-Mine-Renewable-Energy-Investigation.pdf)
17 [Renewable-Energy-Investigation.pdf](https://stbarbaragold.ca/files/documents/2024.10.22-Update-on-Touquoy-Mine-Renewable-Energy-Investigation.pdf)

18 **Preamble:** The CBC article discusses a partnership between St. Barbara and Natural
19 Forces to develop a closed-loop pumped hydro energy storage system which uses water
20 in an elevated reservoir to act as a natural battery. The St. Barbara Release states that
21 the feasibility study confirmed the system capacity is 80 MW for 7 hours (40 MW for 14
22 hours) and the overall cost of the project is anticipated to be less than similar installations.

23 (a) Does NSPI have any knowledge of this project beyond what has been
24 publicly released? Please discuss.

25 (b) Has NSPI studied pumped storage previously or is NSPI currently studying
26 this project as part of its updated system planning? If not, why not?

27 (c) Is NSPI aware of the basis for comparison in referring to “similar
28 installations? Is this battery energy storage system (BESS)?

- 1 (d) If this were feasible and cost-effective, is it the NSIESO which would be
2 conducting any future procurement for energy storage? What will be the
3 role of NSPI?

4 **Request IR-9:**

5 **Reference: N-1, IRP Action Plan Update - Hybrid Peak Electrification Scenario, p. 41.**

- 6 (a) If there is a scope of work that has been prepared, please provide. Did
7 NSPI have any input into the scope? If not, is NSPI satisfied that the work
8 will meet the needs of the utility and its ratepayers for planning purposes?

- 9 (b) Who are the members of the committee?

- 10 (c) What is the schedule/timeline for deliverables, and will the work be public?

11 **Request IR-10:**

- 12 Has NSPI prepared any update to the Relative Rate Effect Model, which was appended to the
13 2020 IRP Final Report as Appendix D? If so, please provide. If not, why not?