Request IR-01:

Reference: EfficiencyOne's Evidence, p. 13

E1 refers to the potential impact of "current economic and geopolitical uncertainty," but further states that "there has been no specific adjustment made in the 2026 target development at this time."

(a) Please confirm that E1's modelling for 2026 DSM extension is based on a modelling process that relies upon actual results from prior years, as well as forecasts for years to come.

(b) Please confirm whether E1 agrees that potential for market uncertainty is a relevant factor in preparing an accurate forecast.

(c) While acknowledging the "unpredictability of forward focused policy adoption," please explain what efforts E1 has made to assess the potential impact that the referenced "current economic and geopolitical uncertainty" may have on DSM costs and delivery.

(d) If no efforts have been made to conduct such an assessment, please explain why not, and please also explain what impact this lack of forecasting may have on E1's modelling results.

Response IR-01:

(a) Confirmed.

(b) Confirmed.

(c) EfficiencyOne (E1) is committed to preparing forecasts that use the best information available at the time. E1 has developed an economic scenario planning framework to assess economic risks arising from a broad increase in U.S. tariffs on Canadian imports and monitor emerging information arising from broader global uncertainty. This includes a review of labour and material costs and the potential implications these may have on the forecasts. E1 has completed an assessment and has concluded at this time there are no material changes that would have an impact on the 2026 DSM Extension. However, the current economic and geopolitical uncertainty has been identified as a potential risk that E1 will continue to monitor to assess any potential impact this may have on the delivery of E1's programs.

(d) Please refer to part (c) of this IR Response.

Request IR-02:

With reference to each of the programs, please provide in Microsoft Excel format a side-by-side comparison of the kWh and kW savings for the originally filed savings goals for 2025 and the savings goals for 2026 in the DSM Extension Application. Please include subtotals for Low Income and Equity.

(a) Where savings are different from 2025 to 2026, please provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for the difference in savings. Where available, please provide changes in underlying assumptions (e.g., participants, savings per participant, numbers of measures).

(b) Please provide any formulas used in deriving the kWh and kW savings for each program.

(c) If any changes in assumptions are based on evaluation results, please provide the evaluations referenced and cites to applicable pages in the evaluations.

Response IR-02:

Please refer to Attachment 1 of this IR response, filed electronically.

(a) An explanation of the primary drivers behind the savings differences between 2025 (2023-2025 DSM Plan as Approved) and 2026 is provided by program component in Attachment 1 of this IR response. In addition, Table 2 of Appendix A to the 2026 DSM Extension Application outlines the key global model inputs and assumptions used for the 2026 DSM Extension and highlights updates or changes relative to the 2023–2025 approved Plan.

The input data used to model 2025 savings in the 2023–2025 DSM Plan was developed in 2022, using the best available information at that time. Over the course of the three-year implementation period, EfficiencyOne (E1) made real-time adjustments informed by program delivery experience, internal performance tracking, independent evaluations, and evolving external factors such as market conditions, technology development, and updates to codes and standards. Internal process improvements were also made during this time frame, leading to updated naming conventions for many measures, allowing for additional granularity and transparency.

Consistent with the approach used in the 2023–2025 Plan, the input data for the 2026 DSM Extension was developed using a bottom-up approach which built upon the most recent information available at the time of model development. Given the 2026 model reflects a rebuild of input data using updated sources, the inputs do not directly correlate to that used in the 2023–2025 model. As such, it is not possible to provide a line-by-line reconciliation of input changes, particularly with respect to technical specifications at the individual measure level.

(b) Savings assumptions within the 2026 DSM Extension are primarily based on evaluated savings.

Initial savings input values are primarily compiled using the following approaches:

- For prescriptive (and some semi-prescriptive) measures, deemed energy and demand savings values from the most recent DSM Evaluation Measure Assessment document are used.
- For semi-prescriptive measures where in practice, savings are calculated on a project-by-project basis using unit specifications, representative variables are selected to

reflect the typical installation characteristics that E1 sees in practice and used to calculate energy savings inputs.

- For some semi-prescriptive measures and for bundled or custom measures for which savings are calculated at the building or project level, and represent the impacts of multiple measures or multiple building types, average evaluated savings values are used.
- For new measures, E1 performs new calculations, or uses deemed values from similar measures in other jurisdictions to estimate savings.

Adjustments are made to these initial inputs, as required, to account for future expectations associated with evaluation treatment, where changes to evaluation are expected to be material, and in cases where new measures and/or program components have been included or the measure characterization approach has been revised.

The sources and assumptions used for key measure-level inputs, such as energy savings, peak demand savings, Net-to-Gross Ratios (NTGR), and estimated useful life are provided in Attachment 2 of this IR response, filed electronically.

(c) Please refer to part (b) of this IR response.

Request IR-03:

Reference: EfficiencyOne's Evidence, p. 23, Table 5

With reference to each of the programs, please provide in Microsoft Excel format a side-by-side comparison of the originally filed budgets for 2025 and the budgets for 2026 in the DSM Extension Application.

(a) Where budgets are different from 2025 to 2026, please provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for the difference in the budgets. Where available, please provide changes in underlying assumptions (e.g., participants, spending per participant, numbers of measures, admin costs, inflation adjustments).

(b) Please provide any formulas used in deriving the budgets for each program.

Response IR-03:

Please refer to Attachment 1 of this IR response, filed electronically.

(a) An explanation of the primary drivers behind the investment differences between 2025 (2023-2025 DSM Plan as Approved) and 2026 is provided by program component in Attachment 1. In addition, Table 2 of Appendix A to the Application outlines the key global model inputs and assumptions used for the 2026 DSM Extension and highlights updates or changes relative to the 2023–2025 approved Plan.

The input data used to model 2025 savings in the 2023–2025 DSM Plan was developed in 2022, using the current available information. Over the course of the three-year implementation period, EfficiencyOne made real-time adjustments informed by program delivery experience.

Consistent with the approach used in the 2023–2025 Plan, the input data for the 2026 DSM Plan Extension was developed using a bottom-up approach which built upon the most recent information available at the time of model development. Because the 2026 model reflects a rebuild of input data using updated sources, the inputs do not directly correlate to that used in the 2023–2025 model. As such, it is not possible to provide a line-by-line reconciliation of input changes, particularly with respect to technical specifications at the individual measure level.

(b) The investment levels included in both the 2026 DSM Extension and the 2023-2025 Plan are modelled results; accordingly, formulas are not available.

Request IR-04:

Reference: EfficiencyOne's Evidence, p. 23, Table 5

For the programs not solely dedicated as serving low-income and equity customers, please provide the methods, assumptions, and formulas for calculating the kWh and kW savings and budgets that are allocated to low-income and equity customers.

(a) Please explain any differences in low-income and equity allocation methods, assumptions, and formulas from 2025 to 2026.

Response IR-04:

The methods, assumptions and formulas for calculating the low-income and equity savings and budget estimated allocations for the 2026 DSM Extension Application have been detailed in Attachment 2 of Appendix A.[1] Additionally, Attachment 2 describes the approach for reporting actual low-income and equity impacts in EfficiencyOne's (E1) DSM reporting.

Specifically, Table 1 of Attachment 2 provides the assumptions and calculations for dedicated program components for the 2026 DSM Extension and DSM Reporting (effective in 2025 DSM reporting). Table 2 provides the assumptions and calculations for estimated allocations for non-targeted program components for the 2026 DSM Extension and Table 3 provides the assumptions and calculations for incidental impacts for non-targeted program components for DSM reporting in 2025.

[1] M12249, E1 2026 DSM Extension, Appendix A, Attachment 2, April 30, 2025.

There are no differences in low-income and equity allocation methods, assumptions, and formulas between 2025 reporting and the 2026 DSM Extension estimates.

(a) Please refer to E1's response above.

Request IR-05:

Reference: EfficiencyOne's Evidence, p. 24

E1 indicates that certain directives "from the 2023-2025 DSM Plan Decision relate to, and contemplate, the next complete DSM Plan filing," and for that reason E1 proposes not to address them now.

Please confirm

(a) that the only reason E1 is proposing not to address these directives is due to its view that they relate to filing a new DSM Plan filing, and

(b) whether E1 is otherwise capable of responding to these directives now.

Response IR-05:

(a) Confirmed. EfficiencyOne (E1) developed the 2026 DSM Extension using a continuation plan approach that was based on the approved 2023-2025 DSM Plan. Directives (e) and (f) state that the information should be provided in "future resource plans" and "future applications", respectively.[1] E1 considered the 2026 DSM Extension as a continuation of the 2023-2025 Plan, as opposed to a net new resource plan. As such, E1's Application proposed that directives (e) and (f) from the 2023-2025 DSM Plan Decision be incorporated into the next five-year resource plan (2027-2031).

(b) Confirmed. Please refer to E1's responses to NSEB IR-17 and Synapse IR-11.

[1] M10473, EfficiencyOne 2023-2025 Demand Side Management (DSM) Resource Plan, Board Decision, page 65, Directives (e) and (f), November 8, 2022.

Request IR-06:

Reference: EfficiencyOne's Evidence, p. 25

E1 states: "The 2026 DSM Extension proposes to deliver 116.0 GWh of energy savings, 18.9 MW of demand savings, 16.3 MW of demand response available capacity and 4.0 GWh of energy savings from dedicated low-income and equity programs."

Please provide a table showing how these targets compare to each of 2023, 2024, and 2025, in terms of both forecast and actual results.

Response IR-06:

The table below provides the 2023 actuals, 2024 actuals and the 2025 forecast.[1]

Plan Year	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Available Capacity (MW)	Energy Savings Low-Income and Equity Programs[a] (GWh)
2023 Actuals	131.6	27.6	2.4	3.5
2024 Actuals	172.8	30.7	8.1	5.3
2025 Forecast	128.7	17.2	10.0	5.4
2026 Extension	116.0	18.9	16.3	4.0

[a] Energy savings from dedicated low-income and equity programs are applicable to Affordable Multi-Family Housing, Affordable Single-Family Homes, and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project .

[1] 2023 and 2024 actuals were reported in M11630, E1 2023 Annual Progress Report, April 1, 2024, page 1-2 and M12186, E1 2024 Annual Progress Report, March 31, 2025, page 1-2. The 2025 forecast was reported in M12290, E1 Q1 2025 DSM Report, page 2.

Request IR-07:

Reference: Appendix A to EfficiencyOne's Evidence, p. 29-37

Please highlight any significant changes in residential programs' delivery or program design from 2025 to 2026.

(a) Where significant changes are proposed, please provide the reasons for the changes.

Response IR-07:

E1 highlighted the Residential and Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI) program changes and enhancements in the 2026 DSM Extension as compared to the approved 2023-2025 Plan in Table 6 of Appendix A (page 22-23).

In 2025, E1's focus remains on the continued delivery of DSM programs, services and portfolio activities consistent with initiatives outlined in E1's approved 2023-2025 DSM Plan. 2025 will see some changes to Residential program offerings, including the discontinuation of the Appliance Retirement program component (ended as of January 8, 2025) and the discontinuation of the Green Heat program component (closing at the end of 2025 due to the continued decline in savings and participation). With the closure of Appliance Retirement, E1 is no longer offering appliance replacements in the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project in 2025. Beginning July 1, 2025, Efficient Product Installation will shift its focus to electrician-installed measures like smart thermostats, hot water controllers, humidity sensors, dimmer switches, motion sensors and solar powered outdoor security lights. The program will no longer offer all the products traditionally installed, notably LED bulb replacements. All of these program component changes will carry forward into 2026.

In 2026, E1 will incorporate a streamlined offering for residential customers seeking heating system upgrades exclusively within Home Energy Assessment, with the ending of the Green Heat program component in 2025. This may include remote energy assessments with heating system upgrade recommendation reports.

(a) There are no significant proposed changes in 2026 programs as compared to 2025.