

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: *The Public Utilities Act*

– and –

IN THE MATTER OF an application by EFFICIENCYONE for approval of the 2026 DSM Extension for Demand-Side Management Activities between EfficiencyOne and Nova Scotia Power Inc., and for approval of the amendment to the 2023-2025 Demand-Side Management Purchase Agreement between EfficiencyOne and Nova Scotia Power Inc.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Peach, H. Gil**
H. Gil Peach & Associates LLC

From: The Consumer Advocate

Responses Due: **July 3, 2025**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **David J. Roberts**
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1 **Request IR-1:**

2
3 **Reference:** 2024 Savings Verification, Table 7, and below (p. 46-47):

4
5 "The three claims include for Green Heat (2 analyses out of 3), although the magnitude of each is
6 only 0.1% (a participation difference of one-tenth of one percent, which is far too small to be of
7 practical importance). The other claim is for Efficient Products Installation (1 analysis out of 3),
8 which is also tiny (0.4% or four-tenths of one percent). There is no claim for Home Energy
9 Assessment program (0 out of 3)."

- 10
11 a. Given that the evaluation found for the Grean Heat program that the high user
12 treatment group had a 0.4% participation rate compared to the 0.3% participation
13 rate for the control group (the referenced 0.1% difference), this equates to a 33%
14 increase (0.1/0.3) in participation rates between the control and treatment group.
15 Do the authors believe that a 33% increase in participation rates is not of "practical
16 importance"?
- 17 b. Given that the evaluation found for the EPI program that the high user treatment
18 group had a 2.0% participation rate compared to the 1.6% participation rate for the
19 control group (the referenced 0.4% difference), this equates to a 25% increase
20 (0.4/1.6) in participation rates between the control and treatment group. Do the
21 authors believe that a 25% increase in participation rates is not of "practical
22 importance"?
- 23 c. Given that the evaluation found for the Grean Heat program that the medium user
24 treatment group had a 0.2% participation rate compared to the 0.1% participation
25 rate for the control group (the referenced 0.1% difference), this equates to a 50%
26 increase (0.1/0.2) in participation rates between the control and treatment group.
27 Do the authors believe that a 50% increase in participation rates is not of "practical
28 importance"?
- 29
30

31 **Request IR-2:**

32
33 **Reference:** 2024 Savings Verification, p. 52 re: discussion on the "Effect Size at the Household
34 Level"

- 35
36 a. Do the authors have any details on the dispersion of individual household savings
37 around the mean household saving level? If so, please provide this information?
- 38 b. Do the authors believe that an average or mean value is fully representative of
39 participant outcomes for participants in the behavior program?
- 40

41 **Request IR-3:**

42
43 **Reference:** 2024 Savings Verification, p. 53:

44
45 "... we have only the metered (AMI) based result, which is a black box ..."

- 1
2 a. What do the authors mean that AMI data is a "black box"?
3 b. Do the author's consider engineering assumptions to be better than meter data?
4 c. Do the authors believe that AMI data is not useful for system planning?

5
6 **Request IR-4:**

7
8 **Reference:** 2024 Savings Verification, p. 54:
9

10 "Currently, behavioural RCTs, of which the current program is an example, are black boxes. There
11 is no coherent specification of the mechanism or warrant, either of specific behaviors that would
12 save energy or of how much energy would be saved through these (unknown) behaviours"

- 13
14 a. Is it the author's understanding that the Home Energy Reports provided in the
15 Behaviour Program provide no actionable energy saving recommendations?
16 Please explain your response.
17 b. Is it the author's contention that there are no measured savings at a system level?
18 Please explain your response.

19
20 **Request IR-5:**

21
22 **Reference:** 2024 Savings Verification, p. 55:
23

24 What amount of savings would the authors consider to be "real" energy savings at a household
25 level and why?