

2 **NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD**3 **IN THE MATTER OF:** *The Public Utilities Act*4 **IN THE MATTER OF:** **An Application by EfficiencyOne for approval of a New Benefit-**
5 **Cost Analysis Test for Evaluating Demand Side Management**
6 **Plans**

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8 **INFORMATION REQUESTS**

To: Courtney Lane
Synapse Energy Economics ("Synapse")

From: The Industrial Group

Responses Due: August 21, 2025

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10 Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 31st day of July 2025.

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12 **Request IR-1:**13 **Reference:** Exhibit E-9, page 6-7.14 **Synapse cites Step 1 as being to articulate Nova Scotia's applicable policy goals related**
15 **to distributed energy resources (DER).**

16 (a) Please confirm or otherwise explain whether Synapse has considered the
17 *Public Utilities Act*, section 79L(4) requirement that DER activities are "...in
18 the best interests of Nova Scotia Power Incorporated's customers..." as
19 one part of the applicable policy goals for DERs.

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1 (b) Is it Synapse's understanding that movement towards a broad societal-type
2 BCA test (as proposed by E1) is now permitted because the "best interests"
3 of customers should be read more broadly than in previous regulator
4 decisions (i.e., the best interests of customers is now about more than rates
5 and reliability, etc.)?

6 (c) If the Energy Board were to adopt a PAC test as the primary test (with
7 information from the societal-type BCA test further informing program and
8 measure adoption), is it Synapse's contention that such an approach would
9 be inconsistent with the Nova Scotia policy goals? If yes, please explain
10 how such an approach would be inconsistent with the Nova Scotia policy
11 goals?

12 **Request IR-2:**

13 **Reference: Exhibit E-9 page 23.**

14 (a) Does Synapse's support of the E1 proposed BCA test consider the source
15 of funds for the DER programming? Specifically, given the funds for the
16 programming are derived from utility rates, does Synapse expect there
17 should be a closer linkage between the benefits/costs included in the BCA
18 test to the utility function, rather than the societal perspective (i.e., as might
19 be appropriate if the funding was from tax revenues, or federal transfers)?
20 If not, why not?

21 (b) If the BCA results for a particular DER measure are materially aided by
22 inclusion of such factors as comfort, amenity, empowerment, and pride, do
23 such benefits meet the normal utility principles for inclusion in electricity
24 rates, such as being used, useful, necessary, and prudently acquired to
25 provide utility service?