M12320

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: **THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: **AN APPLICATION** by **NOVA SCOTIA POWER INC.** for Approval of CI Various (ATOs) – General Plant Routines – P028

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Nova Scotia Power Incorporated**
Lana Myatt
Senior Regulatory Analyst
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Halifax, NS, B3J 3S8
By email: lana.myatt@nspower.ca

From: Board Staff
Nova Scotia Energy Board

Responses Due: **Friday July 18, 2025**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Anh Nguyen**
Analyst
Nova Scotia Energy Board
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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 26th day of June 2025.

Crystal Henwood

Crystal Henwood, Clerk of the Board

Request IR-1:

Board staff notes that this routine's 2024 actual expenditure is approximately 48% over the original 2024 ACE Plan budget. NS Power explained that it experienced higher than anticipated failures of telecom equipment and battery banks, resulting in increased contractor, material and labour costs for equipment repairs and replacement, including field review of several radio towers and microwave antennas and the associated resolution of identified deficiencies.

a) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the 2024 actual expenditure for this routine, categorized by labour, materials, contractor services and any other relevant costs (e.g. overheads, equipment rentals, etc.)
b) Please identify the main factors that contributed the most to the additional spending for this routine beyond the 2024 budget.
c) Please explain why there were more telecom equipment failures in 2024.
d) Were the field reviews conducted routinely or only because of the equipment failures?
e) What does NS Power mean by the "associated resolution of identified deficiencies"?

Request IR-2:

The 2024 actual expenditure for this routine is approximately 34% higher than the 2025 ACE Plan budget and almost 18% higher than the 2024 forecast included in NS Power's 2025 ACE Plan (Matter M12012).

a) Does NS Power expect the 2025 actual expenditure for this routine to remain within the budgeted amount?
    i. If yes, what changes does NS Power expect to see in 2025 that keep the expenditure for this routine from going over budget?
    ii. If no, what does NS Power now forecast for 2025 expenditure for the routine?
b) What interim measures are in place for 2025 to control or flag budget deviations if the forecast method is known to lag actual activity?

Request IR-3:

Does NS Power intend to change the way it forecasts this routine in 2026?

a) If yes, how?
b) If no, why not?