

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: *The Public Utilities Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.380, as amended

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED's 2025 Load
Forecast Report

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NS Power)

From: Small Business Advocate

Responses Due: August 19th, 2025

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Melissa P. MacAdam**
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Issued at Bedford, Nova Scotia on this 28th day of July, 2025

Request IR-1:

Refer to Exhibit N-1, Nova Scotia Power Incorporated 2025 Load Forecast Report, (the “Report”), Section 4.1, Historical Class Sales and Energy Data, page 16 of 94 and respond to the following:

- a) Please explain the planned timeline for transitioning from “billed” sales to AMI-based “accrued” sales in the SAE models.
- b) Please indicate whether a specific forecast year is targeted for this transition and whether this shift will apply to all rate classes.
- c) Has NS Power conducted any back-testing or validation comparing billed sales and AMI-based accrued sales for 2024 or prior years? If so, please provide the results.
- d) Have small business customers (specifically those in rate classes 10, 11, and 21), who do not yet have AMI meters or are not fully connected to AMI infrastructure, been considered in the development of this transition?

Request IR-2:

Refer to Report, Section 4.3, Economic Information, page 27 of 94 and respond to the following:

The last paragraph states “The manufacturing employment forecast is based on the 2024 CBoC forecast as the 2025 CBoC forecast has a drop in both 2024 and 2025 (total decrease of over 2800 manufacturing jobs in the latest forecast) that is likely a result of Stats Can reporting and corresponding modeling rather than an actual drop in manufacturing employment.¹”. Please explain the potential impact of this on the 2025 load forecast for class 21 (Small Industrial) customers.

- a) Specifically, please clarify how sensitive the forecast is to the manufacturing employment forecast input and whether any adjustments or alternative assumptions were considered.

Request IR-3:

Refer to Report, Section 4.4.1, Heat Pumps, page 34 of 94 and respond to the following:

- a) Please list all the provincial and federal heat pump incentives assumed to be available to commercial customers in the development of the 2025 Load Forecast. This should include any rebates, grants, subsidies, or financing programs considered, along with their respective eligibility criteria, incentive values, and assumed start/end dates.
- b) Please confirm whether the forecast be different without the incentives? Explain.

Request IR-4:

Refer to Report, Section 4.4.2, Water Heaters, page 37 of 94 and respond to the following:

The section states, at lines 12-14, that “overall efficiency is expected to improve over the forecast period through a combination of new heat pump technology as well as replacement of existing stock with improved efficiency units.” Please identify any DSM incentives or provincial/federal code and standard changes that are assumed to drive these efficiency improvements for commercial customers.

¹ Exhibit N-1, Nova Scotia Power Incorporated 2025 Load Forecast Report, Page 27 of 94, Line 12-15

- 1 a) Please include the assumed effective dates and associated impacts, if available.

2
3 **Request IR-5:**

4 Refer to Report, Section 4.4.4, Solar Generation (PV), page 44 of 94 and respond to the following:

- 5
6 a) Figures 31 and 32 show that the average peak load per customer is higher for net-metering
7 customers compared to non-net-metering customers during both summer and winter
8 periods. What percentage of all NS Power's customers are net-metering customers and how
9 many are non-net-metering customers?

10
11 **Request IR-6:**

12 Refer to Report, Section 4.4.4, Solar Generation (PV), page 43 of 94 and respond to the following:

- 13
14 a) Of the new behind-the-meter (BTM) solar installations projected for 2025–2035 in Figure
15 30, approximately what percentage is attributed to customer classes 10 (Small General), 11
16 (General), and 21 (Small Industrial)?
17 b) Were any incentives or barriers, such as net-metering caps, interconnection costs, or solar
18 subsidies, explicitly considered in developing these projections?
19 i) If so, please describe the assumptions, eligibility by class, and the timing of these factors.

20
21 **Request IR-7:**

22 Refer to Report, Section 4.5, *Price Data*, page 52 of 94 and respond to the following:

- 23
24 a) These price elasticity estimations are based on subsets of customers (those enrolled in the
25 TVP pilot) and represent changes in demand relative to hourly or daily pricing changes.
26 What percentage of small businesses are in the TVP pilot program (over the forecast
27 period)? Can you provide information about the subsets of customers enrolled in the pilot
28 program?
29 b) The price elasticity values have changed significantly from the 2024 Load Forecast Report,
30 ("2024 Report") M11689, Exhibit N-1, Section 4.5 Price Data, pages 51 – 53 of 100. Please
31 provide data and/or calculations as to why these have changed significantly.

32
33 **Request IR-8:**

34 Refer to Report, Section 4.6, Renewable to Retail, page 56 of 94 and respond to the following:

- 35
36 a) Will RTR-supplied electricity result in higher total energy costs for participating small
37 business customers relative to standard NS Power supply?
38 i) Please provide the expected per-kWh cost comparison, including charges for balancing
39 or backup services.
40 b) If the RTR project experiences construction delays or fails to meet its 2027 in-service date,
41 how will this affect forecasted energy allocations, rates, and system costs, particularly for
42 non-participating customers in the small business classes?
43 c) Please identify the wind generation source referenced on pages 55-56.
44 i) Have any other suppliers submitted applications to NSUARB for approval?

1 ii) If yes, identify these applicants and provide the status of those applications.
2

3 **Request IR-9:**

4 Refer to Report, Section 10.0, Peak Demand, page 76 of 94 and respond to the following:
5

- 6 a) What are the EV assumptions for the small business classes and what percentage of the EV
7 load is from small businesses?
8 b) What assumptions have you made about demand response and similar programs and how
9 would the system peak change if customers did not participate?
10

11 **Request IR-10:**

12 Refer to Report, Section 10.0, Peak Demand, page 78 of 94 and respond to the following:
13

- 14 a) NS Power is working with E1 on a two-phase Eco Shift pilot project to investigate
15 automatic and manual control of various loads for commercial and industrial customers.
16 What percentage of the Eco Shift pilot are small businesses?
17 b) When will the 2025 results be released?
18

19 **Request IR-11:**

20 Refer to Report, Section 10.0, Peak Demand, page 83 of 94 and respond to the following:
21

- 22 a) At lines 1-2, NS Power states: “As discussed in Section 4.4, the EV contribution to peak is
23 expected to be partially mitigated via utility managed charging”. What does “Utility
24 Managed” mean?
25 i) Is this a demand response program?
26 b) How does the Utility Managed charging program affect EV charging for small business
27 customers?
28

29 **Request IR-12:**

30 Refer to Report, Section 10.1, Analysis of 2024 Actual Peak, page 84 of 94 and respond to the
31 following:
32

- 33 a) Figure 67, at lines 13-14, does not have a legend. Please confirm which is morning, and
34 which is evening peak?
35 i) What do the data points represent?
36

37 **Request IR-13:**

38 Refer to Report, Section 10.3, End Use Peak Estimates, pages 86-87 of 94 and respond to the
39 following:
40

41 For Figures 69 (on page 86) and 70 (on page 87), why does the EV peak contribution increase
42 more for Commercial End-Use than for Residential from 2025 to 2034?

- 43 a) Please provide the workbook for this data?