M12370

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 C0061003 – POA LP HP IP Turbine Refurbishment – $4,861,261

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To:
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From:
Board Staff
Nova Scotia Energy Board

Responses Due: Monday, August 11, 2025

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 18th day of July, 2025.

Crystal Henwood

Crystal Henwood, Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

Request IR-1:

a) What is the current rated capacity (in MW) of the Point Aconi (PA) generating unit?
b) Is the PA unit classified as lower-emitting or higher-emitting?
c) Is the PA unit classified as lower-cost or higher-cost compared to other NS Power's thermal units?
d) What is the expected retirement date of this unit?
e) What will be the role of this unit after its retirement?
f) Please provide a list of all capital investments planned for this unit prior to its retirement, including the estimated year of each investment.
g) Please provide an estimate of the power generation from this unit for each of the next five years.
h) Please describe the current PA unit's contribution to the system peak, including how and when it will be replaced.

Request IR-2:

Starting in 2014, please provide the $/MWh values for each year for the PA unit and compare this cost to similar thermal units such as Point Tupper and Lingan.

Request IR-3:

a) Please describe the impact on the utility's firm capacity, if this project is not implemented.
b) Were any new firm capacity resources considered to replace the PA firm capacity?
    i. If yes, please explain.
    ii. If not, why not?

Request IR-4:

a) Please explain how this refurbishment project aligns with NS Power's plan to meet the 80% renewable target by 2030.
b) Please explain the specific actions NS Power has taken since the 2014 refurbishment to add new firm capacity to replace PA's unit capacity.
c) Please explain the specific actions NS Power has taken since the 2014 refurbishment to extend the operation of the PA generating unit closer to its retirement date.

Request IR-5:

Page 2 of the application states: “This project is critical to addressing immediate risks identified through condition assessments of the LP, HP, and IP turbine component.”

a) When were the most recent condition assessments completed on the LP, HP, and IP turbine components?
b) Please describe the scope of work associated with these condition assessments.
c) Please describe the specific findings of these condition assessments.
d) Please describe the specific immediate risks that were identified through these condition assessments.

Request IR-6:

Page 2 of the application states: “The most recent major inspection of these components (LP, HP and IP nozzles, rotor, inner and outer casings, upper and lower bearings, and thermocouples) was conducted in 2014.”

a) Please describe the scope of work associated with this inspection.
b) Please describe the specific findings of this inspection.
c) What is the OEM’s recommendation for time period/operating hours between inspections for these components?
    i. If the last major inspection of these components does not fall within the limits with the OEM’s recommendation, please explain why NS Power opted not to comply with this recommendation.

Request IR-7:

Page 2 of the application states: “By 2025, LP, HP and IP turbine will have accumulated over 75,000 operating hours and 80 start/stop cycles since the previous inspection, reaching the threshold for overhaul as defined by NS Power’s asset management strategy for steam turbines.”

a) What is the threshold for overhaul as defined by NS Power’s asset management strategy for steam turbines?
b) Please explain how this threshold was developed.

Request IR-8:

Page 2 of the application states: “Performing the LP, HP and IP turbine refurbishment during the planned 2025 outage aligns with NS Power’s asset management strategy, ensuring operational efficiency and minimizing the risk of future unplanned outages.”

a) Please describe the purpose of the planned outage in 2025.
b) Please describe any other work components/investments that will be completed during the outage.

Request IR-9:

a) What is the required lead time for parts delivery for the project?
b) Will parts be purchased in advance of the planned outage to limit the impact that delivery delay may have on overall outage time?
    i. If not, why not?

Request IR-10:

a) If the inspection reveals that there are some components that do not need to be replaced, will NS Power be able to return purchased replacement parts for a credit?
b) If not, what will NS Power with the parts that are not required?

Request IR-11:

Regarding the Project Cost Estimate Input Checklist and Maturity Matrix on pages 4 to 5 of the application:

a) The matrix suggests that 97% of the Class 1 deliverables for the proposed project are complete (the same percentage as completed Class 3 deliverables). As such, please explain why the project costs estimate has not been developed to a Class 1 level.
b) Please explain the relevance of the “Inclusions” noted on page 5, particularly given the last line which states: “This RP excludes power generating facilities and high-voltage transmission”.

Request IR-12:

Attachments 1, 2 and 3 of the application provide vendor pricing that appears to be based on a master services agreement between the vendor and NS Power. The vendor quotes for “Turbine Parts” and for “Turbine Contractor” in U.S. dollars and there is an additional amount added to the price to convert from U.S. to Canadian dollars.

a) Please confirm as noted, that all third-party pricing provided on Page 3 of the application, including the pricing from the selected vendor, was obtained through a competitive procurement process.
    i. If not confirmed, please explain.

b) If NS Power intends to sole-source any work to the vendor that will not involve a competitive procurement process, please explain whether there are any Canadian companies that could have provided the work and how NS Power can ensure it is obtaining best value for money for this work without a competitive procurement process.

Request IR-13:

Assuming the project is approved by the Board and the full project cost is included in NS Power's rate base once placed into service, please identify the rate base dollar amount associated with the project that NS Power expects to transfer to the DDA upon retirement of the POA generating facility in 2029/30.

Request IR-14:

a) If this project were not to proceed, please identify the net present value of the total replacement cost of energy to replace POA energy for 2026 to 2029, assuming 7555, 2592, 1264 and 481 service hours for POA in 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029, respectively (as identified in response to NSUARB IR-18 in the 2025 ACE Plan proceeding (M12012)).

b) Please identify all assumptions used for the analysis and provide the results in pdf and electronic format with all formulae intact.