NSPML Opening Statement December 15, 2025

Before I provide a statement on the 2026 NSPML Assessment, I wanted to briefly provide an operational update on the Maritime Link.

At NSPML, our number one priority is the safety of our employees, contractors and the public. I'm pleased to report that NSPML's safety performance continues to be strong in 2025, with zero injuries again this year. We are particularly proud of this achievement given the robust work program that included a material portion of the rock protection campaign successfully completed in November.

Our next highest priority is the prudent management of our asset, as availability of the Maritime Link is key to Nova Scotians receiving the contracted benefits of the overall Lower Churchill Project. With respect to availability, the Maritime Link continues to operate at world class standards, achieving a monopole availability of greater than 99.9% for 2023, 2024 and YTD 2025.

This availability has supported another year of strong energy deliveries into Nova Scotia. Specifically, year to date delivery levels have already exceeded the 1.9 TWh per annum delivered in each of 2023 and 2024 - and this is despite exceptionally dry conditions in the region.

This is the 8th year of operation for the Maritime Link. The growing operational experience of our technical resources was exemplified again in 2025 as evidenced by the continued high-level of performance of the Maritime Link. I am very proud of our team along with our supporting contractors in continuing to achieve such a high standard for our customers, for Nova Scotia and for Newfoundland & Labrador.

NSPML's 2026 Assessment Application is for $198.7M,of which $22.0M relates to Operations and Maintenance of the Maritime Link with the remainder being depreciation and financing costs.

Our 2026 Assessment has been carefully compiled to ensure adequate resources to support operation of the Maritime Link consistent with past performance while doing so in a low-cost manner. Maintaining performance of the Link is critical to supporting the value achieved via transport of energy into Nova Scotia.

In terms of this proceeding, the only third-party evidence put forth relates to the Board's determination of an appropriate return on equity and debt to equity percentages. We were pleased to see alignment in regard to an appropriate debt to equity for NSPML's sustaining capital program. In terms of an appropriate return on equity, we refer the Board and Customer representatives to the initial and rebuttal evidence of Concentric Energy Advisors which supports an equity return for the Company in the range of 10.1 to 10.35 percent. Despite Concentrics recommended ROE range, I confirm the Company's request for continuation of the 9 percent ROE for the reasons set out in our Application, recognizing affordability for customers.

Although evidence in response to NSPML's Assessment filing is limited to determination of an appropriate ROE and DER, there were a number of areas identified in the Boards 2025 decision that we have addressed in this Assessment Application.

These include consideration of a multi-year assessment, depreciation study, and provision of a long-term asset management plan. We are hopeful that the information contained in our Application and in response to Information Requests has been helpful in responding to these and other items, and we look forward to answering any additional questions that arise during this hearing.

Finally, I wanted to reference an item included in NSPML's approved 2025 Assessment. Specifically, it included a dollar amount (which is a confidential number) relating to achieving a contingency support agreement. Although engagement continues, an agreement will not be reached in 2025 and, as such, associated costs were not incurred. We believe it is reasonable that the funds should be provided back to customers (with appropriate WACC) and we commit to do so through a reduction from our first assessment payment in 2026. Saying tihs, we continue to believe achievement of a contingency support agreement is an important piece of the overall Cable repair Framework and, as such, we are continuing to pursue with the goal of finalizing in 2026.

In summation, The Maritime Link is a key component of Nova Scotia's Energy present, and future, it is a transformational mega project for the Atlantic Region. Prudent management, operation, and maintenance of the Maritime Link has, and will continue to be, critical to delivering significant benefits for Nova Scotians.

Thank you for your attention, we look forward to answering any questions you have regarding our 2026 Assessment application.