

Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator (NSIESO)
Responses to Synapse Energy Economics (SEE) Information Requests

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Request IR - 1

Reference: Application Exhibit B-2, page 20, “This first phase of work has roles related to System Planning”.

a) Explain the tasks included in the forecast for the first phase of work (October 2025 to March 2026) related to the commencement of NSIESO’s first Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) exercise.

b) Describe the current status of the NSIESO’s approach to conducting the next IRP, including (if available, as part of the response) any preliminary documents outlining the timeline, intended modeling structure, IRP process, planned use of consultants, and any other relevant information.

c) Regardless of whether a full timeline of the next IRP process is available, does the NSIESO have a preliminary understanding of when the IRP might be completed, and/or when initial draft modeling results on resource portfolio options might be available?

Response IR - 1

a) Please see Response to NSEB IR-17(b).

b) The NSIESO has yet to complete high-level and detailed planning of activities to complete its first IRP. The NSIESO will commence its first IRP exercise by October 24, 2025, with the posting of an RFP to acquire consulting services to support IRP development.

c) Please see Response to NSEB IR-17(c).

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Request IR - 2

Reference: NS Power Reply Submission, September 4, 2025, M12247, page 19, the ELCC study and the Net Zero Atlantic Hybrid Peak Study.

- a) In early August, Net Zero Atlantic released a report entitled “Mitigating the Impact of Building Electrification on Peak Demand in Atlantic Canada”.¹ Provide NSIESO’s initial understanding of how the information in the report may or will be used when considering scenarios and input assumptions for IRP modeling.
- b) Provide any updates to the status of the ELCC study, and whether the responsibility for managing the study will be taken on by NSPI or NSIESO.

Response IR - 2

- a) With the current focus on transition activities NSIESO has not specifically assessed Net Zero Atlantic’s report entitled “Mitigating the Impact of Building Electrification on Peak Demand in Atlantic Canada” and how it may be used in the IRP process. The NSIESO is planning to start its IRP process in October 2025 and it anticipates a comprehensive stakeholder process that will allow for stakeholder input around key modelling assumptions which would allow input from this or other studies to be appropriately discussed and considered.
- b) The NSIESO doesn’t have any update to provide on the status of the ELCC study. It will be discussing the ELCC study with Nova Scotia Power as part of its transition planning activities.

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Request IR - 3

Reference: Application, Exhibit B-2, pages 19-21, employee transfers and staffing and consultants.

- a) Confirm, or explain the extent to which otherwise, that staffing transfers to NS IESO from NS Power associated with the system planning function will result in the next IRP exercise being overseen by staff who have formerly been part of the most recent NS Power IRP update, or the NS Power Evergreen IRP in 2022.
- b) Are there any new employees, who were not involved in the 2025 IRP Action Plan update, slated to work in senior roles or capacities for the new IRP commencing this fall?
- c) Provide any additional information available on the makeup of new staff, or NS Power-transitioned staff, that is relevant to the planned undertaking of the next IRP.
- d) Please confirm whether the full 0.50M for consulting fees in Table 7 are for IRP related tasks.
- e) Please provide the scope of work associated with the 0.50M consulting fees estimate in Table 7.
- f) Has NSIESO identified the consulting firm(s) and modeling package(s) to be used for the forthcoming IRP? If so, please identify them.
- g) Please confirm whether NSIESO has incorporated IRP modeling software fees into its cost estimates, and if so, which category it is included in.

Response IR - 3

- a) Please refer to Response to NSEB IR-17 (b) and (c) and Response to CA IR-5 (a) and (b).
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b) Please refer to Response to NSEB IR-17 (b) and (c) and Response to CA IR-5 (a) and (b).

c) Please refer to Response to NSEB IR-13 (a). Under the *More Access to Energy Act*,

Section 36 (1): “The IESO shall make an offer of employment to all employees of NSPI

who are not subject to a collective agreement whose position or role has been transferred

to the IESO, and such offer must be in accordance with Section 40. (2) For greater

certainty, a non-union employee who has been offered a position or role with the IESO

pursuant to subsection (1) may accept or decline the offer of employment.” We don’t yet

know the exact make up of staff that will be involved in the planned undertaking of the

IRP. At this time, the CEO is new and will be part of setting the direction for how the

NSIESO will conduct its IRP exercise.

d) The 0.50 million for consulting fees in Table 7 are budgeted for IRP related tasks only.

e) Please see Response to NSEB-IR17(a).

f) The NSIESO has not identified the consulting firm(s) and modeling package(s) to be

used for the forthcoming IRP. The NSIESO is in the early stages of planning the work,

which will include an assessment of potential consultant needs and modelling package(s)

to be used.

g) The NSIESO has not yet incorporated IRP modeling software fees into its cost estimates.

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Request IR - 4

Reference: Application, Exhibit B-2, pages 25-26, Section F., Procurement

- a) What is the status, including the timeline, of the 300 MW competitive RFP described on page 26?
- b) What types of resources are eligible to respond to the 300 MW competitive RFP? As part of the response, state whether the RFP is open to any dispatchable resource, including battery energy storage systems, or only to generation technologies and whether resources that pair dispatchable battery technologies with renewable energy sources, and/or other energy sources are eligible.
- c) Please provide more information regarding the “Other Capacity Contract Opportunities” (page 26) that NSIESO is currently investigating. In the response, please state the type of resources, project timeline, and other relevant information associated with those other opportunities. Please also provide a breakdown of how the 0.43M cost was developed for this cost category, similar to the level of detail provided for the 300 MW RFP cost category.
- d) If available, please provide a draft version of the planned RFP with any appropriate confidentiality measures taken.

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Response IR - 4

(a) NSIESO intends to open the RFP in calendar Q1 2026 and provide eight weeks for bid submission. NSIESO decided to use calendar Q4 2025 to further develop the RFP documentation by:

- i. hiring an engineering firm with regional single cycle combustion turbine (“SCCT”) technical design experience to update the functional specifications and site characteristics.
- ii. incorporating the feedback from an engineering consulting firm different than (i) that reviewed the NB Power procurement documentation.
- iii. hiring an advisory firm with extensive North American procurement and market experience to refine the NSIESO RFP strategy and execution plans given the current SCCT market.
- iv. incorporating stakeholder feedback during calendar Q4 2025.

NSIESO has contracted all the support functions necessary to execute the RFP except (i) and (iii), which are expected to be under contract by October 1, 2025.

b) Only SCCT. Section 10(3) of the Act directs NSIESO to operate on the basis of the results of the most recent update to the IRP as filed by NSPI with the NSEB. It is NSIESO’s understanding that the NSPI IRP indicates that 300MW of SCCT is immediately required with a further 300MW by 2030. Multiple consultants engaged by the NSIESO have advised that SCCT implementation schedules extend beyond 2030. The NSIESO is therefore

advancing a 300MW RFP for SCCT to address that schedule, which may result in an
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41 increased contracted quantity depending on bid prices and schedules, and any NSIESO
42 system planning reviews in calendar Q1 2026.

43 c) The type of resource is 100MW SCCT with an expected commercial operations date in Fall
44 2028. The budget was based on the following assumptions:

45 i. \$50,000 for legal support during contractual negotiations.

46 ii. \$302,083 for credit support (\$30,208 monthly for 10 months, for the posting of two
47 USD \$25 million letters of credit, at 0.5% annual carrying cost each and assuming
48 1.45 CAD/USD).

49 iii. \$10,000 for technical support during contractual negotiations.

50 iv. \$72,417 contingency (20%).

51 v. \$434,500 Total, rounded to \$0.43 million.

52 d) The documentation will achieve draft status upon receipt of all preliminary input received
53 from the third parties referenced in (a).