

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: MORE ACCESS TO ENERGY ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: An Application by the Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator (NSIESO) for approval of its proposed expenditure and revenue requirement for the test year ending March 31, 2026

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Jason T. Cooke, K.C**
Burchell Wickwire Bryson LLP
1900-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax NS B3J 3N4
By email: jcooke@bwblp.ca

From: Synapse Energy Economics Inc.
Bob Fagan and Shelley Kwok

Responses Due: **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Bob Fagan**
Synapse Energy Economics Inc.
485 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139
Tel: 617-661-3248
Email: rfagan@synapse-energy.com and skwok@synapse-energy.com

Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 16th day of September, 2025.



for Crystal Henwood, Clerk of the Board

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?

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.

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

¹ See <https://netzeroatlantic.ca/sites/default/files/2025-08/2025%20Report%20Mitigating%20peak%20demand%20in%20Atlantic%20Canada%20HIGH-RES.pdf>

1 being overseen by staff who have formerly been part of the most recent NS Power IRP
2 update, or the NS Power Evergreen IRP in 2022.

3 b) Are there any new employees, who were not involved in the 2025 IRP Action Plan update,
4 slated to work in senior roles or capacities for the new IRP commencing this fall?

5 c) Provide any additional information available on the makeup of new staff, or NS Power-
6 transitioned staff, that is relevant to the planned undertaking of the next IRP.

7 d) Please confirm whether the full 0.50M for consulting fees in Table 7 are for IRP related
8 tasks.

9 e) Please provide the scope of work associated with the 0.50M consulting fees estimate in
10 Table 7.

11 f) Has NSIESO identified the consulting firm(s) and modeling package(s) to be used for the
12 forthcoming IRP? If so, please identify them.

13 g) Please confirm whether NSIESO has incorporated IRP modeling software fees into its
14 cost estimates, and if so, which category it is included in.

15 **Request IR-4:**

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

17 a) What is the status, including the timeline, of the 300 MW competitive RFP described on
18 page 26?

19 b) What types of resources are eligible to respond to the 300 MW competitive RFP? As part
20 of the response, state whether the RFP is open to any dispatchable resource, including
21 battery energy storage systems, or only to generation technologies and whether resources
22 that pair dispatchable battery technologies with renewable energy sources, and/or other
23 energy sources are eligible.

24 c) Please provide more information regarding the "Other Capacity Contract Opportunities"
25 (page 26) that NSIESO is currently investigating. In the response, please state the type of
26 resources, project timeline, and other relevant information associated with those other
27 opportunities. Please also provide a breakdown of how the 0.43M cost was developed for
28 this cost category, similar to the level of detail provided for the 300 MW RFP cost category.

29 d) If available, please provide a draft version of the planned RFP with any appropriate
30 confidentiality measures taken.