

Interpretation

In these regulations unless the context requires otherwise:

Words importing male persons include female persons and corporations.

Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa.

Marginal notes and appended citations form no part of these regulations and are deemed to have been inserted for convenience of reference only.

Definitions

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“Board”	“Board” means the Nova Scotia Energy Board;
“Company”	“Company” means Nova Scotia Power Incorporated;
“Customer”	“customer” includes a person who is receiving, intends to receive, or has received electrical energy or electric services from the Company. For greater certainty, this includes an RtR Customer receiving Distribution System Access;
“Demand”	“demand” means the maximum kW/kVA recorded over a specified time period;

“Distribution System Access”	The services provided by the Company under the Distribution Tariff to provide for the connection of the RtR Customer to the Company’s distribution system, but does not include the provision of electricity. These services are comprised of delivery of electricity on the distribution system and related services including connections, disconnections, line and service extensions, inspection services, meter services, power restoration, meter reading, and customer service, all in accordance with the applicable Regulations;
“Estimated Meter Read”	“estimated meter read” means an estimation of electricity consumption as determined by Nova Scotia Power Incorporated;
“Farming or Fishing Unit”	“farming or fishing unit” means a farming or fishing business at one location, whether a single or family operation, partnership, or incorporated business;
“Licenced Retail Supplier (LRS)”	A Retail Supplier who: (a) holds a valid Retail Supplier Licence; and (b) has a valid LRS Participation Agreement executed with the Company. For certainty, a Wholesale Customer is not a Licenced Retail Supplier;
“Load”	“load means power and energy with the power measured in kW/kVA and the energy in kWh;
“LRS Participation Agreement”	“LRS Participation Agreement means the agreement (and any amendments or supplements thereto) between a Licenced Retail Supplier and the Company with respect to the sale of renewable low-impact electricity by the LRS in the form approved by the Board;
“Meter”	“meter” means an electric meter, and includes a machine, apparatus or instrument used for making electrical measurements, and any device utilized for the purpose of obtaining the basis of a charge for electricity;

“Meter seal”	"meter seal" means either the seal placed on the meter by Industry Canada to prevent fraudulent interference with the passage of electricity through the meter or the seal placed by the Company on the terminal plate or the meter band securing the meter to the base, and includes a seal placed on the demand reset where demand indicating meters are involved and other installations as required;
“Mobile home”	"mobile home" means any portable dwelling having no permanent foundation and supported by wheels, jacks or similar supports, used or so constructed as to permit its being used as a conveyance upon public streets or highways and designed and constructed to permit occupancy for dwelling or sleeping quarters. This does not include travel trailers, tent trailers or trailers otherwise designed;
“Normal business hours”	“normal business hours” means 0830 hrs to 1630 hrs, Monday to Friday inclusive excluding Statutory holidays;
“Occupant”	“occupant” means any person who has the right to occupy any premises;
“Overhead line extension”	"overhead line extension" means any above ground extension from existing Company distribution facilities required to supply electric power for one or more customers adjacent to a public road, and/or for two or more customers not adjacent to a public road, and any such extension shall be deemed to terminate where the line ceases to be common to more than one customer;
“Overhead service extension”	"overhead service extension" means any above ground extension across private property or along a private road required to serve only a single customer;
“Owner”	“owner” is any person having title to the whole or any part of any premises and may include a joint owner, tenant-in-common, or joint tenant;

“Permanent Service”	"permanent service" is one terminated on a permanent structure and which can be expected to remain in place without alteration for the useful life of the service. It may serve a conventional building, mobile home, or recurring seasonal service;
“Person”	"person" includes a government and a department, agency or commission thereof, corporation, partnership, firm, association, society, unincorporated entity and the heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives of a person;
“Power”	“power” means the time rate of generating or using electric energy, normally expressed in kilowatts;
“Power factor”	“power factor” means the ratio of real power, (kW) to apparent power (kVA) for any given load and time. Generally it is expressed as a percentage ratio;
“Premises”	"premises" means a premises that is provided with electricity through a single meter and, as the context requires, either (a) a complete building such as an office building, factory or house; or (b) a part of a building such as a suite of offices in an office building or an apartment in an apartment building, and in such cases the part of the building occupied must be contiguous and include no space not controlled by the customer; or (c) a group of buildings served by one electric service and at its discretion accepted by the Company as one customer for billing purposes;
“Primary metering”	“primary metering” means metering on the high voltage side of the transformer supplying the customer;
“Public Road”	“public road” includes any rural road listed and maintained by the Department of Transportation or any road maintained by a municipality;

“Retail Supplier”	“Retail Supplier” has the same meaning as under the <i>Electricity Act</i> , S.N.S. 2004, c. 25.
“Retail Supplier Licence”	“Retail Supplier Licence” means a Retail Supplier licence issued by the Board in accordance with the Electricity Act, S.N.S. 2004, c. 25 and regulations made thereunder, which permits a person to sell renewable low-impact electricity generated within the Province.
“RtR Customer”	“RtR Customer” means a Retail Customer who is acquiring renewable low-impact electricity from an LRS at an individual premises and is not receiving Bundled Service from NS Power at that premises.
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“True Meter Read” [Actual Meter Read]	“true meter read” or “actual meter read” means measurement and recording of the actual electricity consumption as measured automatically by AMI bi-directional communication or a manual meter reading by a Nova Scotia Power Incorporated meter reader at the customer’s premises;

“Unmetered” “unmetered” means a supply of electricity for which no metering device is employed to record either the power or energy supplied.

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When reasonably possible, meters shall be read bi-monthly; however, the Company may read meters on a monthly basis.

POSTCARD METER READING

In the event that the Company is unable to obtain meter readings for a Customer, the Company may adopt a postcard meter reading system for billing purposes. Under such system, the Company shall supply the Customer with prepaid postage cards upon which the Company shall indicate the date upon which the meter shall be read by the Customer ("reading date"). The Customer shall record on the postcard the reading showing on the meter as of the reading date and shall immediately return the card to the Company along with a digital image of the Customer's meter if reasonably feasible. In these circumstances, the Company may consider postcard meter reading to be actual meter readings.

ESIMATED METER READING

If the Company is unable to obtain a meter reading due to circumstances beyond its control, or due to the failure of the Customer to return the postcard reading, then the amount of power and energy used by the Customer shall be estimated by the Company using the best available data. In the event that estimated meter readings are required five (5) consecutive times, then the Customer shall make suitable arrangements to ensure that the meters are read by the Company during the Company's normal business hours. Should the Customer fail to make suitable arrangements, the Company may disconnect the supply of electric service to the Customer or may require that the Customer relocate the meter in accordance with Regulation 4.1.

In the event that actual meter readings for any scheduled reads are obtained subsequent to estimated readings, the Company shall make the necessary adjustments.

METER READING IN RURAL AREAS

Where electric service is supplied to a Customer in a rural area, the Company may adopt a postcard meter reading system of monthly or bi-monthly meter reading. Under such system, the Company shall supply the Customer with prepaid postage cards upon which the Company shall indicate the date upon which the meter shall be read by the Customer ("reading date"). The Customer shall record on the postcard the reading showing on the meter as of the reading date and shall immediately return the card to the Company. In these circumstances, the Company may consider postcard meter reading to be actual meter readings.

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~~STANDARD METER SERVICE~~

~~Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) service (also referred to as “smart meters”) is the standard for NS Power customers. AMI data shall be used to determine customer billing.~~

~~NON-STANDARD METER SERVICE~~

~~AMI Opt-Out Meter Reading~~

~~“Opting-out” or “opt-out” in the context of these Regulations refers to the process where customers choose non-standard meter service and incur the associated monthly charges. An opt-out request must be made by submitting an opt-out acknowledgment form to Nova Scotia Power. A Customer who opts out before AMI is deployed at the customer’s premises will keep the existing non-AMI meter. A Customer who opts out after AMI has been deployed will be served by a smart meter with wireless communications capabilities turned off. The disabling of smart meter capabilities means that the AMI meter will function like a non-standard meter and will be required to be read manually.~~

~~When a Domestic or Small General class customer has chosen to receive non-standard meter service, such Customer’s meter shall be read semi-annually, including when such opt-out Customer applies for the Equal Billing Program in accordance with Regulation 5.3. For billing purposes, the amount of power and energy used by the Customer between semi-annual meter reads shall be estimated by the Company using the best available data.~~

~~When a Customer chooses non-standard meter service, and where the Customer’s meter includes a demand charge (General, Large General, Small Industrial, Medium Industrial, Large Industrial and Municipal classes), such Customer’s meter shall be read monthly.~~

Postcard Meter Reading

In the event that the Company is unable to obtain meter readings for a Customer, the Company may adopt a postcard meter reading system for billing purposes. Under such system, the Company shall supply the Customer with prepaid postage cards upon which the Company shall indicate the date upon which the meter shall be read by the Customer (“reading date”). The Customer shall record on the postcard the reading showing on the meter as of the reading date and shall immediately return the card to the Company along with a digital image of the Customer’s meter if reasonably feasible. In these circumstances, the Company may consider postcard meter reading to be actual meter readings.

Estimated Meter Reading

If the Company is unable to obtain a meter reading ~~for an opt-out Customer~~ due to circumstances beyond its control, or due to the failure of the Customer to return the postcard reading ~~as described above~~, then the amount of power and energy used by the Customer shall be estimated by the Company using the best available data. In the event that estimated meter readings are required five (5) consecutive times, then the Customer shall make suitable arrangements to ensure that the meters are read by the Company during the Company's normal business hours. Should the Customer fail to make suitable arrangements, the Company may disconnect the supply of electric service to the Customer or may require that the Customer relocate the meter in accordance with Regulation 4.1.

In the event that actual meter readings for any scheduled reads are obtained subsequent to estimated readings, the Company shall make the necessary adjustments.

~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, for non-standard meter service, an actual manual reading must be taken by the Company at least once within a twelve-month period for a Domestic or Small General class Customer, and once within a six-month period for meters which are read monthly.~~

~~**METER READING FOR NON-STANDARD METER SERVICE**~~

~~Charges apply to a Customer who is eligible to be provided with a meter which can be read remotely but who opts out and requires the meter to be read on the Customer's premises. These charges are listed in Regulation 7.1.~~

METER READING IN RURAL AREAS

Where electric service is supplied to a Customer in a rural area, the Company may adopt a postcard meter reading system of monthly or bi-monthly meter reading. Under such system, the Company shall supply the Customer with prepaid postage cards upon which the Company shall indicate the date upon which the meter shall be read by the Customer ("reading date"). The Customer shall record on the postcard the reading showing on the meter as of the reading date and shall immediately return the card to the Company. In these circumstances, the Company may consider postcard meter reading to be actual meter readings.