

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 C0074130 – Robie Street Underground – \$4,465,119 (P&A)**

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Nova Scotia Power Inc.**
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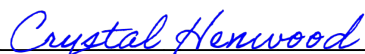
From: Board Staff
Nova Scotia Energy Board

Responses Due: **Friday, October 10, 2025**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Somesh Singh, P.Eng.**
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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 18th day of September 2025.



Crystal Henwood, Clerk of the Board

Request IR-1:

Page 1 of the application states “As part of the QEII Halifax Infirmary Expansion Project (QEII project), a 600-meter underground extension of 3 phase 25kV primary along Robie St in Halifax is required, involving significant civil construction and interruption on Robie St.”

- a) Why can't this expansion project load be served by overhead (OH) lines?
- b) Please confirm the specific purpose of the new 600 m ductbank on Robie St., exclusive of the inclusion of the second 3 phase 25kV supply in the same ductwork.
 - i. Please explain why this work (exclusive of the inclusion of the second 3 phase 25kV supply in the same ductwork) was not paid for entirely by the QEII project.
- c) Please explain why this project does not fall under the 1977 Underground Wiring Policy (Pole-Free Policy).
- d) Please provide a breakdown of the cost-sharing arrangement between QEII and NS Power.
- e) Please provide the existing distribution electrical system schematic supplying the QEII Halifax Infirmary.
- f) Please provide the proposed distribution electrical system schematic, including duct banks and cable lengths, for the QEII Halifax Infirmary expansion.
- g) Please provide a proposed underground circuit layout configuration for this project.
- h) Will any of the existing overhead distribution lines be removed as part of this expansion project?
 - i. If yes, please provide a removal drawing, along with the cost of removal and the value of the asset being removed.
 - ii. Who will be responsible for the removal costs?
 - iii. Are these costs included in the amount requested for Board approval?

Request IR-2:

Page 1 of the application states “NS Power will install a larger ductbank and a second underground supply that is needed to support anticipated load growth in the near future due to multiple planned developments which are near or already under construction along this corridor.”

- a) If NS Power were only supplying the QEII expansion project without constructing the large duct bank and a second underground supply, what would the project cost be for NS Power in that scenario?
- b) If this project was not implemented, what was NS Power's alternative plan to serve the anticipated new load growth?

- 1 c) Was the option of direct-burial underground cable considered as an alternative to a duct
2 bank for supplying the QEII Halifax Infirmary expansion project load?
3 i. If so, please explain why this option was not preferred.
4 ii. If not, why not?
5 d) Was the option of direct-burial underground cable considered for the second 3 phase 25kV
6 line as an alternative to a duct bank for supplying the anticipated load growth?
7 i. If so, please explain why this option was not preferred.
8 ii. If not, why not?
9 e) Was a distribution planning study conducted to support the proposed solution in the
10 project?
11 i. If yes, please provide the report.
12 ii. If not, please explain.
13

14 **Request IR-3:**

- 15 a) Please describe the specific scope of work associated with Phase 1 – Bell Road and
16 Jubilee Road.
17 b) Please confirm the specific purpose of this work.
18 c) Please explain why NS Power cost shared this work with the QEII project.
19 i. Has NS Power's portion of the cost of this work been included in the current
20 application before the Board?
21 a. If so, why?
22 d) Does this work include the installation of a second underground 3 phase 25 kV supply in
23 the same ductwork? Please explain.
24

25 **Request IR-4:**

26 Page 1 of the application states: "NS Power will install a larger ductbank and a second
27 underground supply that is needed to support anticipated load growth in the near future due to
28 multiple planned developments which are near or already under construction along this corridor."
29 Further, page 1 states: "Based on forecasts from Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and
30 developers, NS Power expects significant development and corresponding load growth within the
31 Robie St area and downtown core."

- 32 a) Please identify the current load served by NS Power infrastructure in the Robie Street
33 corridor.
34 b) Please identify the anticipated load growth with the Robie Street corridor.

c) Please provide the growth forecasts from HRM upon which NS Power developed its load growth forecasts.

i. What is the date when these growth forecasts were prepared?

ii. Have these growth forecasts considered the recent slowdown in HRM population growth, referenced by the Halifax Partnership (<https://halifaxpartnership.com/research-strategy/halifax-index/people/>)?

d) Please explain how development and load growth in the downtown core affects the need for inclusion of the second 3 phase 25kV supply in the Robie Street corridor.

e) Please provide the projected load growth over the next 10 years as anticipated in this application.

Request IR-5:

Page 1 of the application states: "By leveraging existing construction and crew mobilization, it is expected to result in savings of approximately \$2 million compared to completing as a standalone project in the future."

Please explain specifically how NS Power developed this \$2 million savings estimate.

Request IR-6:

Please explain why the estimated life of the asset is only 30 years.

Request IR-7:

Page 1 of the application states: "Future growth nodes in the Cogswell District and Young District will require reconfiguration of existing distribution circuits supplied from Water St, Kempt Rd., and Armdale."

a) Please describe the general scope of work associated with these reconfigurations and explain specifically why they are required.

b) Please establish the relationship between those reconfigurations and this project.

c) What is the expected timeline for the utility to complete these reconfigurations?

Request IR-8:

Page 2 of the application states: "Given the anticipated load growth, additional electrical capacity is required to reliably serve customers. By increasing the available capacity within key corridors such as Robie St, NS Power will gain the flexibility to integrate new electrical supply into these growing areas, while fully leveraging the existing and planned capacity of nearby substations."

a) Please identify the specific growth areas into which the work associated with the current application will allow NS Power to gain the flexibility to integrate new electrical supply.

b) Using a circuit drawing, please explain specifically how the proposed work associated with the current application will allow NS Power to gain the flexibility to integrate new electrical supply into these areas.

c) Using a circuit drawing, please explain specifically how the proposed work associated with the current application will allow NS Power to fully leverage the existing and planned capacity of nearby substations and feeders.

Request IR-9:

Page 2 of the application states: "Currently, 3 phase power does not exist along this section of Robie Street. NS Power evaluated an overhead alternative along this corridor, but the physical constraints (i.e. clearance to buildings/proposed setbacks, required easements, vegetation impact, and conflicts with other utility infrastructure) make such an approach unfeasible."

a) Please provide a copy of the evaluation completed by NS Power.

b) Did NS Power consider the Municipal Road right-of-way in its analysis for installing electrical infrastructure? Please explain.

Request IR-10:

Page 2 of the application states: "Alternate routes for feeder extensions have been reviewed; however, similar physical constraints exist within those alternate routes as well."

Please provide a copy of the alternate route review completed by NS Power.

Request IR-11:

Page 2 of the application states: "Additionally, the underground network would be provisioned such that it can be expanded as new developments along Robie Street and nearby occur."

a) Please explain how the underground network will be provisioned such that it can be expanded as new developments along Robie Street and nearby occur.

b) Please identify the cost included in the current application to accommodate this provision.

Request IR-12:

With regards to the "Capital Project Detailed Cost Estimate" on page 3 of the application:

a) Please reconcile the noted "Materials" and "Contracts" costs with the project costs identified on page 8 of 10 of Attachment 1 of the application.

1 b) Page 8 of 10 of Attachment 1 of the application states that Phase 1 (Bell Road and Jubilee
2 Road) costs are "Actualized/Complete." As such, please explain why NS Power has
3 applied a 10% contingency to this portion of the project.
4

5 **Request IR-13:**

6 With regards to the Economic Analysis Model included with the application:

7 a) Regarding the sensitivity analysis: please identify the breakeven percentage variance of
8 capital spend (i.e., identify the percentage increase in Alternative A capital spend at which
9 the PV of revenue requirement of Alternative A and B would be equal).

10 b) Please explain specifically how the capital cost estimate for Alternative B was developed.
11

12 **Request IR-14:**

13 With regards to page 8 of 10 of Attachment 1 of the application:

14 a) Please identify which line items/work scopes are intended to solely serve the QEII.

15 b) Please explain how the NS Power percentage cost share for each line item was
16 determined and explain why NS Power believes these percentage to be appropriate.