

December 17, 2025

lane.myatt@nspower.ca

Lana Myatt
Senior Regulatory Analyst
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
P.O. Box 910
Halifax, NS B3J 2W5

Dear Ms. Myatt:

M12507 – Nova Scotia Power Inc. CI C0043010: 2022/23 Wood Pole Retreatment Program – (FIN) \$791,054

The Board reviewed an application from NS Power requesting Board approval for the following non-confidential Final Cost (FIN) work order:

	Approved Amount	Final Cost	Variance
CI C0043010: 2022/23 Wood Pole Retreatment Program	\$1,300,037	\$791,054	(\$508,983)

The application indicated that the last pole was forecasted to be completed in December 2023, and the Final Cost date was estimated as June 2024. The project was completed in December 2024, and the Final Cost date is October 2025. The original capital item related to the retreatment of approximately 10,200 wood transmission poles. It was the fourth capital item of a multi-year retreatment program, which will continue beyond 2025. This project retreats wood poles originally treated with pentachlorophenol and creosote preservatives, to reinforce the preservative retention in the ground line area to protect against fungal and insect damage. The poles are typically retreated every 10 years, which can extend their expected life from 35 to 55 years.

NS Power's contractor performed a test to assess the poles' condition and administered retreatment when necessary. Since the testing is done at the time of retreatment, the full scope of poles requiring treatment was not known in advance. Under this project, the number of poles retreated was reduced by approximately 405, and a less significant retreatment process was sufficient for most poles, resulting in a lower average cost per pole.

Board staff issued Information Requests (IRs) to NS Power on October 28, 2025. NS Power responded to the IRs on November 18, 2025.

In response to IR-2, NS Power explained that the project was completed a year late because many of the transmission lines were located in remote areas with challenging access and adverse terrain, and certain poles were in areas that are typically more accessible in seasons with little to no vegetation. This led to difficulties and constraints in accessing certain sections of lines. NS Power and its contractor extended the timeline for retreating these poles to ensure safe working conditions and minimize the environmental impact. Additionally, the cyber incident, which limited NS Power's access to key project files, and the division of resources among NS Power's projects further delayed the initiation of this FIN application.

NS Power indicated that the 2024/25 phase of this program is ongoing and anticipated to be completed in October 2026.

The Board accepts that this project was reasonable and justified. The Board approves the final cost of \$791,054 for this work order.

NS Power's Capital Expenditure Justification Criteria (CEJC) states that all projects should be final costed within six months of their in-service date. It requires that all final costed capital work orders submitted more than six months after their in-service date provide justification for the delay. In this case, NS Power's application was submitted three years after the project was put in service and nearly one year after the final work was completed.

In response to IR-2, NS Power said its application was delayed because it needed more time to complete final invoicing and project closure activities. The Board does not find this explanation appropriately supported. The Board suggests NS Power file Final Cost Items on time to avoid delay in Board approval. When it cannot, it must provide more detailed justification for the delay.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of connected strokes that trail off to the right.

Jennifer Nicholson, CPA, CA
Member



NSEB APPROVAL SHEET

Project Title: 2022/2023 Wood Pole Retreatment Program

CI Number: C0043010

Date: October 6, 2025

Expenditure Profile			Type of Filing	
Year	Budget Amount	Project Estimate	☐	Capital Project Authorization
			☐	Unforeseen and Unbudgeted (U&U)
			☐	Planned & Advanced (P&A)
			☐	Subsequent Approval Item
2022	525,751	62,468	☐	Authorization to Overspend (ATO)
2023	774,286	333,152	☐	Scope Change
2024		395,434	☒	Final Cost (FIN)
2025				
Total	\$1,300,037	\$791,054		

COMMENTS

Approved	1,300,037
Current Submission	791,054
Variance	(508,983)

Submitted on behalf of NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED



Authorized Signatory
Dave Pickles
Chief Operating Officer

DATE
October 1, 2025

Approved on behalf of NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD



DATE
December 17, 2025