

BEFORE THE NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF *The Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.380* as amended

- and -

**IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Nova Scotia Power Incorporated for approval of
its 2026 ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (ACE) PLAN**

OPENING STATEMENT

OF

THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE

Mr. Chair and Board members, please accept these submissions as the opening statement on behalf of the Small Business Advocate (SBA).

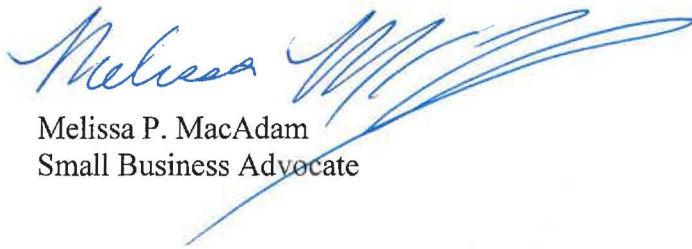
The Annual Capital Expenditure (ACE) Plan that Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) files each year provides the opportunity for stakeholders and the Board to inquire, evaluate, and understand NSPI's plans with respect to its investment in the Nova Scotia energy grid and its requirement to provide safe and reliable energy to Nova Scotians.

This year, as we navigate the integration of the IESO-NS and address the impending deadlines relating to environmental emissions legislation, we must also deal with the significant cost burden faced by ratepayers, both with respect to energy costs as well as other necessities. Currently ratepayers are facing additional costs as a result of the recent general rate application, as well as from the anticipated fee recovery application from IESO-NS. It is imperative that all expenditures are carefully assessed and analyzed to ensure that they provide the benefits as promised and are managed carefully to ensure that all cost savings are achieved.

1 The SBA is focused on ensuring that the investments that NSPI is making result in positive impacts
2 for both reliability and resiliency within the context of the cost burden on ratepayers, and that the
3 impact of the investments can be understood and measured.

4 The SBA looks forward to exploring these and other topics during this ACE Plan hearing. Thank
5 you for the opportunity to submit this opening statement.

6 Dated at Bedford, Nova Scotia, this 17th day of April, 2026.

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8 Melissa P. MacAdam
9 Small Business Advocate