

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 an Extra Large Industrial
Dispatchable Above-the-Line Tariff applicable to Port Hawkesbury
Paper

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

September 14, 2026

This is the Opening Statement of the Consumer Advocate.

In August of 2025, the Consumer Advocate, together with other Intervenor, Nova Scotia Power and Port Hawkesbury Paper, concluded a settlement agreement as part of Nova Scotia Power's General Rate Application for 2026 and 2027. The Settlement Agreement included the basic terms under which Port Hawkesbury Paper, the Utility's largest customer, would become an "above the line customer" and share in the cost of receiving electricity service with other customers.

The Settlement Agreement anticipated agreement on the new tariff in time for implementation by January 1, 2026.

Unfortunately, that did not happen. There was no agreement on a new tariff, leaving Nova Scotia Power to make this application without the support of Port Hawkesbury Paper.

Port Hawkesbury Paper, for its part, is proposing terms for a new tariff that are different from those to which it had agreed last year. Those changes would result in costs that Port Hawkesbury Paper had agreed to assume being shifted to other customers of the Utility.

The Consumer Advocate has provided evidence, prepared by Andrew McLaren and Hayitboy Mahmudov of InterGroup Consultants, that supports reaffirmation of the features of the Port Hawkesbury Paper tariff that were set out and agreed to in the General Rate Application Settlement Agreement.

In the alternative, if the Board does consider changes to the terms of the tariff that were agreed to last year, they should be changes that fairly apportion the costs of providing electrical services to Port Hawkesbury Paper.

1 Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Port Hawkesbury Paper does not have to accept the
2 outcome of this hearing. If they find the result is unsatisfactory, they can go back to Nova Scotia
3 Power and try to negotiate another, “below the line” agreement for electricity service.
4

5 However, they stand to lose the advantages of certainty and predictability in electricity pricing that
6 brought them into the Settlement Agreement.
7

8 The challenge for the parties and the Board is to come to a result that protects the operation of one
9 of the province’s largest industrial enterprises while minimizing additional upward pressures on
10 the electricity rates set in the General Rate Application.
11

12 The Consumer Advocate thanks the Board for the opportunity to make this Opening Statement.
13

14 Yours truly,
15

16 
17

18 David Roberts
19 The Consumer Advocate
20
21