

BEFORE THE NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

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

IN THE MATTER OF: **Application by Nova Scotia Power Inc. for Approval of an
Extra Large Industrial Dispatchable Above-the-Line
Tariff Applicable to Port Hawkesbury Paper**

**OPENING STATEMENT
OF
THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

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

This application by Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI), for approval of an Above-the-Line Tariff Applicable to Port Hawkesbury Paper (the “Application”) arises in part from the Settlement Agreement that was entered into by a number of intervenors in the last General Rate Application¹ and was filed as the current tariff that applies to Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP) (the Extra Large Industrial Active Demand Control (ELIADC) Tariff) is scheduled to expire at this end of this year.

This Application was originally scheduled to proceed as a paper hearing, but a request was made by counsel for the Industrial Group for it to be converted to an oral hearing². The reasons for the request included, but were not limited to, the lack of a consensus agreement between NSPI and PHP on the proposed Extra Large Industrial Dispatchable (ELID) Tariff and the conflicting expert opinions, as well as the complex and novel issues involved in this Application. The SBA wrote to

¹ M12661, Nova Scotia Power Application for Approval of an Above-the-Line Tariff Applicable to Port Hawkesbury Paper (the “Application”), Attachment 4, Pages 1-21, PDF Page 30 of 50.

² M12661, Letter from the Industrial Group, July 16, 2026.

1 the Board as well and concurred with the Industrial Group that an oral hearing was appropriate
2 given all the circumstances³ and the Board set a timetable for this hearing.

3 The complexity of the Application comes in part due to the technical nature of the issues involved,
4 including how this tariff is the same, and how it is different, from the ELIADC Tariff that preceded
5 it. The SBA notes that the ELIADC Tariff went through more than one iteration since its initial
6 approval in 2020⁴. There is also the issue of the Settlement Agreement from the last General Rate
7 Application⁵ that appeared to set out the structure of at least some parts of the ELID Tariff and it
8 is unclear what impact that Settlement Agreement may or may not have on the positions taken by
9 intervenors as part of this Application.

10 There have also been important issues raised by the parties about the equity of the proposed ELID
11 Tariff as compared to other customers, and these concerns need to be fully canvassed and
12 understood by all parties before the tariff is approved.

13 The SBA thanks the Board for the opportunity to provide this opening statement and looks forward
14 to hearing from both NSPI and PHP on the issues identified by the experts who have provided
15 evidence in this Application, including the equity concerns that have been raised.

16 Dated at Bedford, Nova Scotia, this 14th day of September, 2026.

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18 Melissa P. MacAdam
19 Small Business Advocate

³ M12661, Letter from the Small Business Advocate, July 16, 2026.

⁴ M09420 – Application for Approval of an Extra Large Industrial Active Demand Control (ELIADC) Tariff, Board Decision, March 26, 2020.

⁵ M12661, Nova Scotia Power Application for Approval of an Above-the-Line Tariff Applicable to Port Hawkesbury Paper (the “Application”), Attachment 4, Pages 11-12 of 21; PDF Pages 40-41 of 50.