



Blackburn Law Inc.

April 7, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board
Nova Scotia Energy Board
1601 Lower Water Street, 3rd Floor
Halifax NS B3J 3S3

Dear Ms. Henwood:

**Re: M12663 – Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator (IESO-NS) –
2026/2027 Revenue Requirement and Fees – Proposed Temporary Financial Relief**

I am writing pursuant to the Board's Hearing Order that was issued on January 23, 2026, which provided a deadline of April 14, 2026 for intervenors to request this matter proceed by oral hearing. The Small Business Advocate (SBA) respectfully requests that an oral hearing be convened for the reasons articulated below.

While this is the second application by the IESO-NS for approval of its Revenue Requirement, it is the first application covering a full year. In addition, it is the first application since IESO-NS began its first Integrated Resource Plan and following the onboarding of employees from Nova Scotia Power Inc. Following its review of the responses provided by IESO-NS to the Information Requests filed by the Board, Board Counsel, Board Counsel Consultants and Intervenors, the SBA submits that there is a lot of missing information and justification for the Application, which would be best addressed at an oral hearing. These issues include the progress on recruitment and staffing of key roles; phasing and transition timing, budgetary spending, the requested permanent Net Revenue Requirement Deferral and Variance Mechanism and its governance, and issues raised in relation to the request for interim funding, among others.

In speaking with the Consumer Advocate and the Industrial Group representative, I understand that they agree that it would be beneficial and of assistance to the Board and intervenors for there to be an oral hearing, which would allow for cross examination of IESO-NS and further exploration of these important issues.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the hearing schedule be amended to allow for an oral hearing.

Yours truly,

Melissa P. MacAdam
Small Business Advocate