Nova Scotia POWER
An Emera Company

PO Box 910 ● Halifax, Nova Scotia ● Canada ● B3J 2W5

January 30, 2026

Confidential (Attachment Only)

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

Re: Community Solar Program – 2025 Report

Dear Ms. Henwood:

April 22, 2022 amendments to the *Electricity Act* (Act) introduced s. 3AE to 3AK (now s. 10 to 16), which were proclaimed in February 2024, establishing the Community Solar Program (CSP, Program). The *Community Solar Program* Regulations (CSP Regulations), made under s. 16 of the Act, came into effect on February 27, 2024. The CSP Regulations set out Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NS Power, Company) reporting requirements; s. 36 provides:

> On or before January 31 of each year, NSPI must report all of the following information about each project to the Minister:
> (a) the project's commercial operation date;
> (b) the project's address or location;
> (c) the project's approved nameplate capacity;
> (d) the average number of residential subscribers and non-residential subscribers, for each month of the reporting year;
> (e) the average subscription size, in kilowatts, each month of the reporting year;
> (f) the average subscription size, in kilowatts, for residential subscribers and non-residential subscribers;
> (g) the remaining nameplate capacity, in kilowatts, on December 31 of the previous year;
> (h) any other information the Minister considers necessary.[1]

In October 2024, the Company filed, and subsequently received Nova Scotia Energy Board

[1] *Community Solar Program Regulations*, N.S. Reg. 60/2024, s. 36.

(NSEB, Board) approval of, the Community Solar Energy Credit Rider (CSECR) under M11911. In relation to NS Power's annual reporting requirements, the Board's February 2025 Decision provided the following direction:

> The Board approves the Community Solar Energy Credit Rider, as revised by NS Power in response to the Industrial Group's recommendation. The Board directs NS Power to file a copy with the Board of its annual report to the Minister under the Program Regulations no later than January 31 each year and to include the following additional information:
> - The total amount of energy purchased under the community solar program.
> - The total cost for the purchased energy under the power purchase agreements for the program.
> - The total amount of credits paid to customers under the program, in both the amount of energy (kWh) and dollars, by rate class.[2]

The Company submits this correspondence as NS Power's 2025 Report. In alignment with the requirements of the CSP Regulations, the 2025 Report includes details pertaining to the Program for the Reporting Year (i.e. January 1 to December 31, 2025) on the '2025 CSP Summary' tab of Attachment 1. The 'M11911 Directives' tab of Attachment 1 incorporates the additional reporting, in accordance with the Board's direction in the Company's CSECR Application (M11911).

On June 27, 2024, the Nova Scotia Department of Energy (DOE), formerly Natural Resources and Renewables, approved the first project under the Program. On the same day, the Minister wrote to NS Power to acknowledge that the CSP Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was not currently available, and until it was, the Minister requested that NS Power take necessary and reasonable actions to ensure that the project was compensated for supplied energy in a manner consistent with the intent of the Program and the Minister's decision, until both parties could be supplied with the PPA. Once available, at the Minister's direction, the CSP PPA term would be amended such that the total period of payment to the project remained at 25 years.

On September 27, 2024, the DOE filed the PPA for the Board's approval (M11903). The first project under the Program achieved commercial operation on December 1, 2024; this preceded the Board's approval of the PPA. In this interim period, and at the request of the Minister, NS Power undertook an analysis based on alternative energy versus the rate sought by the project under the Minister's direction and determined it was reasonable to enter into a short term agreement with the Project Owner to purchase the output from the project from

[2] M11911 – Board Decision, 318850, para. 18, page 8. February 12, 2025.

the commercial operation date (COD) until February 28, 2025. Under the interim arrangement, no credits were issued under the CSECR prior to the execution of the CSP PPA with the Project Owner.

By Order dated January 30, 2025, the Board approved the PPA for the Program. The Company executed the Board-approved PPA with the first DOE-approved Project Owner on February 28, 2025 – with a term adjusted to expire December 1, 2049 – after which the terms and conditions of the Program and the CSECR came into effect. This is reflected in the metrics presented in Attachment 1.

On March 7, 2025, the Department of Energy approved three Community Solar Projects and issued PPAs for those projects. These projects did not achieve commercial operation in the reporting year and therefore, no subscription- or CSECR-related data is provided in Attachment 1.

On December 19, 2025, the Board issued its Order on the Company's Smart Grid Nova Scotia Asset Disposition Application (M12178) which provided:

> The Board directs NS Power as follows:
>
> 2. To inform the five low-income customer subscribers in the Solar Garden program about the option to transition to the provincial Community Solar Program, and to explain to them the timing around when and how this option might be open to them.[3]

On January 20, 2026, NS Power notified the five low-income Solar Garden Rate Rider (SGRR) subscribers of the option to transition to CSP and provided an explanation of the timing and availability of this option, in accordance with the Board's M12178 directive. While, at present, there is no available capacity for new subscribers to CSP solar gardens, the Company committed to keeping low-income SGRR subscribers informed, including providing these customers with details on how to apply, as more information becomes available.

Confidentiality

NS Power requests confidential treatment of Attachment 1 which is filed electronically in confidence. Attached to this correspondence is a Confidential Undertaking for the Board's

[3] M12178 – Board Order, 326478, page 2. December 19, 2025.

approval.

Commercially Sensitive Information

To protect value for customers and mitigate the risk of prospective community solar garden developers having access to the PPA energy rate information contained within Attachment 1, and to maintain good business relations with developers, this information is confidential on the basis on commercial sensitivity.

The more a developer is aware of the Minister's prescribed CSP PPA energy rates, the better the developer's ability to obtain the highest price, reduce competition, and ultimately increase the cost for NS Power and its customers. The cost of such transparency is not always immediately evident. Information from regulatory proceedings can provide competitive advantages over other developers, and that could be advantageous in bidding or negotiation. Higher prices, or avoidable contractual constraints, will result in unnecessary higher costs for customers.

NS Power seeks to keep the Minister's prescribed CSP PPA pricing and arrangements confidential from other CSP Project Owners and potential competitors. This prevents competitors from using the information to gain a competitive advantage. NS Power also desires to protect its ability to acquire services and equipment on the most competitive terms, as those "best" terms may not be available if there is a risk that they will be disclosed to the customers or competitors of the developer.

Since NS Power customer rates are cost-based, the maintenance of confidentiality for these items is to the direct benefit of customers.

In accordance with Board Regulatory Rule 12, the Company requests that the Board approve the attached Confidentiality Undertaking and the confidential treatment of Attachment 1 designated by the Company as confidential as described above.

Yours truly,

Karynne Munroe
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

2025 Community Solar Program Report Attachment 1 has been removed due to confidentiality.