

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Request IR-1:

Refer to M12686 Exhibit N-1, Community Solar Program – 2025 Report, page 3 of 4, which states:

“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.”

Refer also to M12686, Exhibit N-2, Community Solar Program 2025 Report Attachment 1, Page 1 of 6.

For each approved Community Solar Project, please provide:

- (a) the date the interconnection request was received;**
- (b) the date the interconnection request was deemed complete;**
- (c) the date the Preliminary Assessment was issued;**
- (d) whether the Preliminary Assessment identified distribution upgrades, transmission impacts, or both;**
- (e) the date any Distribution System Impact Study commenced and the dates any draft and final Distribution System Impact Study were issued, if applicable;**
- (f) the date any interconnection agreement was executed, if applicable;**
- (g) the current expected commercial operation date; and**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 **(h) for any project not yet in commercial operation, the principal interconnection-related**
2 **item still outstanding.**

3
4 Response IR-1:

5
6 (a) IR746: October 17, 2023, IR751: December 12, 2023, and IR769: April 3, 2024.

7
8 (b) IR746: November 3, 2023, IR751: December 22, 2023, and IR769: April 8, 2024.

9
10 (c) IR746: August 27, 2024, IR751: August 27, 2024, and IR769: September 4, 2024.

11
12 (d) For the three Interconnection Requests (IR), only distribution upgrades were identified; no
13 transmission impacts were identified in the studies.

14
15 (e) The requested information for each of the three IRs is as follows:

- 16 • IR746 – commenced on June 30, 2025, draft DSIS was October 1, 2025, and no
17 final DSIS issued.
- 18 • IR751 – commenced on June 30, 2025, Draft DSIS was October 14, 2025, and no
19 final DSIS issued.
- 20 • IR769 – commenced on June 30, 2025, draft DSIS was October 1, 2025, and no
21 final DSIS issued.

22
23 The final DSIS were not issued based on the Interconnection Customer request to wait until
24 all scoping of required upgrades is complete and easement requirements are identified for
25 each of these IRs.

26
27 (f) None of these Interconnection Agreements have been executed.

28
29 (g) The Interconnection Customer indicated their anticipated commercial operation date is Q3
30 2027.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 (h) It was determined through the DSIS that two of three Projects will require an application
2 to the Nova Scotia Energy Board for capital expenditure review and approval as the total
3 cost of each Project, exclusive of third-party funding, will exceed the \$1M threshold as
4 defined in the *Public Utilities Act*.¹ These projects are fully funded by the Interconnection
5 Customer.

¹ The Board’s directive (at para. 204) of the 2025 Annual Capital Expenditures Plan (M12012) provided as follows: “After performing the interpretation analysis discussed in *Vavilov*, the Board finds that the word “expenditure” in s. 35 and 35AA of the PUA means an expenditure inclusive of any third-party funding. Therefore, NS Power is directed to submit any future capital expenditures that exceed \$1 million for approval to the Board, regardless of the source of funding.”

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Request IR-2:

Please provide, on an aggregated basis for Community Solar Projects received to December 31, 2025:

- (a) the average, median, minimum, and maximum number of days from a complete interconnection request to issuance of a Preliminary Assessment;**
- (b) the average, median, minimum, and maximum number of days from commencement of a Distribution System Impact Study to issuance of a draft Distribution System Impact Study;**
- (c) the average, median, minimum, and maximum number of days from completion of the final interconnection study to execution of an interconnection agreement;**
- (d) the average, median, minimum, and maximum initial Distribution System Impact Study deposit;**
- (e) the average, median, minimum, and maximum final Distribution System Impact Study cost;**
- (f) the range of any additional deposits requested or refunds issued; and**
- (g) the reasons for delays beyond NS Power's internal target or expected timelines, grouped by category.**

Response IR-2:

- (a) Average: 42 Business Days**
Median: 22 Business Days

Community Solar Program – 2025 Report (NSEB M12686)
NSPI Responses to Solar Nova Scotia Information Requests

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 Maximum: 213 Business Days

2 Minimum: 11 Business Days

3
4 (b) Average: 71 Business Days

5 Median: 68 Business Days

6 Maximum: 77 Business Days

7 Minimum: 68 Business Days

8
9 (c) No data available; none of these Interconnection Agreements have been executed.

10
11 (d) Average: \$10,000

12 Median: \$10,000

13 Maximum: \$10,000

14 Minimum: \$10,000

15
16 (e) No data available; DSIS have not yet been final costed.

17
18 (f) No additional deposits were requested.

19
20 (g) Delays to the execution of the Interconnection Agreement were as requested by the
21 Interconnection Customer (IC) in order to complete scoping of required upgrades and
22 required easements which are the responsibility of the IC.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Request IR-3:

Please describe the methodology and update frequency for NS Power’s public hosting-capacity information.

Please also provide:

- (a) whether NS Power retains historical snapshots of the public hosting-capacity information;**
- (b) for each approved Community Solar Project, whether the public hosting-capacity information available at the time of application indicated available capacity;**
- (c) for each approved Community Solar Project, whether the subsequent Preliminary Assessment or Distribution System Impact Study identified distribution upgrades, transmission impacts, or both; and**
- (d) where the answer to both (b) and (c) indicates a difference, a high-level explanation for that difference.**

Response IR-3:

NS Power’s public hosting-capacity information is a high-level screening tool for solar PV on distribution systems rated ≤ 26.4 kV. It is presented as a feeder/zone hosting-capacity table and interactive map. Key points from the published methodology are as follows:

- The map does not restrict applications from being submitted on a particular feeder but rather provides insight into potential locations for distributed generation that are less likely to require significant system upgrades at the applicant’s cost.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 • Actual hosting capacity is determined at the Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Distribution
2 System Impact Study (DSIS) stages of the DGIP, not by the map itself.
3
 - 4 • Distribution Zone PV Hosting Capacity is the estimated additional PV that can be
5 integrated in the zone without causing transmission system impacts.
6
 - 7 • Feeder PV Hosting Capacity is limited by the available zone hosting capacity or the feeder
8 design limit, less installed or advance-stage generation.
9
 - 10 • Nova Scotia Power makes no representations or warranties that the data is accurate, and it
11 should not be relied upon as fit for any commercial or operational purpose.
12
- 13 The hosting capacity data is updated at the beginning of each study window per the DGIP
14 Calendar. Additional updates are sometimes made as new data becomes available. The current
15 public PDF shows version updates on August 3, 2023, February 9, 2024, April 12, 2024, May 9,
16 2024, August 13, 2024, December 3, 2024, and March 26, 2025. Updates were paused following
17 the cyber incident in April 2025, and the capability to update the map is expected to be restored in
18 2026.
19
- 20 (a) There is no formal retention policy for past hosting capacity map calculations. NS Power
21 does not provide historical snapshots of the public hosting capacity information.
22
 - 23 (b) Unknown as NS Power does not know when the hosting capacity map was checked prior
24 to the application submission; please also refer to part (a).
25
 - 26 (c) Per the methodology described above, the hosting capacity values provided are calculated
27 based on feeder design limits and the threshold at which new generation would cause
28 backfeed onto the transmission system. This provides insight into locations where
29 significant network upgrades are less likely.
30

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 Where transmission impacts are expected, the project must follow the Standard Generation
2 Interconnection Procedures (GIP). There have not yet been any Community Solar projects
3 that have advanced to System Impact Study (SIS) under the GIP.

4
5 The determination for distribution network upgrades must be assessed on a case-by-case
6 basis. It would not be feasible or cost effective for NS Power to study the entire network
7 and determine available hosting capacity based on variables such as conductor sizing and
8 phasing availability. This is the purpose of the PA or Pre-Application Assessment (PAA)
9 stages of the process, so that a customer may determine the financial viability of a given
10 proposal before making a commitment.

11
12 The following table lists approved Community Solar projects. The data in this table
13 demonstrates the typical process related to network upgrades for Community Solar
14 projects:

- 15
16 • An application is validated and proceeds to the PA stage.
- 17
18 • The PA determines that the requested project size will have transmission system
19 impacts and must proceed under the GIP or be reduced.
- 20
21 • The interconnection customer revises the project size to proceed under the DGIP.
- 22
23 • The PA is revised, providing a high-level estimate of potential network upgrades.
- 24
25 • The project is approved under the Community Solar program and meets other
26 milestones to advance to the DSIS stage.
- 27
28 • Detailed modelling determines the requirement for network upgrades and provides
29 and updated estimate.
- 30

Community Solar Program – 2025 Report (NSEB M12686)
NSPI Responses to Solar Nova Scotia Information Requests

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

IR No.	Request Date	Hosting Capacity Map Estimate (MW)	Requested Project Size (MW)	Hosting Capacity from PA (MW)	Revised Project Size (MW)	Network Upgrades Identified
700	2023-04-21	N/A	0.585	0.555	0.555	No
746	2023-10-27	1.795	7.0	2.2	2.2	Yes
751	2023-12-14	4.756	7.5	4.8	4.8	Yes
769	2024-04-04	0.657	7.0	1.7	1.7	No

The network upgrades indicated in the table above are for single-phase to three-phase line upgrades, three-phase line extensions, and line reconductoring, as determined to be required in the DSIS.

(d) Not applicable.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 **Request IR-4:**

2
3 **Refer to M12686, Exhibit N-2, Community Solar Program 2025 Report Attachment 1, Pages**
4 **2 of 6 and 6 of 6.**

5
6 **Please provide the average, median, minimum, and maximum time in 2025 required by NS**
7 **Power to:**

8
9 **(a) determine subscriber eligibility;**

10
11 **(b) enroll a new community solar subscriber;**

12
13 **(c) process a change in subscription size or a subscriber removal; and**

14
15 **(d) apply the first Community Solar Energy Credit Rider credit after subscriber**
16 **enrollment.**

17
18 **Please also identify:**

19
20 **(e) any internal target or service level used for the activities in parts (a) to (d); and**

21
22 **(f) any billing-system, meter-data, or data-exchange constraint that affected these**
23 **activities in 2025.**

24
25 **Response IR-4:**

26
27 **(a-d)** All subscriber eligibility determinations and enrolments were processed together for the
28 full subscription prior to the program activation date. No subscription changes occurred for
29 subscribed accounts in 2025. The first Community Solar Energy Credit Rider credit was
30 applied to each account according to its billing cycle following enrolment.

Community Solar Program – 2025 Report (NSEB M12686)
NSPI Responses to Solar Nova Scotia Information Requests

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 (e) All necessary subscription information was determined prior to program activation, and
2 the internal target was to have all processes completed and ready for program
3 commencement in 2025.
4
- 5 (f) Some delays occurred due to manual processing following the cyber incident, with no
6 impacts to energy payments or subscriber credits.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 **Request IR-5:**

2
3 **Refer to NS Power’s 2024 Commercial Net Metering Annual Report, Attachment 1.**

4
5 **Please explain why the Community Solar Program 2025 Report did not include analogous**
6 **reporting with respect to:**

7
8 **(a) project or application stage;**

9
10 **(b) DGIP stage;**

11
12 **(c) interconnection milestone dates;**

13
14 **(d) processing times; and**

15
16 **(e) average study, deposit, or upgrade-cost metrics.**

17
18 **Please also state:**

19
20 **(f) whether NS Power maintains any of the information listed in parts (a) to (e) for**
21 **Community Solar Projects; and**

22
23 **(g) for any information maintained, whether NS Power could include that information**
24 **in future Community Solar Program annual reports on a public basis and, if not, why**
25 **not.**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 Response IR-5:

2
3 (a-e) The Community Solar Program is governed by the *Electricity Act* (Act) and the *Community*
4 *Solar Program Regulations* (CSP Regulations) made under the Act. As such, the 2025
5 Report was filed in accordance with the CSP Regulations and the Board’s direction
6 following the Community Solar Energy Credit Rider (CSECR) proceeding under
7 M11911,¹ neither of which included the metrics cited in parts (a) to (e).

8
9 (f) Subject to further definition of the specific information requested in parts (a) to (e),² NS
10 Power maintains records of the information it understands Solar NS to be referring to in
11 parts (a) through (d). For part (e), NS Power understands this to be a calculation of
12 averages, which can be conducted.

13
14 (g) NS Power could include this information in future reports on a public basis, subject to the
15 review of these data to determine appropriate confidentiality treatment, and, as described
16 in part (f), subject to further definition of the specific information requested in parts (a) to
17 (e). For example: if information on “processing times” requested in part (d) or on “project
18 or application stage” requested in part (a) is intended to refer to Program intake processing,
19 the Company does not maintain records of this information as Program application and
20 intake is the responsibility of the Department of Energy under the current framework of
21 the Program.³

¹ Please refer to pages 1-2 of the 2025 Report for further detail.

² NS Power’s understanding of parts (a) to (e) is in relation to similar metrics presented in Attachment 1 of the Commercial Net Metering Program – 2024 Report, as referenced by Solar NS. However, the Company would appreciate further confirmations for clarity.

³ For the purposes of this example, the applicable reference to the “current Program framework” is described in Sections 14, 16, and 17 of the *Community Solar Program Regulations*.