

February 6, 2026

karynne.munroe@nspower.ca

Karynne Munroe
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
PO Box 910
1223 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3S8

Dear Ms. Munroe:

M12686 – Nova Scotia Power Inc. – Community Solar Program – 2025 Report

The Board acknowledges receipt of Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s Annual Community Solar Program Report for 2025.

The Board panel considering this matter is Stephen T. McGrath, K.C., Chair; Roland A. Deveau, K.C., Vice Chair; and Richard J. Melanson, LL.B., Member.

NS Power seeks confidential treatment of Attachment 1 to the report and provided a Confidentiality Undertaking for the Board's approval. The undertaking appears to be in the usual form and is approved, subject to any concerns from future intervenors in this proceeding. However, the Board requires additional information to justify the claim for confidentiality.

Based on your letter, the Board understands that NS Power claims confidentiality because of commercial sensitivity associated with the release of the energy rates in power purchase agreements. Regarding information in Attachment 1 not related to the energy rate, NS Power claims it is necessary to keep this information confidential "to maintain good business relations with developers."

The energy rates in the power purchase agreements under the Department of Energy's Community Solar Program are established under the *Community Solar Program Regulations*. The regulations set a minimum energy rate for the Community Solar Program of \$70/MWh, but the Minister may consider assigning a higher rate considering factors such as capacity available for residential subscriptions, community benefits, the engagement of subscribers from marginalized communities and other factors supporting the program's objectives (s. 7).

The rates do not appear to be derived directly from a formal competitive process, but on the exercise of discretion by the Minister of Energy to allow more than the minimum rate set out in the regulations, on a case-by-case basis, when considering program applications from proposed developers. As noted in the Department of Energy's June 2025 Community Solar

Program Guide, the power purchase rate is based on information submitted in an application but ultimately set by the Minister:

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

The power purchase agreement (PPA) is a contractual agreement between NSPI and the project owner for the sale of solar energy.

As part of your application, you will calculate and propose a rate called a power purchase rate. The power purchase rate will pay you for the net amount of energy your solar garden generates and sends to the grid. Your proposed power purchase rate must consider all of your sources of funding, financing, and the impact (if any) your proposed rate would have on rate payers. All proposed power purchase rates will be a minimum of \$0.07 per kilowatt hour (KWh).

If your project is approved, your awarded power purchase rate will be based on the information you submit in your application. Although you will propose a power purchase rate in your application, the Minister of Energy will decide the final rate in the PPA.

The power purchase rate will be your only source of revenue from the solar garden. Your power purchase rate will not change over the course of the agreement (25 years).

Your project may bring in an annual profit, which you are free to use in any way you choose. Some owners may choose to reinvest into additional renewable energy for the community. You could also decide to give profits back to low-income subscribers to subsidize their energy costs.

Given the foregoing, the Board requires more evidence to support the claim that a competitive threat relating to the setting of future energy rates exists in the circumstances.

For the balance of the information over which confidentiality is claimed, the Board requires evidence to demonstrate that there is a serious risk that the release of the information over which confidentiality is claimed will negatively impact business relations with developers and that this constitutes an important public interest sufficient to override the public interest in the open court principle and ensuring that Board proceedings are open and transparent to the general public.

NS Power is directed to provide the required evidence and information relating to its confidentiality claims by **Friday, February 20, 2026**.

The remaining steps in this proceeding will be as set out below:

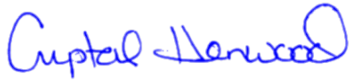
Notices of Intervention	Friday, February 20, 2026
Intervenor Comments on Confidentiality	Thursday, February 26, 2026
NS Power Reply Comments	Monday, March 2, 2026
Information Requests (IRs) to NS Power	Monday, March 9, 2026
NS Power IR Responses	Monday, March 30, 2026



Intervenor Submissions
NS Power Reply Submissions

Monday, April 13, 2026
Monday, April 20, 2026

Yours very truly,



Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board

c. William L. Mahody, K.C., Board Counsel

