

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: The *Public Utilities Act*, RSNS 1989, c 380, as amended

– and –

IN THE MATTER OF: An Application by EfficiencyOne for approval of the 2027-2031 Demand-Side Management (DSM) Purchase Agreement between EfficiencyOne and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, the establishment of a final agreement between the parties, and approval of a 2027-2031 Demand-Side Management (DSM) Resource Plan

**OPENING STATEMENT
OF EAST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this opening statement.

This Application by EfficiencyOne implements the decision of the Nova Scotia Energy Board in Matter M12282, EfficiencyOne’s application for approval of a new benefit-cost analysis test for evaluating demand-side management plans (“M12282”). In that Matter, the Board was asked to interpret amendments to the electricity efficiency and conservation provisions of the *Public Utilities Act*, RSNS 1989, c 380, as well as changes to the Board’s own legislated mandate, while considering what cost-effectiveness test should be applied to demand-side management proposals by EfficiencyOne. Of particular interest to East Coast Environmental Law was the Board’s interpretation and application of its new responsibility under clause 6(2)(d) of the *Energy and Regulatory Boards Act*, SNS 2024, c 2, which requires the Board to consider sustainable development and sustainable prosperity when exercising its regulatory authority. East Coast Environmental Law viewed the Matter as an early opportunity for the Board to opine on the effect of its new sustainability mandate and put that mandate into practice.

East Coast Environmental Law’s interest in the current Application is likewise focused on the interpretation and application of the legislative changes that introduced sustainable development, sustainable prosperity, and related environmental and climate considerations to electricity system regulation in Nova Scotia. In our respectful submission, while the Board’s decision in M12282 established some clear parameters for the Board’s consideration of sustainable development and sustainable prosperity under the *Energy and Regulatory Boards Act*, new matters such as this offer opportunities to clarify and build on the foundations the Board has laid to date. As the evidence filed in this Application illustrates through the differing perspectives on EfficiencyOne’s demand-side management responsibilities and the differing interpretations of applicable statutory language, the work of interpreting and opining on the changes introduced by

1 the *Energy Reform (2024) Act*, SNS 2024, c 2, will likely continue for some time as matters like
2 this bring new and recurring issues before the Board.

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4 East Coast Environmental Law appreciates the opportunity to participate in this Matter and looks
5 forward to the discussions to come.

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7 Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 29th day of July, 2026.
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11 Kostantina Northrup

12 Staff Lawyer

East Coast Environmental Law