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Request IR-1:

On pdf pg. 5 of the report, NS Power states:

“An outage report was not compiled for the Level 3 Winter Storm EOC event on December 5, 2025, as the storm did not meet the reporting threshold. Outage prediction models based on weather forecasts from multiple weather providers indicated up to 28,000 customers could be impacted by the storm using NS Power’s Damage Prediction Model. Additionally, cold temperatures were forecasted and difficult travel and restoration conditions were expected due to snow accumulation. Therefore, NS Power planned for a Level 3 EOC event based on the expectation for restoration delays longer than 36 hours.”

(a) Please explain specifically how NS Power estimated that up to 28,000 customers could be affected by the expected outage. In providing this response, please provide copies of all quantitative analysis completed by NS Power to arrive at this estimate.

(b) Please explain specifically how NS Power estimated that restoration delays from the expected outage would be longer than 36 hours. In providing this response, please provide copies of all quantitative analysis completed by NS Power to arrive at this estimate.

(c) Please identify the actual total restoration time for the Dec. 5, 2025, event.

Response IR-2:

(a) The prediction that up to 28,000 customers could be affected by the December 5th, 2025 storm event was estimated by NS Power’s Damage Prediction Model (DPM) based on the forecast weather conditions provided by NS Power’s forecast contractor. The December 4th 14:00 forecast output from the DPM showing an expected case of ~28,000 customers impacted is provided as Attachment 1.

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1 (b) NS Power's estimate of the overall duration of restoration for a storm is a function of the
2 anticipated damage and associated effort hours to effect repairs, the amount of NS Power
3 and contractor crews available for response, as well as complicating conditions such as
4 time of day, travel conditions, and restoration difficulty. The effort hours predicted by the
5 forecast weather and DPM output as referenced in part (a), the approximately 75 NS Power
6 internal crews and 20 contractor crews available, the timing of the onset of severe weather
7 throughout the day on December 5, 2025, and the continued clean up from the previous
8 adverse weather event combined to result in a predicted total outage restoration duration
9 of more than 36 hours.

10
11 (c) The actual total restoration time from first event start to final customer restored was
12 approximately 30 hours and 50 minutes.



2025-007 Dec 5 Wind & Mixed Prec - Expected

Region	Wind Speed (kmh)	Wind Direction	Wind Duration	Weather Type 1	Severity 1	Weather Type 2	Severity 2
Valley	>70 to <=80	North	<=3	Wet Snow	2-3cm	Snow	1-10cm
South Shore	>70 to <=80	North	<=3	Wet Snow	1cm	Snow	1-10cm
Northern	>60 to <=70	West	<=3	Wet Snow	1cm	Snow	1-10cm
North Eastern	>70 to <=80	West	<=3	Wet Snow	1cm	Snow	1-10cm
Halifax	>70 to <=80	North	<=3	Wet Snow	1cm	Snow	1-10cm
Eastern Shore	>70 to <=80	West	<=3	Wet Snow	1cm	Snow	1-10cm
CB West	>100 to <=110	West	<=3	Wet Snow	2-3cm	Snow	11-25cm
CB East	>80 to <=90	West	<=3	Wet Snow	1cm	Snow	1-10cm

Ground Soft/Normal/Hard or Frozen	Foliage / Season
S	W

Region	Customers Out/PH to Repair				Damages							
	Customers Out	PLT Person Hrs	Vegetation Person Hrs	Transmission Person Hrs	Feeders Off	Branch-Lines Off	Services	Conductor Spans	Transformers	Poles	Trees on Spans	Transmission Structures
West	3,609	146	90	0	3	12	15	11	2	1	94	0
Metro	7,757	148	66	0	4	13	26	8	2	1	76	0
Northeast	9,630	346	229	0	6	26	47	26	8	3	354	0
Cape Breton	7,313	289	202	0	7	30	26	16	5	4	290	0
Total	28,308	929	586	0	20	82	114	61	17	9	815	0

Region	Customers Out/PH to Repair				Damages							
	Customers Out	PLT Person Hrs	Vegetation Person Hrs	Transmission Person Hrs	Feeders Off	Branch-Lines Off	Services	Conductor Spans	Transformers	Poles	Trees on Spans	Transmission Structures
SYD	4,505	129	61	0	4	17	16	6	2	1	104	0
PHA	486	27	22	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	28	0
RIB	540	25	23	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	30	0
BAD	375	25	21	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	27	0
ING	373	25	22	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	29	0
CHC	527	30	24	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	32	0
MAB	507	28	29	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	40	0
GOS	302	15	16	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	20	0
GUY	226	15	11	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	13	0
DAR	2,217	44	16	0	1	5	8	2	1	0	20	0
HFX	2,897	43	10	0	1	5	10	1	0	0	11	0
SAC	1,418	30	16	0	1	2	5	2	1	0	19	0
WIN	424	15	11	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	12	0
BAY	801	17	12	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	14	0
STE	3,569	116	69	0	2	10	15	8	3	1	120	0
ANT	832	37	31	0	0	2	3	3	1	0	45	0
TRU	3,871	109	67	0	2	8	16	7	3	1	116	0
PAR	295	20	15	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	18	0
AMH	536	32	18	0	0	2	7	3	0	0	23	0
BRW	736	28	16	0	1	3	3	3	0	0	19	0
CHE	295	11	8	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	8	0
LIV	324	16	11	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	12	0
YAR	390	15	10	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	11	0
BAR	100	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
SHE	146	7	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	0
BRT	215	10	7	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	6	0
DIG	181	9	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	0
KIN	329	12	6	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	6	0
CLA	150	7	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
COL	743	28	13	0	1	2	4	1	0	0	15	0

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Request IR-2:

As it relates to Figure 3 on pdf pg. 6 of the report:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown the OM&G costs for the Dec. 5, 2025, event.
- (b) For any of these costs related to “Contracts”, please explain specifically how NS Power determined these to be an appropriate level of expense.
- (c) Please identify the number of Contract “restoration” resources assigned to this event.
- (d) Please identify the number of NS Power “restoration” resources assigned to this event.

Response IR-2:

- (a) OM&G Costs for the December 5, 2025 Storm event are as follows:

Account	Amount (\$)
Contracts	626,129
Overtime Labour	307,723
Meals & Travel	53,118
Regular labour	85,141
Other	195
Total	1,072,306

- (b) Costs related to “Contracts” are set through storm based contractual agreements. The storm contracts outline terms and conditions, labour rates, reimbursement guidelines, and minimum equipment requirements, etc. for all contractors assisting with storm response. Outage prediction models are used to determine the appropriate level of contractor support required to respond. Invoices are reviewed based on external crew tracking documents and any costs that are incorrect are denied and resolved.

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- 1 (c) There were approximately 220 PLT, vegetation and traffic control contractor crews
2 assigned to the December 5, 2025 event.
3
- 4 (d) There were 219 internal NS Power restoration resources, including PLTs, substation
5 operations employees and crew leads.

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Request IR-3:

As it relates to Figures 5 and 6 on pdf pgs. 7-8 of the report:

(a) Are any of the “Contracts” costs in the Figure associated with affiliates of NS Power?

(b) If the answer to part a) is yes:

(i) Please provide a list of the affiliates that were contracted, with their associated contract amounts.

(ii) Please describe how the services of these affiliates were procured.

Response IR-3:

(a) No, none of the contract costs are associated with affiliates of NS Power.

(b) N/A.

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1 **Request IR-4:**

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3 **On pdf pg. 9 of the report, NSP states:**

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5 **“Storm restoration costs for the two Level 3 EOC events are separated into**
6 **storm preparation (storm readying) costs and restoration (storm response)**
7 **costs, as presented in Figure 7. The storm readying category includes**
8 **mobilization costs for powerline technician (PLT) contractors, hotel**
9 **accommodations for PLT contractors for the night preceding the start of**
10 **restoration activities, and one day of meal per diems for those contractors.**
11 **Mobilization charges are applied in accordance with the limits established in**
12 **NS Power’s storm contracts. Costs associated with internal resources, traffic**
13 **control, and vegetation management contractors are not included in the storm**
14 **readying category, as these resources do not incur mobilization costs, nor**
15 **require pre restoration hotel accommodations, and are not eligible for meal**
16 **per diems until restoration work begins. All other storm related costs are**
17 **classified as storm response costs.”**
18

19
20 **(a) Please provide a breakdown of the “Storm Response” costs for the Dec. 5, 2025, event.**

21
22 **(b) Please provide a breakdown of the “Storm Response” costs for the Dec. 19-20, 2025,**
23 **event.**

24
25 **Response IR-4:**

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27 **(a-b) Please refer to the table below for the Storm Response costs for the December 5, 2025 and**
28 **the December 19-20, 2025 Storm events:**

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Storm	5-Dec-25	19-Dec-25
Contracts	\$508,040	\$2,500,506
Overtime Labour	\$307,723	\$1,412,749
Meals and Travel	\$53,118	\$161,214
Regular labour	\$85,141	\$104,486
Materials	0	\$40,582
Other	195	
AO	-	\$635,931
Total	\$954,217	\$4,855,468

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Request IR-5:

On pdf pg. 11 of the report, NS Power notes that it has created a new job titled ‘Manager, Contractor Oversight’. Please provide the job description for this position.

Response IR-5:

The Manager, Contractor Oversight will lead and manage Transmission and Distribution contractors to ensure safe, efficient, and high-quality service delivery aligned with organizational standards and regulatory requirements. In addition, this role oversees the Meter Shop and Protective Equipment Test Center, ensuring performance, compliance, and alignment to business objectives of these functions.

Responsibilities of the Role:

- Champion safety and ensure compliance with Occupational Health and Safety regulations.
- Promote a strong safety culture and ensure adherence to Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Regulations.
- Oversight of the team responsible for compliance to the NS Power Contractor Safety Management System.
- Develop and execute a Management Operating System, including detailed work plans, budgets, and contribute to long-term business planning.
- Foster a high-performing team environment and administer the Collective Agreement with fairness and consistency.
- Build and maintain strong internal and external partnerships to support operational success and service excellence.
- A strong focus on cost controls in relation to contractor work execution, including advancing the integration of technology solutions for the dispatch and monitoring of the contractor network.

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1 **Request IR-6:**

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3 **Pdf pg. 13 of the report notes that the Damage Prediction Model was calibrated with actual**
4 **storm data in July 2025. Please explain this statement further. How was the model**
5 **calibrated before July 2025?**

6
7 Response IR-6:

8
9 This statement refers to the most recent calibration of the model in July 2025. As NS Power wrote
10 on lines 11 and 12 of the same page of the report, the Damage Prediction model is updated with
11 actual storm performance each year. This process of model calibration using the storm
12 performance in the prior year has been included in NS Power's ongoing maintenance of the
13 Damage Prediction Model since its inception.

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Request IR-7:

On pdf pg. 14 of the report NS Power notes it is planning to implement a software platform in 2026 to further monitor and control contractor costs. NS Power notes that the commercially available software will enable it to reliably predict the impact of high impact weather events.

(a) Has this software been tested by NS power to determine if its use has an improved impact on the reliability of storm impact forecasts?

(b) If not, has NS Power enquired of other utilities that have already implemented it or a similar software to get an idea of the improvement to traditional modelling?

(c) How is NS Power currently predicting storm impacts if not with the use of software?

Response IR-7:

(a) No, NS Power has not yet tested the actual functionality of the AI model leveraged in the proposed tool against NS Power's existing Damage Prediction Model (DPM) for an actual storm event. Calibration and validation of the model performance would be included in any implementation plan, with ongoing monitoring and training/re-training provided by the vendor over the life of the engagement. It should be noted, that this third-party prediction tool would be used as a complement, or second opinion, to NS Power's existing tools and does provide additional functionality, including automation of impact alerting, currently not present or envisioned within the current DPM.

(b) NS Power has consulted with other utilities on their best practices about pre-storm damage prediction, including the use of AI-enable prediction tools. Although results are varied for different utilities, particularly depending on their initial sophistication with prediction tools, utility contacts did indicate a positive benefit from these software tools. NS Power

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1 has also spoken to several vendors in the industry providing prediction tools over the past
2 number of years and has noted that advancements in AI have led to more sophisticated
3 tools available. While, in NS Power's experience, the Company's existing pre-storm
4 planning tools are considered industry-leading, there is always room for improvement.
5

- 6 (c) The current DPM is a Microsoft Excel-based tool that is leveraged by NS Power SMEs to
7 predict system impacts based on forecast weather inputs, historical storm performance, and
8 other factors that is calibrated and updated annually. In contrast to the existing tool, the
9 proposed software platform would be an automated AI-enable prediction tool. In both
10 cases, the predicted impacts would be used to undertake effective pre-storm planning ahead
11 of the event.