
Nova Scotia Energy Board

IN THE MATTER OF

The Maritime Link Act, S.N.S 2012 c.9
and the
Maritime Link Cost Recovery Process Regulation, N.S. Reg. 189/2012

NSPML Quarterly Report Q1, 2026

REDACTED

April 15, 2026

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is the Q1 2026 Quarterly Report for the Maritime Link as directed by the Nova Scotia Energy Board (“Energy Board” or “Board”) where the Energy Board ordered in its Supplemental Decision:

[115]....detailed reports must be filed by NSPML on a semi-annual basis, on June 15 and December 15 each year. The reports shall commence December 15, 2013. Updated status reports must be filed quarterly.

As per the Energy Board’s order in its Decision regarding NSPML’s Application for final approval of Maritime Link Project Costs and approval of the 2022 cost assessment (M10206), NSPML continues its quarterly reporting to the NSEB by way of this Report. Additionally, as per the NSEB’s Decision regarding approval of a capital project related to submarine cable protection (M12285) and its directive to provide regular updates on the project, NSPML will provide these updates within these reports.

Given that the benefits to ratepayers of the Nova Scotia Block and Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro (NLH) market-priced energy are secured by Nova Scotia Power through the Maritime Link, Nova Scotia Power continues to report on these in its Quarterly Maritime Link Benefits Report.

2.0 UPDATE OF THE MARITIME LINK

2.1 Safety and Environment

Safety is a fundamental core value and integral part of every aspect of NSPML's business. NSPML continues to be risk-focused on the assessment of all work activities. There have been no internal recordable safety incidents to date in 2026, and no environmental incidents. Focus on safety will be critical with the anticipated upcoming rock protection for the submarine cable. Thorough high-risk reviews have recently been conducted with NSPML management, external experts, and the contractor selected to complete the work.

2.2 Land Access Agreements

The majority of land rights are now in place. In NS, NSPML previously reported progress on expropriations for 54 parcels of land, many of them being small anchor easements where the anchor for the transmission line towers is underground. Of the 54 parcels, 33 have been paid the value of the property and no outstanding liability exists. In most of the 33 parcels, there are minor issues related to marketable title for various reasons like deceased landowners with unsettled estates. The remaining 21 parcels have yet to receive compensation and the estimated value to be paid by NSPML is in the vicinity of \$100,000. These easements do not affect the ability of the Project to operate according to plan. These requests for expropriations were filed with the NS Government in January 2021, NSPML has been working with the NS Government since that time to answer any concerns they may have and to progress this matter. Please refer to Confidential Attachment 1, tab NS, for a complete list.

Additionally in NS, there are two land acquisitions that are subject to legal challenges by the landowners. As these are ongoing legal matters, the details regarding opinion of potential quantum are subject to litigation privilege. Once the matters are resolved, NSPML will share relevant details with the Board.

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The related land matters in NL had been with the expropriation panel (since prior to Maritime Link commissioning) as per the process originally instituted by the Newfoundland & Labrador Government; however, as previously reported, the expropriation panel is not presently available. NSPML continues to engage with the NL Government in order to find a path to resolution on expropriation matters. At this point, the process is fully dependent on the efforts of the NL Government to resource the expropriation panel which will then implement the requirements in the legislation. All lands have been expropriated; however, there are some lands where owners could not be found where funds may be paid into trust, as well as a claim regarding mineral rights. The estimated value to be paid by NSPML is in the vicinity of \$200,000. Please refer to Confidential Attachment 1, tab NL, for a complete list. None of the property owners on the list in NL have received an offer or payment due to the stalled process involving the expropriation panel.

2.3 Joint Development Agreements

The Regulation Service Agreement between NS Power and NLH has progressed pending establishment of protocols for usage by NS Power. NLH has completed their filing of the Regulation and Service Agreement (between NS Power and NLH) with the NL PUB and there is now a tariff for regulation service in Newfoundland & Labrador. NS Power continues to work with NLH to finalize the associated protocols. It is noted that operations are not constrained by this and there will not be costs to customers prior to the completion of the Regulation Services Agreement.

2.4 Submarine Cables

As previously discussed in the Maritime Link Quarterly Reports, the first portion of NSPML's Cable Protection Project for the submarine cables took place in October and November of 2025. The second portion was initially planned for Q2 2026, however this is now planned for Q3 due to contractor's other projects. Since the last quarterly report,

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1 engineering and planning activities progressed in order to prepare for the upcoming
2 campaign. The project remains on track to budget.

3
4 NSPML planned to perform a nearshore subsea inspection survey of rock berms at
5 Horizontal Directional Drilling exit locations in Q4 2025, but, after the vessel had been
6 at sea for multiple days in the middle of December, the work was eventually called off
7 due to poor weather conditions. NSPML is planning to complete this work before the
8 rock installation project starts. The inspection report will be filed with the NSEB once
9 it is completed. This survey will also attempt to identify the location of the upward
10 looking sonar near Cape Ray that could not be recovered during the summer of 2025.

11
12 With respect to NSPML's Subsea and Land Cable Maintenance and Repair Plan,
13 NSPML confirms that there have been no changes made in this quarter.

14
15 **Update on CCI Recommendations**

16
17 During NSPML's oral argument on October 30, 2024 regarding NSPML's 2025
18 Assessment (M11792), Vice Chair Deveau inquired as to whether there was any update
19 on recommendations 2 and 3 from CCI regarding NSPML's Final Project Cost
20 proceeding (M10206) in 2021¹. NSPML provided an update in the Quarterly Report for
21 December 2024.

22
23 There are currently no further updates; however, NSPML will continue to provide this
24 and other updates as applicable to the Board and stakeholders through its Quarterly
25 Report.

26
27 **2.5 Converters and Substations**

28
29 The Converters and Substations have been in service since January 2018 and continue
30 to perform well.

¹ Recommendation number 1 is closed.

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The Maritime Link maintained strong availability in 2025 achieving 98.5% Energy Availability (percentage of the year that 500 MW would be able to transfer across Maritime Link) and 100% Monopole Availability.

The 2026 start-of-year Energy Availability was 99.9% as of the end of March with 99.7% Monopole Availability.

2.6 Transmission Lines

The overhead transmission system continued to perform well with no significant reliability or availability issues experienced. At the end of 2025, a second helicopter inspection of all lines in NS was conducted to help ensure winter readiness, as planned. Helicopter inspection of all lines in NS and NL is planned for Q2 2026.

2.7 Independent Engineer

NSPML remains engaged with the Independent Engineer (IE) related to the operations phase of the Maritime Link, as per the Federal Loan Guarantee requirements. For a copy of the report for the NS site visit that took place in October 2025, please refer to Attachment 2.

2.8 Status of NLH Project and Muskrat Falls

Muskrat Falls Assets

All units are currently available for operation.

Synchronous Condensers at Soldiers Pond

All three units are available and operating normally as required and as dispatched by the NLSO subject to normal operating practice and maintenance requirements. Unit 2 is

1 planned to be out of service for a major inspection for 17 weeks from May through
2 August 2026.

4 **Labrador Island Link**

6 The Labrador Island Link (LIL) continues to perform well. The 900 MW (LIL) test
7 occurred in March. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reported “LIL high-power
8 testing was successfully completed on March 25 and 26, 2026. Hydro is completing
9 final reviews of test results and is compiling documentation for submission to the
10 Newfoundland and Labrador System Operator. Upon submission and acceptance, the
11 LIL will be released for full operation up to 900 MW.”²

13 **2.9 Status of Benefits to NS Power Customers**

15 With NLH’s commissioning of the LIL early in 2023, all aspects of the Muskrat Falls
16 Project are now fully operational, supporting significant use of Emera’s Maritime Link and
17 providing substantial benefits to customers in both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland &
18 Labrador.

20 Customer benefits received to date are being reported by NS Power with its Quarterly
21 Maritime Link Benefits Report and otherwise in accordance with the Board’s directions
22 in Decision M10206.

24 The benefits of the Maritime Link to customers in Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova
25 Scotia was particularly proven in January 2026 when Nova Scotia experienced a peak
26 load record of 2,459 MW, exceeding the 2023 record. Both Newfoundland & Labrador
27 and Nova Scotia were experiencing an extended period of extreme cold, and the Bay
28 D’Espoir hydro generator was offline due to frazil ice. On January 21, 24 and 25 NS
29 Power supported NLH by providing energy that prevented the need for rolling blackouts

² “Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study Review – Labrador-Island Link Update for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2026”, filed by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities on April 2, 2026.

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1 in Newfoundland & Labrador. On January 25, the day of the record peak load in Nova
2 Scotia, the frazil ice issue was resolved and Bay D’Espoir returned to service. That
3 evening NLH was able to provide NS Power with emergency energy assistance to deal
4 with the record demand through deliveries over the Maritime Link in quantities
5 exceeding the NS Block. This event was an excellent example of a system that, while
6 pushed to the limit of its capacity, performed as it is designed, dealing with extreme
7 conditions and the record demand that followed. The role that the Maritime Link played
8 in this event is a testament to, and clear example of, the importance of such infrastructure
9 to Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova Scotia customers.

10
11 **2.10 Update on LTAMP**

12 During the 2026 Assessment hearing in December 2026, NSPML agreed to provide a
13 quarterly update on LTAMP progress while respecting the sensitivity of the content.
14 The following is the first quarterly update.
15

16
17 The parties exchanged their respective in-service LTAMP submissions on January 22,
18 2026. Upon review, NSPML determined that additional detail was needed from NLH
19 and has requested the same, as well as confirmation of an extension of the initial
20 review timeframe.

3.0 UPDATED COST SUMMARY

NSPML continues to track and report costs, actual and forecast, consistent with the methodologies used in the cost forecast represented in the Maritime Link Project Application. Capitalized Project costs reported to the end of December 2025 have been updated to reflect the Board's Decision in relation to unrecoverable costs. Costs continue to be recorded in accordance with the Affiliate Code of Conduct. All costs provided are in Canadian dollars.

Actual AFUDC has been tracked and recorded monthly up to December 31, 2017 and has been adjusted from approximately \$209 million to approximately \$208 million in accordance with the Board's Decision, and below the \$230 million amount originally estimated.

Total Actual Project Costs as of the end of Q4 2025

In Q4 2025, NSPML's capital cost attributed to the original ML Project was a net credit of \$7,096; for a total net credit of \$86,121 year-to-date. This primarily relates to the receipt of a warranty claim settlement being partially offset by cost relating to outstanding land matters.

The final project closeout and any associated adjustment to final project costs will be filed with the Energy Board once the outstanding land matters (which are currently undergoing expropriation processes in both NS and NL) and legal claims are finalized.

In Q4 2025, NSPML's capital cost incurred attributed to sustaining capital was \$7,263,166; for a total spend of \$7,529,150 year-to-date. This primarily relates to the acceleration of the rock installation project, with completion scheduled for mid-2026. Additionally, there were some other small routine capital items completed.

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4.0 2025 ASSESSMENT FINANCIAL UPDATE

NSPML receives monthly cost recovery revenues from NS Power pursuant to the Board's Order.

Attachment 1
has been removed due to confidentiality

LCP - ML PROJECT

SITE VISIT REPORT OCTOBER 28 TO 31, 2025

Prepared for: Natural Resources Canada and NSP Maritime Link Inc. (NSPML)

IE Point of Contact: Nik Argirov

Date: December 12, 2025

Quality Assurance Statement

Office Address	803-633 Kinghorne Mews, Vancouver BC, V6Z 3H3
Prepared by	Nik Argirov, Vlad Kahle and Hamdy Khalil
Reviewed by	Nik Argirov
Approved for Issue by	Nik Argirov

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1. GENERAL

During October 29th to 30th, the Independent Engineer (IE) team visited the Spare Cable storage site, Point Aconi Transition Compound, Woodbine Converter Station and Big Lorraine Electrode Site. NSPML management arranged for the transportation and organized the visits to the sites as well as the meeting at the Woodbine converter station. Natural Resources Canada and Emera representatives participated remotely in the meeting. Transportation to the sites was by road. Eric Cayouette coordinated the meetings and prepared the reference document.

Reference: Maritime Link Fall 2025 Update dated October 2025

IE team: Nik Argirov (IE Team Lead)

Vlad Kahle (IE Electrical SME)

Hamdy Khalil (IE Transmission Lines SME)

Trip itinerary:

October 28:

- Travel to Halifax

October 29:

- Travel to Sydney
- Spare cable storage site
- Point Aconi Transition Compound

October 30:

- Woodbine converter station and Operations/ NSPML meeting.
- Big Lorraine Electrode Site

October 31:

- Travel to Halifax

November 1:

- Travel to home bases.

2. MARITIME LINK PROJECT SITES - OCTOBER 29 TO 30, 2025

2.1. Spare Cable Storage Site

- The facility has been well maintained and is in good order.
- IE witnessed the cable storage housing rotated; cable visual inspection was to follow.
- The site is being monitored 24/7 by a 3rd party security service provider.

2.2. Point Aconi Transition Compound Site

- The facility has been properly maintained according to the predetermined schedule and remains in good order.
- The HDD site was included in the visit, with no issues reported during the period.

2.3. Woodbine Converter, Switchyard and Spare Parts Storage Site

- The facilities have been properly maintained and are in good order.
- Spare parts warehouse is well organized and in good order.

2.4. Big Lorraine Electrode Site

- The facility has been properly maintained and is in good order.
- There are currently no operational, security or maintenance concerns.

3. MARITIME LINK UPDATE FALL 2025

Update meeting was held at the Woodbine Converter Station in conjunction with IE site visit. Emera management and Natural Resources representative joined the meeting virtually.

a) Safety

- No issues have been identified.

b) Documents Uploaded

- No activity.

c) Organizational Structure

- No changes were reported for the period.

d) 2025 Maintenance Activities

- SPS (special protection system) is in service and working satisfactorily. Project completion report is pending.
- 1230 HVDC maintenance work orders have been completed, as of end of September. No IGBT's failed during the period, however several VBE (valve-based electronics) cards were replaced.
- As part of the annual outage, maintenance was carried out on valve cooling systems (including motor replacement), converter transformers, fire protection systems, grounding equipment, breakers, and wall bushings.
- Pole 1 and then Pole 2 had scheduled preventative outages over the course of seven days. Following Pole outages, the electrode line outage took place over two days.

e) Transmission and Grounding Lines.

- HVDC and HVAC lines inspection by drones were completed. Backed out bolt on HVDC Line OPGW was corrected.
- Inspection focus was on TL269 for potential Fall work/ outage. Outstanding damper replacement was carried out.
- LiDAR surveys of ROWs are being analyzed to determine vegetation treatment.
- Cutting activities are planned for higher-risk areas of NS grounding line.

f) Marine

- Subsea rock installation work has been accelerated. Offshore activities were scheduled for early November 2025, while nearshore work will be carried out by a different vessel in Spring 2026.
- This execution mitigates project risk, and no additional expenses are anticipated.

g) 2024 Power Availability as end of September 2024

- Monopole – 100.00%
- Pole 1 - 98.26%
- Pole 2 - 98.24%
- Bi-pole - 96.50%

h) Forced Outages:

- Pole 1 reactor door expansion during high outside temperatures initiated a pole trip (July 2025). Solution is pending.

i) HVDC Special Initiatives:

- Bottom Brook SPS hardware has been successfully installed and commissioned.
- NSPML and NLH collaborated on the testing and commissioning plan, which was completed in early August.

4. 2026 MAINTENANCE OUTLOOK

a) HVDC System

- Pole 1 outage is planned for September 14th to 17th.
- Pole 2 outage is planned for September 18th to 22nd.
- No outages are planned for subsea cable for 2026.

b) Transmission and Grounding Lines

- No outages are planned.
- Inspection activities will take place in NS and NL using drones as well as recurring aerial inspections by helicopters.

c) Vegetation management

- Vegetation management activities will take place in NL and NS along with LiDAR data acquisition.

d) AC Substations

- For Woodbine, instrument transformers (2) inspections require transformer and associated bus outage. One day for each. Outage confirmation is pending for Bottom Brook AC substation.
- Nominal visual inspections and maintenance plan execution will be carried out by NLH and NSPI staff.

e) Capital (Land assets)

- Minor sustaining capital expenditures are planned for 2026 for recurring smaller expenditures including any maintenance, repairs, alterations, improvements, replacements, renewals and additions to continue optimization of the ML HVDC facilities.

f) Capital (Marine assets)

- Part 2 of subsea rock installation to improve nearshore cable protection.

5. IE COMMENTS

All sites are fully operational and in good order. Planned maintenance has been completed, with no safety or environmental issues reported. The 2026 Maintenance Plan is in place, and scheduled outages have been arranged accordingly.

Minor corrective maintenance tasks have either been completed or are currently in planning. HVDC forced outages are under thorough analysis, and identified anomalies are being addressed. As of the end of September, Link performance remains on target, with monopole availability at 100.00% and bipole availability at 96.50%.

APPENDIX - SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Spare Cable



Photo 2: Point Aconi Transition Compound



Photo 3: Spare Material Storage Site



Photo 4: Spare Material Storage Site



Photo 5: Big Lorraine Electrode Site