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Mark Peachey, LL.B.
Director of Regulatory
IESO Nova Scotia
1791 Barrington Street, Suite 1010
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Dear Mr. Peachey:

M12854 – IESO Nova Scotia – Integrated Resource Plan - 2026 Terms of Reference

On May 22, 2026, Nova Scotia's Independent Energy System Operator (IESO-NS) provided the Nova Scotia Energy Board with the Terms of Reference (ToR) document for its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). That filing also included a compilation of IESO-NS's responses to stakeholder feedback on the draft ToR, and a compilation of all stakeholder feedback submissions.

The Board understands that the draft ToR was published on the IESO-NS website on March 31, 2026, and reviewed with stakeholders during a virtual session on April 17, 2026. Subsequently, 17 parties provided IESO-NS with written comments about the draft ToR. A "tracked changes" version showing amendments to the draft ToR was also filed with the Board on May 22, 2026. The final version of the ToR states:

> As recommended in the Dunsky report, IESO Nova Scotia will strive for **a reduced set of crisp, focused scenarios** which (a) are designed to support key decisions, (b) are anchored around one base or reference case, (c) represent holistic and distinct possible futures, (d) are vetted by stakeholders, (e) are **complemented by targeted sensitivities**. [Emphasis added]

It also states, "As modelling progresses there may be a need to redefine or add scenarios or sensitivities depending on what is revealed by the preliminary modelling results."

It is important to ensure that a reduced set of scenarios and sensitivities does not preclude developing a plan that is robust across a range of potential outcomes. The Board reminds the IESO-NS of the requirement to fully address the following IRP directive stated in the M12412 Decision (Revenue Requirement for year ending March 31, 2026):

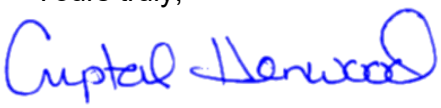
> To explicitly include modeling scenarios that presume an enhanced regional system approach to unit commitment and unit dispatch has been accomplished (inclusive of regions in the New Brunswick balancing area), commencing with the completion of the reliability intertie interconnection.

Previous IRPs focused on identifying the plan with the lowest long-term cost as the preferred plan. In this IRP, the IESO-NS proposes that “least-cost” will continue to be the primary objective for all expansion plans and production cost modelling, but other objectives will also be incorporated into a scorecard consisting of Least Cost (80%), GHG Reduction (10%), Technology Risk (5%), and Economic Growth (5%).

The ToR identifies the next phases of the IRP as assumption and scenario development, modelling, analysis, conclusion, and a final report by the end of calendar year 2026. It is important that stakeholders continue to be engaged throughout those phases. As in previous IRPs, Board Counsel Consultants (Synapse and Bates White) will provide comments and suggestions for consideration as the IRP development progresses through its phases to completion.

The Board looks forward to receiving the analysis, outcomes, and recommendations in the final IRP report.

Yours truly,



Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board

c. William L. Mahody, K.C., Board Counsel
Participants M12854