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Request IR-1:

Figure 3: Historic and Forecast Net System Requirement and System Peak.

- (a) The Net System Requirement (NSR) forecast percentage change in 2027 is negative. Aside from Renewable to Retail sales, what are the factors that are leading to this decline in 2027?**
- (i) Why does NS Power not anticipate these factors to continue to have a negative effect on NSR after 2027?**
- (b) Relative to the 2025 Report, the forecast NSR for 2031 is 4.5% higher and 2033 is 5% higher. What are the factors contributing to increases in these specific years that aren't captured in the previous years and were not considered in the 2025 report?**
- (c) Please confirm that the system peak for 2026 is the peak that occurred in January 2026.**
- (d) The forecast for System Peak in 2028 to 2032 is greater than 3.1% for each (the difference between 2025 forecast for 2026 and the peak experienced in January) from the 2025 forecast report for those years. Why does NS Power believe that the system peak forecast in 2025 underestimated system peak, particularly for the years 2028 to 2032?**
- (e) The 2036 NSR forecast will increase 1.3% from 2035. Given the annual increase in NSR from 2028f to 2035f is only 0.6%, why does NS Power consider an increase in NSR will occur in 2036?**

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Response IR-1:

(a) In addition to Renewable to Retail sales, other factors contributing to the negative NSR forecast percentage change are solar generation (cumulative solar generation totals -51 GWh in 2027 versus -24 GWh in 2026) and DSM (-32 GWh in 2027 versus -19 GWh in 2026). However, growth in Renewable to Retail (RTR) migration (-352 GWh in 2027 versus -21 GWh in 2026) is the single largest driver.

(i) Beyond 2027, NS Power anticipates that the impact of growth factors will begin to outpace the impact of factors which have a negative impact on NSR, resulting in overall NSR growth. Additional detail can be found in Figure 58 of the Report, which provides a breakdown of the various components of the change in the forecast from 2026 to 2036.

(b) There is no single factor contributing to NSR forecast increases in 2031 and 2033 in the 2026 load forecast compared to the 2025 Report. NSR is increasingly yearly at a relatively steady rate; predominantly due to increasing EV load, new residential load, and the impacts of electrification on the residential and commercial classes. Compared to the 2025 Report, the primary differences accounting for higher NSR in the 2026 forecast are increased EV load, reduced solar generation, reduced DSM, and increased large industrial and Back-up/Top-up load.

(c) The January 25, 2026 peak of 2,459 MW was the 2026 system peak as of filing the 2026 Load Forecast Report. However, the forecast system peak for 2026 is 2,484 MW. The actual system peak for 2026 cannot be confirmed until after the year has ended.

(d) In the 2025 Report, the peak load forecast was informed by NS Power's previously highest peak, which occurred on February 4, 2023. This peak, and the subsequent forecasts, were characterized by extremely low temperatures. However, the peak that occurred on January 25, 2026, as discussed in Section 10.1 of the Report, was unique in that it was not singularly

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1 driven by extremely cold temperatures, rather it coincided with a prolonged cold spell. A
2 prolonged cold spell as a key driver was not incorporated in the 2025 peak model but an
3 updated peak model which does consider this driver was used in the 2026 load forecast.
4

- 5 (e) Variability in the year-over-year forecast change is a result of different rates of change in
6 the underlying variables which collectively form the forecast. Specifically, the rate of
7 change increases in the later years of the forecast as the combined upward load pressure of
8 EV additions and electrification outpace the moderating influences of solar generation and
9 DSM. As is outlined in Appendix C of the Report, accuracy at the far end of the forecast
10 tends to be lower than for the near-term years, but this is addressed with the yearly forecast
11 process.

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1 **Request IR-2:**

2
3 **Attachment 2 and 3 employment sources data from Statistics Canada for ages 15 years and**
4 **older. Statistics Canada defines the core working age group as individuals age 25 to 54 years**
5 **because this demographic typically exhibits the highest labour force participation and**
6 **employment rates and uses this age bracket to analyse underlying economic trends. Why**
7 **does NS Power consider that including the employment status of those under the age of 24**
8 **years is a better measure than the core working age group?**

9
10 **Response IR-2:**

11
12 The employment tables in Attachment 2 and 3 are used to weight the square footage of the various
13 commercial building types. Employment by category is used as the weighting factor which is why
14 NS Power uses the full labour force (15 years and older) as opposed to limiting data to the core
15 working group (25-54). This data is not being used to analyze economic trends for the purposes of
16 the analysis in Attachment 2 and 3.

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Request IR-3:

Page 31 explains that the manufacturing employment forecast includes employment numbers for manufacturing, other primary industries and utilities and that the model uses a weighted average variable for both manufacturing GDP and employment.

(a) Please identify which attachment contains the manufacturing employment data.

(b) Please identify which attachment contains the application of weighting to manufacturing GDP and employment.

(c) Please identify the source data for ManGDP in Attachment 08.

(d) Please provide a full list of all the industries included in manufacturing GDP and employment.

(e) Figure 20: Industrial Economic Drivers presents 2025 Manufacturing GDP (mil \$2017) as 3,359. However, Statistics Canada Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories Table 36-10-0711-01 provides the following GDP values (mil \$2017). Please explain the discrepancy between Figure 20 and Statistics Canada.

(i) Nova Scotia	(iii) 2025
(ii) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories (x 1,000,000)	
(iv) Non-durable manufacturing industries [T011]	(v) 1,773.50

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(vi) Durable manufacturing industries [T012]	(vii) 1,577.20
(viii) Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction [21]	(ix) 171.20
(x) Utilities [22]	(xi) 923.60
(xii) Manufacturing [31-33]	(xiii) 3,340.70

(f) **Figure 20: Industrial Economic Drivers presents 2025 Manufacturing Employment (000) as 50. However, Statistics Canada Employment by Industry Annual Table 14-10-0202-01 provides the following employment values. Please explain the discrepancy between Figure 20 and Statistics Canada.**

(xiv) Nova Scotia	(xvi) 2025
(xv) Employment by industry, annual, NAICS	
(xvii) Goods producing industries [11-33N]	(xviii) 68,440
(xix) Manufacturing [31-33]	(xx) 30,034

Response IR-3:

- (a) Manufacturing employment numbers used in the forecast are provided in Figure 20. Attachment 9 contains the indexed and weighted variable (manufacturing GDP plus manufacturing employment) that is used in the medium industrial forecast.
- (b) The weighting calculations are completed within Metrix ND, the forecasting software used by NS Power. As such, the calculations are not included in the attachments. The weighting is 0.2 for manufacturing GDP and 0.8 for manufacturing employment, with both variables indexed to a base year of 2005 prior to weighting.

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- 1 (c) The ManGDP variable in Attachment 8 is from Signal49. The series uses a centered
2 moving average function to transform the annual ManGDP values to monthly values for
3 the model.
4
- 5 (d) NS Power is unable to provide a full list of all the industries included in manufacturing
6 GDP and employment as the data series provided by Signal49 does not specify the
7 underlying industries.
8
- 9 (e) The difference is likely due to the fact that the Statistics Canada table cited above has a
10 release date of May 2026 while the economic data used in the forecast was provided in
11 March 2026. NS Power confirms that the value for Manufacturing GDP (3340.7)
12 corresponds to a more recent data set (produced in May 2026) provided by Signal49 for
13 the ManGDP variable.
14
- 15 (f) NS Power notes that the Statistics Canada Employment by Industry Annual Table 14-10-
16 0202-01 (release date March 2026) has a value of 33,034 Manufacturing, not 30,034. The
17 Signal49 data used is based on Table 14-10-0355-01 (Employment by industry, month,
18 seasonally adjusted), averaged annually. In addition, the difference is due to the fact that
19 the manufacturing employment number in Figure 20 is comprised of manufacturing, other
20 primary industries and utilities as set out on page 31 of the Report.

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Request IR-4:

Page 40 explains that NS Power's consultant E3, estimated a reduction of 200 GWh under a hybrid scenario, but NS Power does not consider it to be attainable. Please elaborate on the results of the modeling leading NS Power to draw this conclusion.

Response IR-4:

NS Power's modelling, outlined in Section 4.5.2 of the Report, is based on analysis of actual heating load profiles from over 20,000 customers. The modelling approach was to establish the peak and energy reduction for a single customer under hybrid heating scenarios, and then to scale this reduction according to different assumptions around the number of customers that would participate in a hybrid heating program. It is important to note that potential participants were limited to customers installing heat pumps that do not already rely on electric heating systems and, therefore, have a non-electric heat source to provide heating when electric heat would be restricted – the key component of a hybrid heating program. The results showed that even if 100 percent of these customers participated in a hybrid heating program (totalling around 55,000 customers by 2035), the maximum attainable energy reduction would be -170 GWh. As the E3 estimate was based on modeled data rather than AMI data, NS Power has revised the hybrid heating energy impact downwards to -83 GWh, the potential reduction associated with more realistic program participation assumptions.

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Request IR-5:

Page 44 provides statistics on battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in Nova Scotia in 2025. Please provide the source of these data.

(a) How do these statistics compare to the number of Electric Vehicle Registration Data published by the Province of Nova Scotia?

Response IR-5:

The statistics on page 44 for 2025 are sourced from Statistics Canada Table 20-10-00085-01 (New motor vehicle sales, monthly), supplemented by S&P Global Mobility quarterly Canada Electric Vehicle Industry Insights reports.

(a) NS Power does not use the Electric Vehicle Registration Data published by Open Data Nova Scotia as a data source due to concerns over errors in the data that include misclassification of vehicle powertrains, inclusion of non-plug-in hybrids that inflate zero emission vehicle (ZEV) counts, and exclusion of legitimate ZEVs. Popular models that have multiple drivetrain options are susceptible to being included when they are gas driven or excluded even though they are ZEV (e.g. Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid electric vehicle), leading to uncertain reporting, and there are clearly models included in the data that are hybrid electric vehicles (that do not operate on electricity only and cannot be plugged in to charge the battery).

Statistics Canada's nationally standardized classification protocols provide more reliable data for provincial EV fleet estimation and are therefore used for the Load Forecast.

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Request IR-6:

Please provide NS Power's EV forecast model in excel format with cells intact and protections removed.

(a) Is NS Power's EV forecast based on Ensuring ZEV Adoption in Nova Scotia: Analysis of Policy Options and Possible Adoption Outcomes, March 2023?

(i) If so, does this Load Forecast model assume all vehicle sales will be zero emissions vehicles in 2036?

Response IR-6:

Please refer to Attachment 1.

(a) No. The "Low" and "High" EV adoption scenarios from Dunskey's "Ensuring ZEV Adoption in Nova Scotia" are provided in Figure 28 for context only.

(i) Not applicable; NS Power's forecast is not based on this report.

**2026 Load Forecast Report NSEB IR-6 Attachment 1 has
been filed electronically.**

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Request IR-7:

Figure 69: Demand Response table shows a significant increase in Direct Load Control MW in 2032. On the page 92 the application states at lines 21-22, “For 2032 and beyond, the DR amounts revert to the achievable potential of these programs that was used in the 2022 Evergreen IRP.”

(a) Given the sizable difference between E1’s demand response amounts and NS Power’s IRP Action Plan, why did NS Power assume such a large increase is realistic?

(b) Did NS Power consider gradually increasing the MWs overtime rather than meet the IRP’s target?

(i) If so, why was this scenario not followed?

Response IR-7:

(a) The DR values in the Load Forecast Report are based on the most current information publicly available at the time of forecast development. The 2026-2031 DR values are drawn from EfficiencyOne’s (E1) proposed 2027-2031 DSM Plan (M12780). At this time, the achievable potential from E1’s 2019 Potential Study is the most current forecast of DR achievable potential available for the years 2032 and beyond.¹ NS Power understands that E1 is in the process of completing a DSM Potential Study, which is expected to include DR potential projections, to inform the IESO Nova Scotia Integrated Resource Plan.² Once complete, that information will be incorporated in future load forecasts.

¹ M08929, Exhibit N-1, EfficiencyOne, DSM Potential Study, August 14, 2019.

² In response to M12780 NSPI IR-10 part (b), E1 provided “E1’s goal for the 2026 DSM Potential Study is to provide updated DSM potential projections to inform the Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator’s (NSIESO) 2026 Integrated Resource Plan [...] E1’s DSM Potential Study consultant will develop long-term projections of energy efficiency (EE) and demand response (DR) from 2027–2051.”

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1 (b) A gradual interpolation of E1's proposed 2031 DSM Plan values and the 2032+ values was
2 considered. However, this would require NS Power to assume future DR program designs
3 and targets which are not grounded in any publicly available DSM Plan information. The
4 use of information from the latest IRP (i.e. E1's 2019 Potential Study and the 2022
5 Evergreen IRP) forecast of achievable DR potential for 2032+ follows the established
6 practice for load forecast development and reflects the most accurate publicly-available
7 information available while evaluation of future DSM and DR potential is underway.

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Request IR-8:

In the 2025 Load Forecast Report M12349, Board IR-22(b) noted that the IRP had underestimated the 2024 and 2025 energy demand between 165 and 364 GWh for NSR and between 217 and 209 GWh for Firm Peak and asked if NS Power still considered the IR and Load Forecast to be aligned. Does NS Power consider that these two forecasts are still aligned?

Response IR-8:

Similar to the comparison evaluated in the 2025 Load Forecast Report NSEB IR-22 part (b) response, NS Power considers the 2026 load forecast and the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) reference case to be aligned.

For the 2036 firm peak, the Evergreen IRP E1 – Current Policy and Trends reference case is 2,602 MW and the 2026 Load Forecast is 2,590 MW. Given the small difference between the two forecasted values (12 MW), NS Power considers the forecasts to be aligned.

For the 2036 net system requirement (NSR), the Evergreen IRP E1 – Current Policy and Trends reference case is 12,150 GWh and the 2026 Load Forecast is 12,010 GWh, reflecting a difference of 140 GWh between the two forecast values. This reflects a reduction of approximately 1 percent from the Evergreen IRP, which NS Power considers to be within a reasonable tolerance for forecasting energy requirements ten years into the future and, therefore, considers the two forecasts to be aligned.

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Request IR-9:

In the 2025 Load Forecast Report M12349, NS Power assumed that the Municipal load would be served by a third party in 2025. However, as explained by NS Power in response to Board IR-19, on April 30, 2025, the MEUs informed NS Power that they would continue taking bundled service in 2026.

(a) Please explain how this change affected NS Power NSR.

Response IR-9:

(a) The overall impact from the changes to the municipal class compared to the 2025 forecast is an increase to bundled load of approximately 4 GWh and in increase to Back-up/Top-up load of approximately 52 GWh. Please refer to Section 7.4 of the Report for further detail.

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Request IR-10:

Appendix D, page 2 states that the historical variation of inputs (predictors, independent variables) will affect the forecast prediction, in a probabilistic way. Please list the historical variation inputs applied to the analysis.

Response IR-10:

The following variables are considered in the sensitivity analysis:

- Weather: Monthly HDD, Monthly CDD, Peak Day Average Temperature, and wind speed.
- Economics (all expressed as annual percentage growth): Non-Manufacturing GDP, Non-Manufacturing Employment, Manufacturing GDP, Manufacturing Employment, Employment Compensation, and Households.

Input data for each variable are provided in Attachment 1.

**2026 Load Forecast Report NSEB IR-10 Attachment 1 has
been filed electronically.**