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Request IR-1:

(a) Please explain why the Halifax forced switching outage listed on page seven of the report was classified as a scheduled outage and included in the storm event totals.

(b) Please reconcile the classification of the Cape Breton East loss of supply event as involving a “Transmission Line” with the description stating that a distribution line fault tripped a substation transformer.

Response IR-1:

(a) For the purposes of all storm reporting, and as detailed in the December 13, 2022 storm outage analysis response (M11016) and the November 27, 2023 storm outage analysis response (M11516), NS Power includes all outage events that begin between the start and end times of the storm event. Storm start and end times are determined on a province-wide basis, regardless of the scale of the event in a specific weather region. NS Power does not exclude any outage events from consideration, including those coded as planned outages.

(b) The event was appropriately classified as a Loss of Supply / Transmission Line outage because the outage experienced by customers resulted from the substation source being removed from service. While the initiating condition was a fault on a distribution circuit, that fault led to the operation of protection equipment and the tripping of the substation transformer, interrupting supply to customers served from the station. As the customer interruption was caused by the loss of the substation supply source rather than an individual feeder outage, the event was classified as a Loss of Supply event in accordance with NS Power's outage classification practices.

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Request IR-2:

Please explain the criteria used to determine whether an outage was attributed to the event, including outages beginning after peak weather conditions had passed.

Response IR-2:

NS Power considers an outage to be attributable to a storm event if the outage occurs within the duration of adverse conditions determined by Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) personnel. This is the period of time between the “Storm Start” and “Storm End”.

The conditions of each storm are unique and the determination of the start and end time of a specific storm event as described above is made using the best information available with assessment by EOC personnel. Criteria considered by NS Power to make this determination include the overall event severity, ongoing weather conditions, rate of new outage events, and time of day (damage occurring overnight may not be observed/reported until the following morning). For exceptionally large events (hurricanes, major ice storms, etc.), new outages resulting from the extreme conditions are expected to occur over a longer period compared with smaller storms, leading to a longer period of inclusion events that can be considered to be a result of the storm event.

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Request IR-3:

For the circuits associated with the largest tree related events by customer hours of interruption, please provide:

- (a) The number of tree contact outage events, customer interruptions and customer hours of interruption by region and circuit;**
- (b) The date and scope of the most recent vegetation management work;**
- (c) The applicable vegetation management cycle; and**
- (d) Prior tree related outage history.**

Response IR-3:

- (a) The table below lists feeders with tree-related events that had over 1,000 Customer Hours of Interruption during the event.**

Weather Region	Feeder	Event Count	CI	CHI
South Shore	73W-411	2	3,224	7,553
South Shore	101W-411	1	507	1,140
North Eastern	81N-411	1	385	1,657
Halifax	23H-304	2	3,597	28,229
Halifax	23H-302	1	1,704	14,469
Halifax	131H-423	3	2,448	14,257
Halifax	101H-421	3	2,997	10,906
Halifax	137H-412	6	6,292	10,679
Halifax	143H-412	6	4,020	10,637
Halifax	101H-411	4	2,064	10,084
Halifax	103H-434	1	3,633	5,544
Halifax	131H-424	2	1,523	5,038
Halifax	23H-303	1	420	4,761
Halifax	131H-422	2	1,419	4,519

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Weather Region	Feeder	Event Count	CI	CHI
Halifax	82V-402	4	2,190	2,999
Halifax	82V-401	1	1,285	1,778
Eastern Shore	57C-426	1	321	1,675
Cape Breton West	67C-411	1	1,301	3,708
Cape Breton East	57S-402	2	864	13,870
Cape Breton East	11S-411	11	4,167	6,578
Cape Breton East	11S-301	1	661	3,156

(b) Please see the table below for the number of spans on each of the above feeders where vegetation work was completed, by year.

Feeder	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
101H-411	11		85	35	128	39	37	12	11	28	24	
101H-421				20	16	4			16	12	18	79
101W-411												3
103H-434				1	1			221	7			1
143H-412		45				1	104	2			1	
11S-301					329	66	40		223			48
11S-411			128			117	219	50	277	17	66	189
131H-422		49		43		0	4	0	5		1	
131H-423					1	4	11		1			
131H-424							79					1
137H-412				3	5		25		157	189	17	2
23H-302								3	5			
23H-303					5	1		60	2			
23H-304						15	13			65	4	
57C-426	122	29	91	53	4	144	27	792	15	73	5	28
57S-402	328	516			210	70						
67C-411	122	384	686	196	138	164	453	263	16	10		
73W-411		23	313	111	318	77	193	217	341	298	438	270
81N-411	9	1	79		3	10	2		2		16	3
82V-401		24			67						9	1
82V-402			118		13	18	42	7	352	177	123	195

(c) Vegetation work is not scheduled according to a predetermined cycle. Rather, consistent with NS Power's asset management framework, a combination vegetation condition and

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1 circuit criticality is used in a risk-based determination of the timing and location of required
2 work.

- 3
4 (d) Please see below for the tree-related 5 Year Average (2021-2025) frequency (CKAIFI) and
5 duration (CKAIDI) for these feeders.

	5 Year Avg (2021-2025)	
Source	CKAIFI	CKAIDI
73W-411	2.73	18.64
101W-411	0.49	2.40
81N-411	0.95	17.48
23H-304	1.43	9.17
23H-302	0.77	4.45
131H-423	0.69	6.68
101H-421	1.71	9.79
137H-412	2.52	8.76
143H-412	1.02	17.15
101H-411	2.33	9.66
103H-434	0.62	2.78
131H-424	0.37	3.46
23H-303	0.08	3.17
131H-422	0.59	6.70
82V-402	2.43	10.16
82V-401	1.26	9.21
57C-426	2.06	16.28
67C-411	2.18	12.15
57S-402	1.48	11.93
11S-411	2.58	25.39
11S-301	1.62	25.19

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Request IR-4:

Please expand the comparison with Tropical Storm Elsa to include:

- (a) Total utility customers at the time of each event;**
- (b) Number of outage events;**
- (c) Unique customers interrupted;**
- (d) Customer interruptions**
- (e) Individual customer restoration duration bands;**
- (f) Event duration;**
- (g) Geographic concentration;**
- (h) Internal and external resource hours; and**
- (i) Total and per customer restoration costs.**

Response IR-4:

Please see Table 1 for items (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g). Items (h) and (i) information is not available for this event as consistent with its existing practice. Please refer to IR-5.

Please see Table 2 for item (e).

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Table 1:

Event	March 17, 2026	July 9-10, 2021 (Tropical Storm Elsa)
Customers Interrupted	82,355	51,217
Customer Hours of Interruption	274,172	221,758
Customers Restored in 48 hours	100%	100%
Field Resources Available	>300	>200
Peak Winds	85 km/h	81 km/h
Total utility customers	565,515	524,640
Number of outage events	467	362
Unique customers interrupted	65,545	44,151
Event duration	18.9 hrs	15.3 hrs
Geographic concentration	Halifax, CB East	Halifax, South Shore, Valley, Northeast
Internal and external resource hours	Please refer to IR-05	
Total and per customer restoration costs	Please refer to IR-05	

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(e)

Table 2:

Provincial	March 17, 2026	July 9-10, 2021 (Tropical Storm Elsa)
Within 6 Hrs	8.85%	20.06%
Within 12 Hrs	46.76%	83.96%
Within 24 Hrs	94.68%	100.00%
Within 48 Hrs	100.00%	100.00%

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Request IR-5:

Please provide a summary breakdown of the restoration costs by:

- (a) Regular and overtime internal labour;**
- (b) Contracts;**
- (c) Vegetation management;**
- (d) Materials and equipment;**
- (e) Travel; and**
- (f) Other costs.**

Response IR-5:

- (a-f) This information is not available for this event as consistent with its existing practice, NS Power does not track Level 1 and 2 storm restoration operating or capital costs at this level.

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Request IR-6:

- (a) Please provide the number and percentage of outage events for which an initial estimated restoration time was issued;
- (b) The accuracy of estimated restoration times including the percentage restored within one to four hours of the communicated estimates.

Response IR-6:

- (a) All outage events were issued an initial estimated restoration time.
- (b) Table 1 summarizes the percentage of events restored within ± 4 hours and ± 2 hours of the estimated restoration time (ETR), as well as the overall percentage restored before the communicated ETR. The ± 4 hour and ± 2 hour bands are provided for consistency with the Estimated Restoration Time Updates section in NS Power's Annual Performance Standards Reports. Table 2 presents the same metrics based on customer counts. No outage event during this storm required more than four ETR communications to customers.

Table 1: Event Count

	1st ETR	2nd ETR	3rd ETR	4th ETR
% between -4 to +4 hours	13%	19%	33%	100%
% between -2 to +2 hours	8%	13%	25%	0%
% restored before given ETR	95%	98%	92%	100%

Table 2: Customer Interruptions

	1st ETR	2nd ETR	3rd ETR	4th ETR
% between -4 to +4 hours	33%	38%	97%	100%
% between -2 to +2 hours	20%	17%	95%	0%
% restored before given ETR	88%	87%	7%	100%