

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: *The Public Utilities Act and the MARITIME LINK ACT and the
MARITIME LINK COST RECOVERY PROCESS
REGULATIONS*

– and –

IN THE MATTER OF: An application by NSP MARITIME LINK INC. for approval
of its 2026 revenue requirement and cost assessment

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Shellie Woolham**
Director, Regulatory Affairs
NSP Maritime Link Inc.
Emera Newfoundland & Labrador Holdings Inc.
1223 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2W5
Email: shellie.woolham@emera.com

From: The Consumer Advocate

Responses Due: **August 20, 2026**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **David J. Roberts**
Consumer Advocate
Pink Larkin
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Halifax, NS B3J 3S9
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Request IR-1:

Please provide the actual, approved and forecast O&M costs at the most detailed level in which each is tracked by NSPML for 2019 to 2028, including both approved and actual, proposed or forecast, as applicable. Please provide in an excel workbook, with accounting records as support for all summarized cost categories.

Request IR-2:

Please provide the approved and actual FTE count and costs at the most detailed level in which each is tracked by NSPML for 2019 to 2027 including both approved and actual, proposed or forecast, as applicable. For any missing data, please make a reasonable assumption about the FTE count and cost forecast using a historical trend for the cost per FTE, accounting for any known changes to the FTE profile.

Request IR-3:

In Exhibits N-5 and N-8, Matter No. M12394, NSPML discussed its vegetation management activity in both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Please explain whether NSPML contracts for vegetation management independently of NS Power and NL Hydro, or whether it leverages those utilities' service procurement processes to achieve savings.

- (a) Please provide the approved, actual, proposed and forecast costs for vegetation management for 2024-2028, by province, in spreadsheet format.
- (b) Please provide supporting information for the vegetation management estimate referenced in Exhibit N-1, p. 8, including contracts for the budgeted services and procurement decision documents supporting those contracts.

Request IR-4:

In Exhibit N-7, Matter No. M12394, IG RIR-10, NSPML stated that certain parcels in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland have not completed the land expropriation process. Please provide an update on these matters. With respect to the Newfoundland parcels, if no expropriation panel yet exists, please explain what legal and procedural steps are available to NSPML to resolve the circumstances with the landowners, and state whether there is any action that can be taken by the NSEB or the Nova Scotia Government to facilitate resolution.

Request IR-5:

In Exhibit N-1, p. 9, NSPML describes the contingency support budget, with potential refund to customers. Please provide the approved budget amount, actual amount, and details on associated refunds, as applicable, for each of the years 2022-2026.

1 **Request IR-6:**

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3 With respect to Exhibit N-1, p. 14-15, 16 and 24, NSPML requests approval for an estimated
4 depreciation associated with the SCM upgrades scheduled for September 2028.

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6 (a) Please provide the forecast dates for the SCM upgrades to be placed in service and for the
7 books to be closed on the SCM upgrade project.
8 (b) Please provide the schedule for NSPML to propose the SCM upgrades project capital
9 application, including an anticipated filing date and decision date by the NSEB, assuming
10 the Company's preferred review process.
11 (c) Please explain why NSPML considers it appropriate for the Board to approve rates that
12 include depreciation costs for a project that has neither been placed in service or even
13 proposed in a capital application.
14 (d) Assuming that the Board does not approve the proposed cost to be placed in rates for 2028,
15 please identify any other alternative cost recovery process that NSPML is aware of that
16 may be reasonable to consider, such as regulatory deferral or AFUDC.
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18 **Request IR-7:**

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20 In Exhibit N-2, M11285, NSPML provided an annual estimate of the number of IGBTs Failed and
21 Replaced.
22

- 23 (a) Please provide the same table as referenced above, extended through 2026 YTD.
24 (b) How many IGBTs are currently in the spare inventory?
25 (c) Considering the actual failure rate rather than the 0.5% rate estimated by the manufacturer,
26 has NSPML reconsidered the size of the spare inventory (224 units per Exhibit N-1, p. 25)?
27 Please justify your answer and provide documentation of any reassessment that NSPML
28 may have conducted in the past several years.
29 (d) If the failure rate is less than half that estimated by the manufacturer, why would it not be
30 reasonable to target a spare inventory of roughly half the 224 unit target described in
31 Exhibit N-1?